

2011 - 2012 PSSA Grade 3 - 8, and 11 Mathematics Assessment Blueprint*

Reporting Category	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
A. Numbers And Operations	40% - 50%	43% - 47%	41% - 45%	28% - 32%	20% - 24%	18% - 22%	12% - 15%
B. Measurement	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	12% - 15%
C. Geometry	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	15% - 20%	15% - 20%	15% - 20%	12% - 18%
D. Algebraic Concepts	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	13% - 17%	15% - 20%	20% - 27%	25% - 30%	38% - 42%
E. Data Analysis and Probability	13% - 16%	12% - 15%	12% - 15%	15% - 20%	15% - 20%	15% - 20%	12% - 18%
Total Points	72 pts.	72 pts.	72 pts.	72 pts.	72 pts.	72 pts.	72 pts.

**At each grade level the table shows the range in the percent of points to be devoted to each reporting category. The exact percentage for a reporting category will depend upon where the open-ended items are placed..*

2011-2012 PSSA Grade 3 - 8, and 11 Reading Assessment Blueprint*

Reporting Category	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
A. Comprehension and Reading Skills	60% - 80%	60% - 80%	60% - 80%	50% - 70%	50% - 70%	40% - 60%	40% - 60%
B. Interpretation and Analysis of Fiction and Nonfiction Text	20% - 40%	20% - 40%	20% - 40%	30% - 50%	30% - 50%	40% - 60%	40% - 60%
Total Points	46 pts.	52 pts.	52 pts.	52 pts.	52 pts.	52 pts.	52 pts.

*Percentages are approximate

2011-2012 PSSA
Grades 4, 8, and 11 Science Assessment Blueprint*

Reporting Category	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11
The Nature of Science	34	34	37
Biological Sciences	12	12	13
Physical Sciences	11	11	12
Earth and Space Sciences	11	11	12
Total Points	68 pts.	68 pts.	74 pts.

**At each grade level, the table shows the number of points assigned to each reporting category. At grades 4 and 8, ten of the total points will come from 5 open-ended items, each scored from 0 to 2 points. At Grade 11, 24 of the total points will come from 6 open-ended items, each scored from 0 to 2 points; and 3 scenarios, each scored from 0 to 4 points.*

Types of Questions

The Writing PSSA has both multiple-choice items and open-ended prompts. The multiple-choice items, however, account for a small percentage of the overall writing test. The multiple-choice questions are worth one point and the open-ended prompts are worth 1 to 4 points for the composition score and 1 to 4 points for the conventions score. The writing test includes the following numbers and types of questions:

Grade	Test Format
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 sessions• 12 common multiple-choice conventions items (included in scores)• 8 embedded field test multiple-choice conventions items• Two common prompts from any of the three modes (narrative, informational, persuasive)• One field test prompt from any of the three modes• 2 lined pages for each prompt
8, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 sessions• 12 common multiple-choice conventions items (included in scores)• 8 embedded field test multiple-choice conventions items• Two common prompts (one each from informational and persuasive)• One field test prompt from either informational or persuasive• 3 lined pages for each grade 8 prompt• 4 lined pages for each grade 11 prompt