

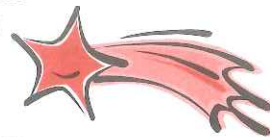
SCPASS

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards

ESSENTIALS

A Brochure for Students and Parents

The South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) is a statewide assessment in science and social studies.



Participation Essentials

- ◆ All students in **grades 4–8** must participate in the SCPASS science and social studies assessments.
- ◆ Students in the **third grade** are not tested in science and social studies.
- ◆ Students with disabilities must participate in SCPASS with the appropriate accommodations, if necessary, or in the South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt). The SC-Alt assesses students with significant cognitive disabilities.
- ◆ English language learners (ELLs) must also participate in the SCPASS science and social studies tests with the appropriate accommodations, if necessary.

Test Format

- ◆ SCPASS assessments will be administered in a **computer-based format only**, with the following exceptions:
 - Students that cannot take online assessments due to their disabilities, as specified in their IEPs or 504 plans, may be tested in a paper-based format.
 - Districts that have received a **waiver** from the requirement that the assessments are administered online, may be tested in a paper-based format.

Standards and Alignment

- ◆ SCPASS science items are aligned with the 2014 South Carolina Science Academic Standards.
- ◆ SCPASS social studies items are aligned with the 2011 South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards.
- ◆ Science and social studies tests **are not timed**.



Types of Test Items

- ◆ Science and social studies tests contain test questions with varying degrees of difficulty.
- ◆ Science and social studies tests contain multiple-choice, technology-enhanced, and multi-select items. Technology-enhanced items include items such as drag and drop, hot spot, drop down list, and constructed-response (type in a number).
- ◆ The 7th and 8th grade Science SCPASS will each include one scenario set. A scenario set consists of a scenario (scientific text, graph, or data) with two test items related to the scenario.

Reporting

- ◆ Student results are reported as scale scores and performance levels for each test.
- ◆ Performance levels for each test are: Exemplary, Met, and Not Met.
- ◆ Students receive information for each standard on each test.

Tutorials and Online Tools Training (OTT)

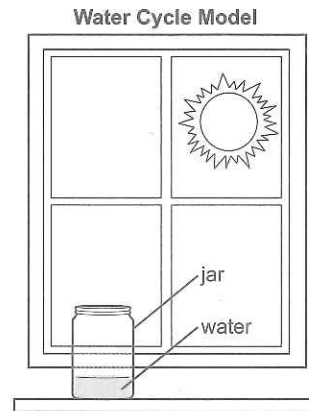
- ◆ Tutorials provide step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the online system and give detailed explanations about the key features of the software. The Tutorial should be reviewed by students in advance of their first test day.
- ◆ The Online Tools Training is a computer module that simulates the testing environment allowing students the opportunity to try out the testing software and tools before the administration of SCPASS.
- ◆ Samples of the new item types have been developed for inclusion in the Online Tools Training (OTT) for SCPASS.
- ◆ The OTT and the Online Testing Video Tutorial for SCPASS can be accessed at the following website (using Google Chrome): <https://wbte.drcredirect.com/SC/portals/sc>.



Sample Items

Science—Grade 4

A student places an open jar of water on a sunny windowsill to show part of the water cycle.



Which change can the student make to this model to better show condensation?

- A. Add a lid to the jar.
- B. Add more water to the jar.
- C. Pour some water out of the jar.
- D. Put a white piece of paper under the jar.

Key = A



Social Studies—Grade 5

Use these facts about basketball to answer the question.

- In 1891, Dr. James Naismith invented the game of basketball while teaching school in Massachusetts.
- In 2008, teams from 74 countries competed in basketball for the Summer Olympics.

Which term **best** explains these facts?

- A. cultural exchange
- B. political cooperation
- C. economic independence
- D. educational achievement

Key = A



SCPASS 2017 Testing Window

Grades 4–8

Online and Paper Administrations

Science and Social Studies

April 7—June 12

SCPASS (grades 4–8) assessments must be administered during the last thirty school days as determined by each district's instructional calendar.

The SCPASS tests are designed so that each test is administered on a separate day.

Districts and schools will schedule specific testing dates and the order in which the test are administered within the window.

Links to Additional Information

More detailed information about SCPASS is located on the South Carolina Department of Education website at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/scpass/>.

Science and social studies blueprints, showing the number and types of items on each test, are located at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/scpass/scpass-test-blueprints/>.

For more information about science academic standards, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/science/standards/>.

For more information about social studies academic standards, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/social-studies/standards/>.

