Connecticut Academic Performance Test:
Overview of the Third Generation

The Connecticut statewide testing programs are thought of in terms of generations. This allows the testing programs to be periodically reevaluated and revised as necessary. A "generation" of a test typically spans about five to seven years. During those years, equivalent forms of the test are administered and scoring procedures are standardized to ensure that results can be interpreted in the same way from year to year. The first generation of the CAPT spanned from 1995 to 2000. The second generation of the CAPT began with the 2001 test administration and concluded in 2006. The third generation of the CAPT will start with the March, 2007 test administration.

The third generation of the CAPT will be based on the revised state curriculum frameworks for Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. These frameworks can be found at the state department of education's website using the following link:

www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/index.htm

With each new generation of the test, test content, item formats and scoring procedures are updated and revised as appropriate to improve the assessment. The pages that follow contain a summary of the changes for the CAPT Third Generation.

If you have any questions about the CAPT program, please call the CAPT office at (860) 713-6890 or email Jeff Greig, the CAPT Program Manager at jeff.greig@ct.gov.

CAPT Third Generation: Reading Across the Disciplines

Response to Literature
- Student's will continue to read a short story and respond to four open-ended questions which will be scored holistically by two readers on a 1 to 6 scale.
- The administration time (70 minutes) will remain the same.

Reading for Information
- Students will continue to read three non-fiction articles and respond to a total of 6 open-ended (worth 2 points each) and 18 multiple-choice questions (worth 1 point each). Although the content being assessed will be the same, the design of the test will be slightly altered. Alternate paragraphs in the articles will be numbered to allow students to find referenced information more quickly.
- The administration time (45 minutes) will remain the same.

CAPT Third Generation: Writing Across the Disciplines

Interdisciplinary Writing
- Students will continue to complete two separate Interdisciplinary Writing tasks in which they must read non-fiction sources (i.e., newspaper or magazine articles) on a contemporary issue and write a persuasive essay. Each essay will be scored holistically by two readers on a scale of 1 to 6.
- Students will read two articles for each task, instead of three.
- The administration time (65 minutes) will remain the same.

Editing & Revising
- Students will continue to read three passages and answer a total of 18 multiple-choice questions (worth 1 point each).
- There will be a change in the way **some** items are presented to avoid students having to search for a particular word or phrase within the passage. This new format (see example below) will only be used for questions that do not require students to use the surrounding sentences to determine the context of the question.

What is the **best** change, if any, to make in the following sentence?

American and european actors try to interpret a character in a convincing way.

a. Change *european* to **European**. *
b. Change *try* to **tried**.
c. Insert a comma after *character*.
d. Make no change.

CAPT Third Generation: Mathematics

The overall design of the CAPT Mathematics will remain the same with 8 open-ended and 24 grid items.   The reporting categories for the Mathematics strands will also be adjusted to reflect the new framework as follows:
  • Algebraic Reasoning
  • Numerical and Proportional Reasoning
  • Geometry and Measurement
  • Probability and Statistics

The test will continue to be divided into two 75-minute sessions. The content assessed by the test will change somewhat to align with the new state Mathematics Curriculum Framework. The following table shows the distribution of items.

Test Design

Content Strand	Open-ended Items (3 points each)	Grid Items (1 point each)	Total Points
Algebraic Reasoning	2	6	12
Numerical and Proportional Reasoning	2	6	12
Geometry and Measurement	2	6	12
Probability and Statistics	2	6	12
Totals	**8**	**24**	**48**

CAPT Third Generation: Science

The third generation of the CAPT Science will change significantly from the second generation. To better align with the new Science Curriculum Framework, the following content strands will be reported:
- Energy Transformations
- Chemical Structures and Properties
- Global Interdependence
- Cell Chemistry & Biotechnology
- Genetics, Evolution & Biodiversity

In addition, scores will be reported for the following:
- Conceptual Understanding
- Scientific Inquiry, Literacy and Numeracy

Students will respond to 60 multiple choice (MC) and 5 open-ended (OE) items. The test will continue to be divided into two 50- minute sessions. The following table shows the distribution of items.

Test Design

Content Strand	Conceptual Understanding	Scientific Inquiry, Literacy and Numeracy		
	MC Items* (1 point each)	MC Items (1 point each)	OE Items (3 points each)	Total Points
I. Energy Transformations	8	4	1	**15**
II. Chemical Structures & Properties	8	4	1	**15**
III. Global Interdependence	8	4	1	**15**
IV. Cell Chemistry & Biotechnology	8	4	1	**15**
V. Genetics, Evolution & Biodiversity	8	4	1	**15**
Total Points	**40**	**35**		**75**

Curriculum-Embedded Science Performance Tasks
There will no longer be a single CAPT Science Performance Task administered just prior to the written CAPT Science test. Instead, a curriculum-embedded science performance task has been developed for **each** of the five content strands that will be utilized for the entire third generation of the test. Schools are encouraged to embed these tasks into their regular grade 9 and 10 science curricula at the appropriate time. All of the open-ended items on the written test will be related to the five tasks. The science tasks can be found at http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currsciembed.htm