

Test-Taking Tips and Strategies

✓ THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF QUESTIONS ON THE OGT:

- 1) Multiple-choice
- 2) Short-answer
- 3) Extended-response

✓ MULTIPLE-CHOICE TIPS

- ◆ Read the entire question before attempting to answer it.
- ◆ First, try to answer the question without looking at the choices. Then, look at the choices to see if your answer is the same as, or close to one of the choices.
- ◆ Do not keep changing your answers. Usually your first choice is the right one.

✓ SHORT-ANSWER AND EXTENDED-RESPONSE TIPS

- ◆ Read the directions carefully.
- ◆ If the question is asking for facts, do not give your personal opinion on the topic.
- ◆ Make an outline before writing your essay. Your response will be more organized and fluid.
- ◆ Address all parts of the question.
- ◆ Focus on one main idea per paragraph.
- ◆ If you have time left when finished, proofread your work and correct any errors.



A GUIDE TO THE OHIO GRADUATION TESTS for Students and Families

Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies



Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Eugene T.W. Sanders, Ph.D., CEO

Testing Window: March 16 through March 20, 2009

SUMMER OGT Testing Window: June 15 through June 19, 2009

SAVE THE DATES

VICTORY STARTS EARLY PARENT ROUNDUP

South High School

Saturday, March 28, 2009 • 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A District-Wide information fair to help students and families step up to success!

For more information call: 216-858-0117 or 216-858-1244

2009 All-City Arts Festival: Rock Your World

Saturday, May 16, 2009 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

Family/Community Empowerment Conference

May 22-23, 2009 • Cleveland Convention Center

Two days packed with valuable information for families. Actor, author, comedian and educator **Mr. Bill Cosby** is the featured speaker on May 23!

For more information, call 216-858-1244.



Overview

This year the Ohio Graduation Tests will be administered to students in grades 10, 11 and 12 from March 16-20, 2009. The purpose of this guide is to provide students, families and guardians with the following information:

- ◆ Answers to frequently-asked questions
- ◆ Tips for students receiving special services
- ◆ Helpful OGT websites
- ◆ Test-taking tips to help students prepare for the OGT

Parents seeking information about the OGT should direct questions to CMSD personnel at their child's school (teachers, guidance counselors or the principal). You can also call the **CMSD District OGT Hotline at 216-574-TEST (574-8378)**. Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT)?

A: OGT are tests that students must pass in order to earn an Ohio high school diploma.

Q: What are the purposes of the tests?

- A: The purposes of the tests are to:
- ◆ Make sure that Ohio students who receive a high school diploma show at least a high school level of achievement.
 - ◆ Measure the level of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies skills expected of students by the end of 10th grade.
 - ◆ Meet federal law for high school testing.

Q: How many chances do I have to pass the OGT?

- A: OGT tests are administered many times before graduation:
- ◆ Spring of 10th grade
 - ◆ Summer between 10th and 11th grade (optional)
 - ◆ Fall and spring of 11th grade.
 - ◆ Summer between 11th and 12th grade (optional)
 - ◆ Fall and spring of 12th grade.

Q: How long will students have to take each test?

A: Students have up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to take each of the tests.

Q: Where do I take the OGT?

A: Students take the tests at their home high school.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Q: Are there other ways for students to receive a diploma if they don't pass the OGT?

- A: Students may graduate and receive a diploma without passing all five tests of the OGT if they meet **ALL** of the following requirements:
1. Pass 4 of the 5 tests and have missed passing the 5th test by no more than 10 points.
 2. Have had a 97% attendance rate through all 4 years of high school and must not have had an expulsion from high school.

3. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 out of 4.0 in the subject area missed and have completed the curriculum requirement in the subject area missed.
4. Have participated in any intervention programs offered by the school and must have had a 97% attendance rate in any program offered outside the normal school day.
5. Obtain letters of recommendation from each teacher in the subject area not yet passed, as well as the principal.



Test Tip #2 – Eat breakfast on each day of testing.

Students Receiving Services Through An Individual Education Program (IEP)

- ◆ Ask your child's Special Education teacher how the child will be tested.
- ◆ Check the testing page of your copy or the teacher's copy of your child's IEP.
- ◆ Find out if there are **accommodations** for testing such as extra time, directions and/or having test questions read aloud, frequent breaks, etc.
- ◆ Find out if your child is taking an **alternate assessment**.
- ◆ When taking any test, the student should look for "key" words such as **direction words**. For example: add, multiply, complete, find, write and choose.
- ◆ Look for any **bold headings** for clues about the topic or the main character, etc.
- ◆ When a test question has a diagram, picture or chart, the student should remember to **study all the details** that are provided.
- ◆ Remember English-limited students (those students whose primary language is not English) must achieve passing scores on the OGT in order to be awarded a diploma.

Helpful Websites

(CMSD website: www.cmsdnet.net)

Ohio Graduation Tests: www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/OGT/

Previous Graduation Tests: www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/OGT/previous.asp

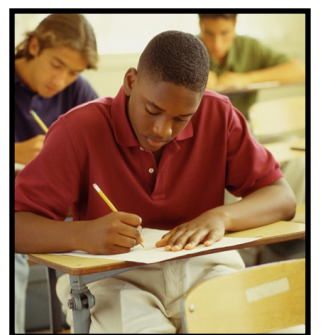
English Language Arts:
www.ode.state.oh.us/academic_content_standards/acsenglish.asp

Mathematics:
www.ode.state.oh.us/academic_content_standards/acsmath.asp

Science:
www.ode.state.oh.us/academic_content_standards/acsscience.asp

Social Studies Academic Content Standards
www.ode.state.oh.us/academic_content_standards/acssocialstudies.asp

Study Skills:
www.how-to-study.com



Test Tip #3 – Be confident of your ability and give your best effort.



Test Tip #1 – Get plenty of rest.