

Appendix 4

Evaluating Pro-Core Test Questions

Pro-core engages in a rigorous review and revision process of its Form Assessments every year.

- Data for each question from the previous year’s Form C test is carefully reviewed.
 - How difficult was each question?
 - Does the question distinguish between students with a strong understanding of the content and students with a weak understanding of the content? How did the students who answered the question correctly do on the test overall? How did the students who answered the question incorrectly do on the test overall?
 - Which incorrect responses were typically chosen?
 - Does the range of difficulty of the questions allow growth to be measured for all students?

- Problematic questions are flagged for further reviewed.
 - Is the question fair, clear, accessible, and free of bias for all students?
 - Is the reading level and vocabulary appropriate for the grade level?
 - Does the question include unstated assumptions, content knowledge beyond the standards, or life experiences that all students may not have had?
 - Are distractors confusing or misleading?
 - Would different wording, context, or question type make the question fairer and more accessible?
 - Would different wording, context, or question type make the question easier or harder so it fits within the prescribed range to measure student growth?

- Problematic questions are revised or discarded.

- Some questions from Form C are “released” by moving them to Form A, Form B, or the SCWAs.

- Released questions from the state tests are studied to make sure Pro-Core is correctly interpreting the standards and our questions match the content depth and rigor that is expected by the state.

- New questions are written to replace discarded and released questions.
 - New questions are field-tested on the SCWA.
 - Statistics are carefully reviewed after field testing before the question is placed on Form C.
 - The statistics include measures of difficulty, discrimination, and analysis for possible bias. (Include the demographic information for your students during enrollment allows us to complete this step with greater accuracy).
 - New questions that do not meet the strict statistical measures are revised or discarded.

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- Forms A, B, and C are carefully constructed to meet blueprints that mirror the state tests.
 - The number of points is set for each domain and standard.
 - A range of Depth of Knowledge or Cognitive Demand that mirrors the state test.
 - A range of difficulty levels that allow all students to show growth over the school year.
 - A range of question types that mirrors the state tests.
 - The blueprints make sure the Forms A, B, and C are parallel.
- Assessments and questions are carefully reviewed once they are placed online.
 - The writer and test developer make sure the questions appear as intended and are scoring correctly.
 - An independent content expert checks to make sure the questions are accurate, aligned, clear, free of bias, appropriate for the grade-level, and score correctly.
- Assessments and questions are carefully reviewed once they are completed by students.
 - Questions with suspicious statistics are reviewed carefully to make sure they are clear, accurate, aligned, free of bias, appropriate for the grade-level and score correctly.
 - Any question that is deemed to have errors is removed from the test and all tests are rescored. This action is rare due to all the previous quality control measures have been completed.
- The Short Cycle Web Assessments (SCWA) are reviewed to ensure that the questions adequately test all parts the standard and that the rigor, content and question type match both state tests and our Form A, B, and C tests.

In addition, every five years, Pro-Core conducts an Alignment Study of its Form C tests. An independent panel of educators is convened. They carefully review and discuss every question as to whether it is aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards. The cognitive demand or depth of knowledge of each question is also carefully reviewed and assigned.

Pro-Core prides itself on maintaining a 98–100% alignment score from these studies. ODE only requires 50% alignment to become an Ohio Approved Assessment Vendor. We question the validity of an assessment in which only 50% of the questions match the content that is being addressed in the classroom.