

Instructions for Administering the Optional File A Practice Test Grade 8

The File A Practice Test and Student Answer Booklet are designed to provide students with a realistic experience for participating in the MEA, although the lengths of the practice sessions may vary from the lengths of the actual MEA test sessions. The practice test consists of released questions from all currently assessed content areas and includes the following:

- Reading: reading passages, multiple-choice, and constructed-response items,
- Mathematics: multiple-choice, short-answer, and constructed-response items,
- Science and Technology: multiple-choice and constructed-response items, and
- Writing: writing prompt.

If you choose to administer all or part of the practice test, the following time periods are recommended. Students are allowed approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ additional time for reading, mathematics and science and technology and $\frac{1}{2}$ additional time for writing in the actual MEA test sessions.

Practice Test Session Pages in File A	Pages in Student Answer Booklet for Released Item Practice Test	Recommended Time Period
Session 1A—Reading Practice Test (A2-A6)	2–3	30–45 minutes
Session 1B—Reading Practice Test (A7-A10)	4	20–30 minutes
Session 2A—Mathematics (Calculator Not Allowed) Practice Test (A11-A12)	5	10–15 minutes
Session 2B—Mathematics (Calculator Allowed) Practice Test (A13-A18)	6	25–30 minutes
Session 3A—Science and Technology Practice Test (A19-A24)	7–8	30–45 minutes
Session 4A—Writing Practice Test (A25 –A27)	9–12	45–70 minutes

If you choose to design your own practice test sessions, consider the following guidelines for time allotment.

Time for students to read each passage –5–10 minutes

Multiple-choice item –1 minute

Short-answer item (mathematics only) –2 minutes (Items 4, 18, and 19)

Constructed-response item –5–10 minutes

Following the administration of the practice test, you or your students may use the answer keys and scoring guides, training notes, and sample student responses provided in File B of the Released Item Document to score student work.