

Chapter 4: iLEAP Social Studies, Grade 3

This section describes the overall design of the iLEAP Social Studies test to be administered to students in grade 3. Test specifications and sample test questions are provided so that teachers may align classroom practices with the state assessment.

Test Structure

The Social Studies test consists of one part and is administered in a single day.

The Social Studies test is a criterion-referenced test (CRT) that includes items based entirely on Louisiana’s social studies content standards. These items are aligned with Louisiana’s Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) and were developed specifically for Louisiana.

Item Types

The test has thirty-two (32) multiple-choice items.

The multiple-choice items consist of an interrogatory stem and four answer options. These items assess knowledge, conceptual understanding, and application of skills presented in the GLEs. Items will be intermingled across strands, not arranged into separate sections by strand.

To maximize the meaningfulness of multiple-choice items, questions are typically cast in a practical problem-solving context, referring to a single stimulus (e.g., a map) or to a description of a single scenario. The reading difficulty level of test questions is minimized to the extent possible (except for necessary terms) so that students’ reading ability does not interfere with their ability to demonstrate their social studies knowledge and skills.

Description of the Social Studies Test

The Social Studies test was developed specifically for Louisiana. Committees of Louisiana educators reviewed all items for content and alignment with Louisiana’s standards. Separate committees reviewed the items for potential bias and sensitive material.

The Social Studies Test is **untimed**. About one forty-five (45) minutes is the suggested time to allow students to answer the questions.

The grade 3 test assesses all four social studies strands delineated in the Comprehensive Curriculum and the Louisiana Social Studies Framework: Geography, Civics, Economics, and History.

Geography

The GLEs for grade 3 expect students to describe the characteristics and uses of various types of maps and to locate the major geographic features of Louisiana on a map. Students learn how to distinguish different types of graphs; how to interpret graphs, charts, and diagrams; how to locate places on a map using a compass rose and directions; the characteristics of various regions in Louisiana and the physical