



BUREAU CHIEF
Office of State Assessment

June 2021

TO: Principals of Secondary Schools
FROM: Nancy A. Viall *Nancy A. Viall*
SUBJECT: June 2021 Regents Examinations

This memorandum provides helpful information concerning the format, content, and credit allotment of the Regents Examinations to be administered in June 2021. Please make the information for each subject area available immediately to the teachers who will be administering these examinations.

The [School Administrator's Manual](#) contains the general procedures to follow in administering these examinations. Information concerning administering examinations to students with disabilities or to English Language Learners/Multilingual Learners is also provided in this manual.

Also available online are three [Information Booklets](#) pertaining to the scoring of the Regents Examinations administered in June. These booklets address the scoring of Regents Examinations in the following subject areas: English Language Arts, Algebra I, and the Sciences. School administrators should print and photocopy these booklets and distribute copies to school personnel who will be involved in the scoring of these examinations.

A separate booklet, [Directions for Administering Regents Examinations, June 2021 Administration](#), contains specific instructions for administering each Regents Examination. Schools should print and distribute these directions to teachers and administrators. All persons involved in administering the June 2021 examinations must read these specific directions prior to the examination.

Schools are not permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions (including essays) on any Regents Examination after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guide, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately. NOTE: Teachers are **not** permitted to score their own students' answer papers.

Out of consideration for those students with disabilities who are completing their examinations over multiple days as an approved testing accommodation, educators are not permitted to discuss test questions or other specific test content with others online via e-mail or LISTSERV, or through any other electronic means prior to or during the test administration and for seven calendar days after the original date of administration. Everyone's cooperation with this rule helps to preserve the integrity of the assessments taken by these students over multiple school days so that they can complete the exams at a pace appropriate for them. Avoiding public discussion of specific test content over electronic media affords those students an equal opportunity to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

IMPORTANT: When student papers for any State examination are scored in cooperation with other schools, answer papers may be transported to the collaborative scoring site. It remains the principal's responsibility to ensure the security of such papers while they are out of the building.

Student Use of Communications Devices

All students are prohibited from bringing cell phones and certain other electronic devices, as defined in the script below, into a classroom or other location where a State examination is being administered. Test proctors, test monitors, and school officials shall retain the right to collect and hold any prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test administration. Admission to the test shall be denied to any student who is in possession of a cell phone or other prohibited electronic device and refuses to relinquish it.

At the beginning of each test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking Regents Examinations:

You cannot have any communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this examination or during any breaks (such as a restroom visit). Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Personal laptops, notebooks, or any other computing devices
- Cameras or other photographic equipment
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content

If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

[Proctor: repeat list of devices.]

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

For Principals and Proctors:

- a. Any student observed with any prohibited device while taking a State examination must be directed to turn it over to the proctor or monitor immediately. To allow for all possible outcomes of procedural due process, the student should be allowed to complete the examination. The incident must be reported promptly to the school principal. If the principal determines that the student had a prohibited device in his or her possession during the test administration, the student's test **must** be invalidated. No score may be calculated for that student.
- b. The incident must be promptly reported, in writing, to the Office of State Assessment (OSA) by fax to 518-474-1989 or by [e-mail](#), as is the case for all student-related testing irregularities, misadministrations, or other violations of State testing policy and procedures.

NOTE: Some students with disabilities may use certain recording/playback devices **ONLY IF** this accommodation is specifically required as a provision of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan). In addition, a student may be allowed to retain an otherwise prohibited device in his or her possession if there is documentation on file at the school from a medical practitioner that the student requires such a device during testing. Without such documentation, the general policy on communications devices as provided above is in effect, and the school may not allow the student to retain any such equipment while testing.

ENGLISH

Regents Examination in English Language Arts

The June 2021 Regents Examination in English Language Arts is similar in format to the test administered in January 2020 (the most recent administration). The examination consists of three parts. Part 1 consists of three texts and 24 multiple-choice questions. Part 2 consists of four informational texts, which may include graphically-presented information. Students will write a 6-credit source-based argument essay. Part 3 consists of one text. Students will write a 4-credit, two-to-three paragraph expository response that identifies a central idea in the text and analyzes how the author's use of one writing strategy develops this central idea.

Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain, for each student, a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students must record their answers to the multiple-choice questions on the separate answer sheet provided by the proctor. Students must write their answers to the essay response questions in pen in the essay booklet. The [essay booklet](#) is available to schools on the Department's website. Schools must provide copies of this essay booklet to students.

The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

June 2021 Regents Examination in English Language Arts

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
1	multiple choice	1–24	0 or 1	24
2	essay	Part 2	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, or 6.0	6
3	response	Part 3	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, or 4.0	4

Before allowing students to begin the examination, have them check the cover of their examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure that they have the correct title.

The [scoring key and rating guide](#) will be made available on the Department's website. Posting time for the scoring materials for the June Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's website will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key provides answers to the Part I multiple-choice questions. The rating guide provides rubrics for scoring the constructed-response questions, and annotated anchor papers for each score level along with a set of practice papers for scoring leaders to use when training scorers. A [chart for converting](#) the student's total-test raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's website.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student's final score. The student's scale score should be entered in the box provided on the student's separate answer sheet. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Each student's essay for Part 2 must be scored independently by two raters, with a third rater available to rate essays with discrepant scores. (A discrepant score is one that varies by more than one credit on

the 6-credit rubric.) Each student's response for Part 3 must also be scored independently by two raters, with a third rater available to rate responses with discrepant scores. (A discrepant score is one that varies by more than one credit on the 4-credit rubric.) Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the responses to constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination after each essay has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guide, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been calculated correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The [Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in English Language Arts](#) provides further information about the scoring of this examination. This booklet includes detailed procedures for training scorers, resolving discrepant scores, and managing the logistics of the scoring process. School administrators should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in scoring and coordinating the scoring of the Regents Examination in English Language Arts, prior to the date of the examination.

Online Teacher Evaluation Form

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online [evaluation form](#) for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions.

MATHEMATICS

Regents Examination in Algebra I

The June 2021 Regents Examination in Algebra I is similar in format to the test administered in January 2020 (the most recent administration). Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center.

Schools *must* make graphing calculators available for the exclusive use of each student while taking the Regents Examination in Algebra I. The memory of any calculator with programming capability must be cleared, reset, or disabled when students enter the testing room. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used. No students may use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through any means, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the examination. Symbol manipulation calculators are calculators capable of doing symbolic algebra or symbolic calculus (for example, factoring, expanding, or simplifying given variable output).

Schools must be sure that each student has a straightedge (ruler) while taking the Regents Examination in Algebra I.

Students must write their answers to the questions in Part I on the separate answer sheet provided by the proctor. They must write their answers to the questions in Parts II, III, and IV in the examination booklet. Students must clearly indicate the necessary steps, including appropriate formula substitutions, diagrams, graphs, charts, etc., that they used in arriving at their answers to the questions in Parts II, III, and IV.

Students should write all work in the examination booklet in pen except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil. As the examination is being administered, proctors should check to see that students are using the proper writing implements to record their answers. However, if it is discovered after the test session has ended that a student has used pencil for responses that should have been written in pen these responses may be scored. A photocopy should be made of the pages written in pencil prior to sending the original for scoring.

Scrap paper is *not* permitted. Students may use the blank spaces and the page of graph paper included in the examination booklet as scrap paper. Schools should have a supply of graph paper available for students who request it in the event that they need to change their work on graphs.

The Regents Examination in Algebra I consists of four parts, with a total of 37 questions. Students must answer all 37 questions. The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

June 2021 Regents Examination in Algebra I

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
I	multiple choice	1–24	0 or 2	48
II	constructed response	25–32	0, 1, or 2	16
III	constructed response	33–36	0, 1, 2, 3, or 4	16
IV	constructed response	37	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6	6
TOTAL		—	—	86

Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of their examination booklet and answer sheet, to be sure that they have the correct title.

The [scoring key, rating guide, and Model Response Set](#) will be made available on the Department's website. Posting time for the scoring materials for the June Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's website will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

For the June 2021 administration, the Department will provide a *Model Response Set* to serve as additional scoring guidance. This guidance is intended to be part of the scorer training. Schools should use the *Model Response Set*, along with the rubrics in the scoring key and rating guide, to help guide the scoring of student work. While not reflective of all scenarios, the *Model Response Set* illustrates how less common student responses to constructed-response questions may be scored. The [Model Response Set](#) will be available on the Department's website on the same date and time as the rating guide for this examination. The same password will be used to access the scoring key, rating guide, and the *Model Response Set*.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key provides answers to the Part I multiple-choice questions. The rating guide provides rubrics for scoring the constructed-response questions. A [chart for converting](#) the student's total-test raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's website.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student's final score. The student's scale score should be entered in the box provided on the student's separate answer sheet. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Each answer paper for all State examinations in mathematics must be rated by a committee with a minimum of three mathematics teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-third of the constructed-response questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination in mathematics after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The [Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in Algebra I](#) provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Schools should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination.

Online Teacher Evaluation Form

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online [evaluation form](#) for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions.

SCIENCE

Regents Examination in Living Environment

The June 2021 Regents Examination in Living Environment is based on the *Living Environment Core Curriculum*. It is similar in format to the test administered in January 2020 (the most recent administration). The examination has five parts, with a total of 85 questions. Students must answer all questions in all parts. Four-function or scientific calculators **must** be available to all students who wish to have them during the entire scheduled time for this examination. Students are not permitted to use graphing calculators when taking this examination. The following table shows the types of questions and credit allotment for each part of the June 2021 examination.

June 2021 Regents Examination in Living Environment

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
A	multiple choice	1–30	0 or 1	30
B–1	multiple choice	31–43	0 or 1	13
B–2	1-credit open ended	44–46, 48, 51–55	0 or 1	12
	multiple choice	47, 49–50	0 or 1	
C	1-credit open ended	56–72	0 or 1	17
D	multiple choice	73–76, 81–82	0 or 1	13
	1-credit open ended	77–80, 83–85	0 or 1	
TOTAL		—	—	85

Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of their examination booklet and answer sheet, to be sure that they have the correct title.

Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain, for each student, a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students are to record their answers to all multiple-choice questions, including those in Parts B–2 and D, on the separate answer sheet. The answers to all open-ended questions are to be recorded in the examination booklet in pen, except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil.

While the examination is being administered, proctors should check to make sure that students are recording their answers to all multiple-choice questions, including those in Parts B–2 and D, on their separate answer sheets.

The [scoring key and rating guide](#) will be made available on the Department’s website. Posting time for the scoring materials for the June Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department’s website will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key provides answers to the multiple-choice questions. The rating guide provides rubrics for scoring each of the open-ended questions. A [chart for converting](#) the student’s total raw score to a scale

score will be provided on the Department's website. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, only the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student's final score. The student's scale score should be entered in the box provided on the student's separate answer sheet. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Each answer paper for all State examinations in science should be rated by a committee with a minimum of two science teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-half or less of the open-ended questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Examination in science after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The [Information Booklet for Scoring Regents Examinations in the Sciences](#) provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Prior to the administration date, all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination should receive a copy of this publication.

Laboratory Requirement

Students are **not** required to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences for either admission into a Regents Exam in science or exemption from the assessment requirement.

Online Teacher Evaluation Form

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online [evaluation form](#) for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions.

Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science

The June 2021 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science is similar in format to the test administered in January 2020 (the most recent administration), except there is no laboratory performance test (Part D) component. The written test component is based on the *Earth Science Core Curriculum*.

Performance Test

There is no performance test component to the June 2021 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science.

Written Test

The written test for June 2021 has four parts, with a total of 85 questions. Students must answer all questions. The table below shows the types of questions and credit allotment for each part of the June 2021 examination.

June 2021 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science

Written Test Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
A	multiple choice	1–35	0 or 1	35
B–1	multiple choice	36–50	0 or 1	15
B–2	1-credit open ended	51–65	0 or 1	15
C	1-credit open ended	66–85	0 or 1	20

Before allowing students to begin the written test, have them check the cover of their examination booklet, answer booklet, and answer sheet to be sure that they have the correct title.

Prior to the date of the written test, schools must obtain, for each student, a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students are to record their answers to all of the multiple-choice questions in Part A and Part B-1 on the scannable answer sheet. The answers to all of the open-ended questions in Part B-2 and Part C in the written test must be recorded in the answer booklet provided in pen, except for graphs and diagrams, which should be done in pencil. The answer booklets are printed on ivory paper and are shrink-wrapped in the same package with the examination booklets. As the examination is being administered, proctors should check to see that students are using the proper writing implements to record their answers. However, if it is discovered after the test session has ended that a student has used pencil for responses that should have been written in pen, these responses may be scored. A photocopy should be made of the pages written in pencil, prior to sending the original for scoring.

At the administration of the written test, each student *must* be provided with a copy of the 2011 edition of the [Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science](#), along with an examination booklet, an answer sheet, and an answer booklet. Some of the questions on the written test require the use of the reference tables. Schools are required to use the online version of the 2011 edition, including translations, and to print sufficient copies for the use by each student. *Schools may want to consider collecting the reference tables at the end of the written test and keeping clean copies for future use in the school's instructional program.*

In addition, each student **must** have a four-function or scientific calculator to use while taking the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science. Students are not permitted to use graphing calculators when taking this examination.

The [scoring key and rating guide](#) will be made available on the Department's website. Posting time for the scoring materials for the June Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning

examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's website will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key provides answers to the multiple-choice questions. The rating guide provides rubrics for scoring the open-ended questions. A [chart for converting](#) the student's total raw scores on the performance test and the written test to a scale score will be provided on the Department's website.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, only the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student's final score. The student's scale score should be entered in the box provided on the student's separate answer sheet. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Each answer paper for all State examinations in science should be rated by a committee with a minimum of two science teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score approximately one-half or less of the open-ended questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Examination in science after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The [Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examinations in the Sciences](#) provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Prior to the administration date, all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination should receive a copy of this publication.

Laboratory Requirement

Students are **not** required to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences for either admission into a Regents Exam in science or exemption from the assessment requirement.

Online Teacher Evaluation Form

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online [evaluation form](#) for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions.