

Scoring the PARCC Test



The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states that have collaborated to create high quality assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades 3-8 and high school. The assessments give teachers and parents meaningful information they can use to support student success at every grade level and on their path to being ready for college and career by graduation.

The accurate and reliable scoring of PARCC assessments is critical to providing valid information about a student's achievement. PARCC states partner with our testing company, Pearson, which recruits and trains qualified scorers at the national and local level. Applicants complete a rigorous and selective evaluation, hiring and training process to qualify as PARCC scorers. Accuracy and consistency is monitored throughout the scoring process.

Who scores PARCC exams?

In order to recruit from a large pool of qualified scorers, the testing company advertises for open scoring positions on its corporate website as well as in online and local publications across the country.

Only applicants who have a Bachelor's degree or higher in mathematics, English, education or a related field may be hired to score PARCC assessments.

- ✓ Scorers for the PARCC mathematics assessments hold at least a four-year degree in a related field and have demonstrated the knowledge needed to effectively score responses to math questions.
- ✓ Scorers for the PARCC English language arts and literacy assessments hold at least a four-year degree in English, education, history, psychology, journalism or a related field, and/or teacher certification or other work experience that will enable them to effectively score the literacy analysis, research simulation, or narrative writing tasks found in the PARCC assessments.
- ✓ Not all scorers are teachers, but as many as three-quarters have previous teaching experience. Half of all PARCC scorers are current K-12 teachers.

How are scorers trained?

All PARCC scorers complete extensive training to evaluate student performance on a select and specific group of questions across multiple exams.

- ✓ The process of training and scoring PARCC exams on a question-by-question basis ensures that all scorers are well-versed in the subjects and skills that they are scoring. Rather than having a scorer score an entire portion of a student's

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assessment, they will instead score the same question on hundreds of student exams to ensure that scoring is fair and unbiased for each student's answers.

- ✓ During training, scorers and their instructors discuss the question and rubric and analyze several pre-scored sample answers to understand why the answers received certain grades.
- ✓ Scorers must then score two sets of practice answers, which they must pass in order to be deemed eligible to score that set of specific questions.
- ✓ Pearson instructors train each scorer for the questions they will be responsible for evaluating. Training for each question can take from three to four hours to several days, depending on the question.

How is the PARCC test scored?

- ✓ First, each student is assigned a unique identification number.
- ✓ Student answers are then separated and sorted question-by-question and sent to the scorers who have been trained and qualified to score that particular question. This maintains student anonymity and allows scorers to become experts in scoring one question at a time.
- ✓ Scorers work out of more than a dozen scoring centers across the country, and from their homes. There are strict procedures in place to protect test security.
- ✓ Scorers assign points to each answer. Depending on the question, up to six points could be available to be assigned.
- ✓ Each scorer has a binder for each question with the scoring rubric and examples of pre-scored answers that they can use to compare their scoring against the guide that was prepared by educators.
- ✓ To ensure that scorers are maintaining accuracy standards throughout the scoring process, previously-scored model papers are mixed in with unscored papers. A scorer must consistently assign a "true" score to these pre-scored models to be able to continue scoring.
- ✓ If a scorer's accuracy declines, then he/she receives additional training on the test question. However, if consistency and accuracy cannot be maintained, then the scorer's previous scores are all put back into the system for re-scoring by another scorer.

Additional Resources:

PARCC: Did You Know: Who Scores the PARCC Test? www.parcconline.org/did-you-know-who-scores-parcc-test

How Standardized Tests Are Scored (Hint: Humans Are Involved) http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/07/08/420559529/unveiling-how-standardized-tests-are-scored?utm_source=PARCC+Updates+07-13-15&utm_campaign=5%2F21%2F15+Release&utm_medium=email

Who's Grading Your Child's Common Core Tests? Teachers, Subs and Some Craigslist Recruits:
www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/05/whos_grading_your_childs_parcc.html#incart_story_package