

Instructions for Administering the 2007–08 MEA Released Item Practice Tests

The Practice Tests and accompanying answer booklets 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 Tests consist of the 2007–08 MEA released items from currently assessed content areas, and include the following:

All grades

- Reading: reading passages, multiple-choice items, and constructed-response items
- Mathematics: multiple-choice, short-answer, and constructed-response items

Grades 4 and 8 only

- Science and Technology: multiple-choice and constructed-response items

Grade 5 only

- Writing: writing prompt

The grade 5 science and technology assessment in March 2008 was a field test only, so no items from that assessment have been released. This year, there is no released writing prompt for grade 8. Also, please note that there is no separate answer booklet for grade 3, as those test booklets contain both the questions and the answer spaces. The grade 3 practice test has the same format.

If you choose to administer all or part of the Practice Tests, 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

Constructed-response item: 5–10 minutes

Writing Prompt: 45 minutes

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.

Following the administration of the Practice Tests, you or your students may use the information contained in this document to score the student work. Please refer to the “Scoring Guides, Test Design, and Item Information” file for more information. The sample student responses for each score-point value provided in the “Student Work” file should be used along with the scoring guides to more fully inform the scoring process.