



# Field Testing Guide

Examination Administration, Alberta Education **2025–2026** School Year

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**This document was written primarily for**

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Students

Teachers ✓

Administrators ✓

Parents

General Audience

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**Field Testing Guide**

Distribution: This document is posted on the [Teacher participation in provincial assessments](#) webpage on the [Alberta Education and Childcare website](#).

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If you plan to print this document for reference, please note that changes are made throughout the school year, and the official finalized copy is that which is posted digitally on the [Alberta Education and Childcare](#) website.

The electronic version of the Field Testing Guide includes many links.

The Alberta Education and Childcare website has recently undergone a major redesign and continues to be updated. Links in the Field Testing Guide were checked for accuracy before publication but are subject to change. To report broken links, contact Alberta Education and Childcare as indicated below.

For suggested changes or questions regarding content, contact Alberta Education and Childcare, Provincial Assessment Sector at 780--427--1857 or by email [exam.admin@gov.ab.ca](mailto:exam.admin@gov.ab.ca).

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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
• Benefits for teachers and students	1
• The necessity of field testing	1
<b>Field Test Format</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Field Test Perusals</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Field Test Accommodations</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Special-format Practice Tests</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Participation Approval Process</b> .....	<b>3</b>
• How to schedule a field test	3
<b>Field Test Request and Administration Dates</b> .....	<b>4</b>
• Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) Program	4
• Diploma Examination Program: Session 1 (September 2025–January 2026)	5
• Diploma Examination Program: Session 2 (February 2026–June 2026)	6
<b>Field Test Security and Administration Rules</b> .....	<b>8</b>
• Collect all response sheets, formula sheets, data booklets, and scrap paper	9
• Instructions for students	10
• Types of feedback	11
• Collecting and marking field tests	11
• Completing field tests	11
<b>Contacts</b> .....	<b>11</b>

Please note that if you cannot access one of the direct website links referred to in this document, you can find field test-related materials on the Alberta Education and Childcare website.

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# Introduction

## Important information

Field testing is an essential stage in the development of fair, valid, and reliable provincial assessments. Field testing is a process of collecting data on questions before they become a part of a provincial assessment. It is important to note that the security of field-test items remains vital to the administration of provincial assessments. Participating teachers must commit to maintaining the security of field-test items. Field tests are not practice tests. Therefore a student may only be permitted to write the same field test once.

## Benefits for teachers and students

Field tests provide teachers and students with examples of the style and content of items that may appear on provincial assessments. Through the field-testing experience, students are exposed to provincial assessment rules and procedures, as well as a conventional large-scale standardized writing environment. This exposure and familiarization have the potential to reduce test anxiety.

Teachers receive students' marks promptly for most field tests, gaining immediate information about their students' understanding of learning outcomes within the program of studies.

Teachers and students can be reassured that the items on provincial assessments have undergone a rigorous process of development, improvement, and validation.

## The necessity of field testing

Field testing ensures that Alberta Education and Childcare's provincial assessments are fair, reliable, and valid. Therefore, it is important to remember that field tests are as important as provincial achievement tests and diploma exams. They must be administered and supervised with the same rigour and standard as provincial achievement tests and diploma exams.

The data received from field tests indicates the reliability of each item. Reliability refers to the consistency of scores provided by an assessment within an administration and across administrations. An item has high reliability if it produces similar results under consistent conditions. Items are also examined for validity and appropriateness regarding course content. Validity refers to how well the item tests the material that it was designed to test.

Each field test requires a large student sample to provide the assessment developers with relevant information, including statistical data and comments from teachers and students.

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## Field Test Format

Field tests are only available on the digital assessment platform and include a variety of question types, including interactive questions. To see examples of question types, please go to [Login | Vretta ABED](#) and select “Try a Practice Test.”

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## Field Test Perusals

Teachers can peruse the field test to provide feedback on questions. On the digital assessment platform, field test perusals are accessed through the Perusal link on the teacher dashboard, and exam developers receive this feedback through the platform. Teachers have access 15 minutes after students start writing a field test and can give feedback for 24 hours. See the digital field test guide on the digital assessment platform’s [Help Page](#) for more information.

The same level of security and confidentiality is to be demonstrated for field tests as any other provincial assessment.

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## Field Test Accommodations

Field tests are not available in special formats. Accommodations such as a reader, scribe, text-to-speech, or speech-to-text may be permitted. Students requiring other accommodations who would like to experience writing a provincial assessment may use a special-format practice test during the field test administration. Please refer to the next section, Special-format Practice Tests.

It is important for Alberta Education and Childcare and teachers to be aware of how long a student takes to complete a field test. The information captured in relation to students who complete the field test in the official allotted time is invaluable and informative in the construction of valid and reliable provincial assessments.

If a student needs more time, the writing time may be extended by **15 minutes**. However, students who are unable to complete the entire field test are not to be penalized, and raw scores may be prorated. Teachers may create a mark for the student based on the number of items completed and not the entire field test. **Students should not be instructed to guess the remaining answers** on the field test as this does not provide data that is an authentic representation of student ability.

## Special-format Practice Tests

Special-format practice tests are available to provide students with an opportunity to practise provincial assessment-style items and content in Braille, and large print. Special-format practice tests are offered in all provincial assessment courses. Braille tests are available in English and are made-to-order in French. Braille special-format practice tests must be returned to Alberta Education and Childcare. For large-print versions, admin can print from the digital assessment platform. Please contact [special.cases@gov.ab.ca](mailto:special.cases@gov.ab.ca) for instructions. All special-format practice tests are provided free of charge, but limits may be placed on Braille forms to ensure access for everyone.

The form to request special-format practice tests is available [here](#).

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## Participation Approval Process

Administrators must seek approval from their school authority for their school to administer field tests.  
Teachers must seek approval from their administrator before scheduling a field test.

### How to schedule a field test

To schedule field tests on the digital assessment platform, use this [link](#) to log into your teacher account. A user guide for field testing on the [Help Page](#) explains how to schedule field tests.

# Field Test Request and Administration Dates

Students are not permitted to write field tests remotely. Although we ensure digital security, remote field testing does not meet adequate supervisory requirements. Field tests are secured in all formats and must be administered in a location that allows for direct supervision by a teacher or teacher designate.

Teachers must contact the Field Testing Coordinator at [field.test@gov.ab.ca](mailto:field.test@gov.ab.ca) if they require an administration date outside of the dates listed below.

## Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) Program

All field tests need to be scheduled five (5) working days prior to the administration date selected.

Course	Field Test Type	Administration Dates
<b>Grade 6</b>		
Français langue première et littérature 6 Partie B : Lecture	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 2, 2026
French Immersion Language Arts and Literature 6 Partie B : Lecture	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 2, 2026
Grade 6 Science and Sciences	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 11, 2026
Grade 6 Social Studies and Études sociales	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 11, 2026
Grade 6 Mathematics and Mathématiques Part(ie) A: Number Operations	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 12, 2026
Grade 6 Mathematics and Mathématiques Part(ie) B	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 17, 2026
Grade 6 ELAL: Reading	End-of-course	May 22, 2026–June 3, 2026
<b>Grade 9</b>		
Grade 9 Science and Sciences; K&E 9 Science	Unit Tests	September 15, 2025–June 22, 2026
	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 22, 2026
Grade 9 Mathematics and Mathématiques Part(ie) A: Number Operations	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 15, 2026
Grade 9 Mathematics and Mathématiques Part(ie) B; K&E 9 Mathematics	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 18, 2026
Grade 9 Social Studies and Études sociales; K&E 9 Social Studies	End-of-course	May 19, 2026–June 19, 2026
Français 9 Partie B : Lecture	End-of-course	May 20, 2026–June 5, 2026
French Language Arts 9 Partie B : Lecture	End-of-course	May 20, 2026–June 5, 2026
K&E 9 ELA Part B: Reading	End-of-course	May 21, 2026–June 8, 2026
Grade 9 ELA Part B: Reading	End-of-course	May 22, 2026–June 8, 2026

## Diploma Examination Program: Session 1 (September 2025–January 2026)

End-of-course field tests have been cancelled for January, 2026.

Students receiving instruction remotely are not permitted to write field tests. Although we ensure digital security, field testing remotely does not meet adequate supervisory requirements. Field tests are secured in all formats and must be administered in a location that allows for direct supervision by a teacher or teacher designate.

Teachers must contact the Field Testing Office at [field.test@gov.ab.ca](mailto:field.test@gov.ab.ca) if they require an administration date outside of the dates listed below. The Field Test Coordinator will work with teachers to ensure that their field-testing needs are met whenever possible.

**All field tests must be scheduled at least five (5) working days before the administration date. In addition, Mathematics Field Tests with Written Response must be scheduled by December 1, 2025.**

Course	Field Test Type	Administration Dates
Biology 30	Unit Test	October 1, 2025–January 30, 2026
Chemistry 30	Unit Test	September 15– January 30, 2026
Français 30–1	Mid-semester	October 27, 2025- November 7, 2025
French Language Arts 30–1	Mid-semester	October 27, 2025- November 7, 2025
Mathematics 30–1	Topic Test	October 1, 2025–January 30, 2026
	Topic Test with Written Response	October 1, 2025–January 30, 2026
Mathematics 30–2	Topic Test	October 1, 2025–January 30, 2026
Physics 30	Unit Test	September 15, 2025–January 30, 2026
Science 30	Unit Test	October 1, 2025–January 30, 2026

## Diploma Examination Program: Session 2 (February 2026–June 2026)

Students receiving instruction remotely are not permitted to write field tests. Although we ensure digital security, remote field testing does not meet adequate supervisory requirements. Field tests are secured and must be administered in a location that allows for direct supervision by a teacher or teacher designate.

Teachers must contact the Field Testing Office at [field.test@gov.ab.ca](mailto:field.test@gov.ab.ca) if they require an administration date outside of the dates listed below. The Field Test Office staff will work with teachers to ensure that their field-testing needs are met whenever possible.

**All field tests must be scheduled at least five (5) working days before the administration date. In addition, Mathematics 30 Field Tests with Written Response must be scheduled by May 1, 2026.**

Course	Field Test Type	Administration Dates (Digital)
Biology 30	Unit Test	February 23, 2026–June 17, 2026
Biologie 30	End-of-course	May 4, 2026–June 17, 2026
	End-of-course	May 4, 2026–June 17, 2026
Chemistry 30	Unit Test	February 12, 2026–June 18, 2026
Chimie 30	End-of-course	May 4, 2026–June 18, 2026
	End-of-course	May 4, 2026–June 18, 2026
English Language Arts 30–1	End-of-course	May 27, 2026–June 12, 2026
English Language Arts 30–2	End-of-course	May 27, 2026–June 12, 2026
Français 30–1	Mid-semester	April 6, 2026- April 17, 2026
	End-of-course	May 27, 2026–June 8, 2026
French Language Arts 30–1	Mid-semester	April 6, 2026- April 17, 2026
	End-of-course	May 27, 2026–June 8, 2026
Mathematics 30–1	Topic Test	March 1, 2026–June 11, 2026
	Topic Test with Written Response	March 1, 2026–June 11, 2026
	End-of-course with Written Response	May 1, 2026–June 11, 2026
Mathématiques 30–1	End-of-course with written response	May 1, 2026–June 11, 2026
Mathematics 30–2	Topic Test	March 1, 2026–June 11, 2026
	End-of-course with written response	May 1, 2026–June 11, 2026
Mathématiques 30–2	End-of-course with written response	May 1, 2026–June 11, 2026

Physics 30	Unit Test	February 12, 2026–June 19, 2026
	End-of-course	May 4, 2026–June 19, 2026
Physique 30	End-of-course	May 4, 2026–June 19, 2026
Science 30	Unit Test	February 12, 2026–June 22, 2026
	End-of-course	May 4, 2026–June 22, 2026
Social Studies 30–1 Études sociales 30–1	End-of-course	June 1, 2026–June 15, 2026
Social Studies 30–2	End-of-course	June 1, 2026–June 15, 2026

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# Field Test Security and Administration Rules

All of the rules and procedures specified in the [General Information Bulletin](#) apply to the administration of field tests.

- Students may only access secured field test materials while writing the field test.
- **The creation of copies of items and/or answers to items either digitally or by hand is prohibited.**

Students requiring scrap paper can use the [paper](#) available. Teachers must securely shred all scrap paper following the administration of the field test.

- No personal electronic devices, including Bluetooth® devices, are permitted in the field test writing room. Bluetooth® hearing aids are acceptable, but the connection source must be monitored by the school.
- Writing accommodations such as a reader or scribe may be permitted and must be arranged by school staff.
- **No notes or copies of provincial assessment items may be made during or after the viewing of a secured field test.**
- For greater certainty, prior to participating in field testing, school staff will be required to attest to the following declaration related to assessment confidentiality:

### **Confidentiality Agreement**

I hereby certify that I will carry out my duties and responsibilities as the classroom teacher and/or field test supervisor as defined by the policies, rules and procedures of field testing in the [Field Test Guide](#). Further, because these field test questions are secured, I attest to the following: I will not copy, post, or share in any manner any content of a field test. All field test questions are secured, and copies may not be made. At the conclusion of the field test administration, I will securely shred all notes. I understand that failure to comply with these rules may constitute unprofessional conduct in relation to section 1(c) of the [Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers and Teacher Leaders](#). For Grade 12 mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, and science field tests, students are permitted to use paper copies of the data booklets and formula sheets. These are available [here](#) for diploma exams, and in the subject bulletins located [here](#) for PAT subjects.

- For Math 30-1 and 30-2 with written response the following process on the help page is to be followed. [Math-30 Written Response instructions for Teachers 2025-09-02](#)
- Mathematics and science field tests may only be administered with the use of calculators as follows:
  - Grade 6 Mathematics
    - Part(ie) A: Use of calculators is **not** permitted.
    - Part(ie) B: Use of calculators is **not** permitted.
  - Grade 9 Mathematics
    - Part(ie) A: Use of calculators is **not** permitted.
    - Part(ie) B: Students may use calculators; however, use of graphing calculators is not permitted.
  - Knowledge and Employability Mathematics: Students may use calculators; however, use of graphing calculators is not permitted.
  - Grade 6 Science: Students may use calculators; however, use of scientific or graphing calculators is not permitted.
  - Grade 9 Science: Students may use calculators; however, use of graphing calculators is not permitted.
- For Grade 12 mathematics and all science field tests, students can only bring one approved calculator to the field test writing room. Teachers must appropriately clear and configure calculators before and after the administration of the field test in accordance with the Calculator Policy [2025-26 Calculator Information and Rules for Mathematics and Science Diploma Exams](#).

- In addition to those rules and procedures, the following rules **must be adhered** to when field tests are administered:
  1. Students must be made aware of the purpose and importance of a field test prior to its administration.
  2. Students who arrive late are not permitted to write a field test if there is insufficient time to complete it within the scheduled administration time.
  3. Field tests are to be completed within the scheduled time frame. If class time permits, and students need more time, the writing time may be extended by 15 minutes.
  4. Supervisors must remain present in the field-testing room for the duration of the field test.
  5. Only teachers whose students are writing a particular field test may examine its contents.
  6. Perusals of field tests must occur within a 24-hour period following administration.
  7. Student response pages for Grade 12 mathematics field tests with a written response component must be uploaded within 48 hours of the field test administration time.
- Any discussion of field test items following the administration of the test must be limited to a review of the concepts being assessed and not to details of specific test items.

## Collect all response sheets, formula sheets, data booklets, and scrap paper

All field tests are secured. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that all field test materials are in their possession at the completion of each field test administration.

- Response sheets are to be collected, and the process outlined in [Uploading Math-30 Written Response Sheets 2025-09-02](#) on the [Help Page](#) is to be followed.
- Teachers must securely shred all scrap paper, formula sheets, and data booklets.

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## Instructions for students

Accurate directions must be prompt to ensure that students have enough time to answer all items on the field test.

For Grade 6 field tests, all instruction pages must be read aloud to the entire class. In addition, for Grade 6 language arts and literature written response field tests, the entire field test, including assignments, must be read aloud.

Inform students that, through the field-testing process, items are removed, revised, or used as-is on future provincial assessments. The statistics gained from field tests inform the development of provincial assessments. Field tests also provide exposure to provincial assessment-type items. For these reasons, **field tests are administered under the same conditions as all provincial assessments**. It is very important that students answer all items on the field test to the best of their ability.

1. Inform students of the number of items on the field test and the amount of time allotted to write the field test.
2. Instruct students that if they do not have time to complete all the items in a field test, they should leave any remaining question(s) unanswered rather than quickly selecting random responses.
3. Inform students that the supervisor is not permitted to interpret or discuss test items with the students during the field test administration. If an item is unclear, they can provide comments to that effect in the comment section provided at the end of the test.
4. After completing the field test, encourage students to provide feedback on individual items and the overall field test in the comments section provided at the end of the test.

## Types of feedback

Teachers and students may wish to consider the following when evaluating individual items and the overall field test:

- test length
- text readability
- appropriateness of the items in terms of curricular expectations
- clarity and appropriateness of artwork and graphics

Revisions to items are influenced by the written comments of teachers and students, who provide valuable feedback.

## Collecting and marking field tests

Field tests will be marked digitally with the exception of math 30 written response. Scores for those tests marked digitally will be displayed on the teacher dashboard immediately following the student's submission of the test.

- math 30 written response may be marked at the school level; exemplars will be not provided.
- Marking is not mandatory.
- Scores are for teacher use only.
- Teachers will only have access to the scores during the 24-hour perusal. A spreadsheet of the scores can be downloaded during this time.

## Completing field tests

Following a field test, all scrap paper, data booklets, formula sheets, and math written response sheets must be collected by the teacher/supervisor.

- Response sheets are to be collected, and the process outlined in the digital field test guide on the [Help Page](#) is to be followed.
- All scrap paper, data booklets and formula sheets must be securely shredded by the teacher.

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## Contacts

### Field Testing Program Office

[Field.Test@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Field.Test@gov.ab.ca)

Telephone: 780-641-9116

### Digital Support

[online.assessment@gov.ab.ca](mailto:online.assessment@gov.ab.ca)

### Website Links

- [Alberta Education and Childcare website](#)
- [Digital Assessment Platform](#)