REPORT INTERPRETATION GUIDE
KEYSTONE EXAMS

Spring 2011
Administration

Table of Contents

GUIDE TO READING THE STUDENT REPORT

The Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's new system of high school graduation requirements for students in the class of 2015 and beyond. Students take the exams toward the end of specific courses, beginning in 2010-2011 for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.

The Student Report displays how a student performed on each Keystone Exam. This guide helps explain the scores on the student's report. If the student did not take both modules of an exam, part of the report is blank. Remember, these exams are only one measure of the student's growth academically.

DESCRIPTIONS OF PAGE 1 OF THE STUDENT REPORT

1 STUDENT INFORMATION
This section identifies the student's name, school, district, date of testing, and grade.

2 SECRETARY'S GREETING
This letter is from the Secretary of Education and describes content assessed on the Keystone Exam.

3 CONTENT AREA
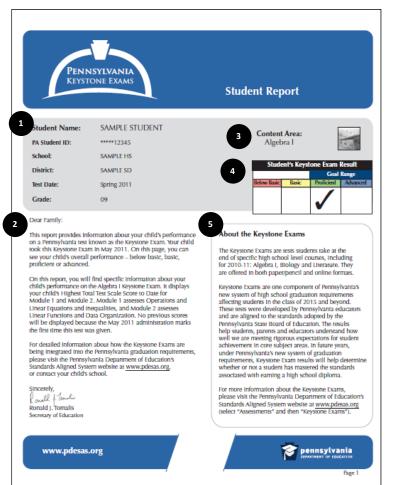This is the course or subject matter covered by the Keystone Exam.

4 STUDENT'S KEYSTONE EXAM RESULT
This table indicates the student's performance level on the Keystone Exam.

5 ABOUT THE KEYSTONE EXAMS
This is a brief summary of the Keystone Exams.

PENNSYLVANIA KEYSTONE EXAMS

Student Report

1 Student Name: SAMPLE STUDENT
PA Student ID: *****12345
School: SAMPLE HS
District: SAMPLE SD
Test Date: Spring 2011
Grade: 09

3 Content Area:
Algebra I

4 Student's Keystone Exam Result

		Goal Range	
Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
		✓	

2 Dear Family:

This report provides information about your child's performance on a Pennsylvania test known as the Keystone Exam. Your child took this Keystone Exam in May 2011. On this page, you can see your child's overall performance – below basic, basic, proficient or advanced.

On this report, you will find specific information about your child's performance on the Algebra I Keystone Exam. It displays your child's Highest Total Test Scale Score to Date for Module 1 and Module 2. Module 1 assesses Operations and Linear Equations and Inequalities, and Module 2 assesses Linear Functions and Data Organization. No previous scores will be displayed because the May 2011 administration marks the first time this test was given.

For detailed information about how the Keystone Exams are being integrated into the Pennsylvania graduation requirements, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Standards Aligned System website at www.pdesas.org, or contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Tomalis
Secretary of Education

5 About the Keystone Exams

The Keystone Exams are tests students take at the end of specific high school level courses, including for 2010-11: Algebra I, Biology and Literature. They are offered in both paper/pencil and online formats.

Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's new system of high school graduation requirements affecting students in the class of 2015 and beyond. These tests were developed by Pennsylvania educators and are aligned to the standards adopted by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. The results help students, parents and educators understand how well we are meeting rigorous expectations for student achievement in core subject areas. In future years, under Pennsylvania's new system of graduation requirements, Keystone Exam results will help determine whether or not a student has mastered the standards associated with earning a high school diploma.

For more information about the Keystone Exams, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Standards Aligned System website at www.pdesas.org (select "Assessments" and then "Keystone Exams").

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Page 1

DESCRIPTIONS OF PAGE 2 OF THE STUDENT REPORT

6 **PERFORMANCE LEVEL ON TOTAL TEST**
The arrow points to the student's performance level for the total Keystone Exam.

Note: If the student was not tested or did not receive a total score, an arrow pointing to the performance level is not displayed.
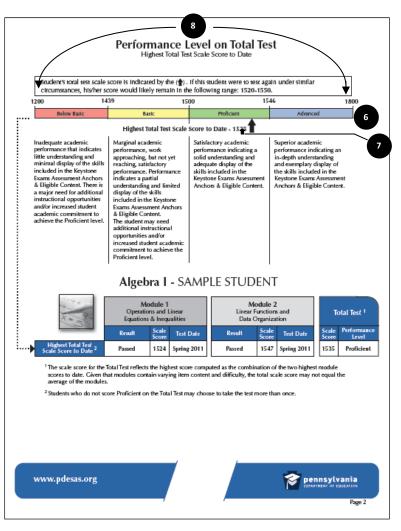
7 **STUDENT'S SCORE**
The Highest Total Test Scale Score to Date indicates the student's scale score for the total test. Additionally, the arrow on the bar graph indicates where the student's score falls within a performance level.

Because each content area has its own individual scale, the student's Keystone Exam scores should not be compared across content areas.

8 **MINIMUM/MAXIMUM SCALE SCORES**
The minimum and maximum scale scores represent the minimum and maximum scores a student could earn. Each Keystone Exam has a minimum and maximum score that stays the same across years. The Proficient score is set at 1500 for all exams.
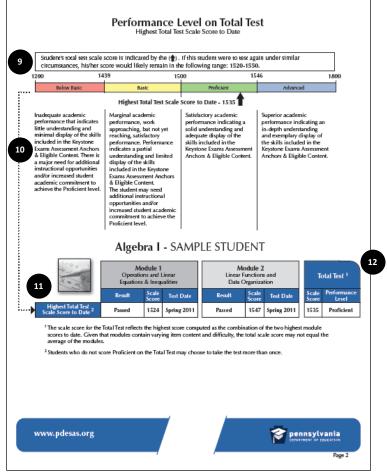

Performance Level on Total Test
Highest Total Test Scale Score to Date

Student's total test scale score is indicated by the (⬆). If this student were to test again under similar circumstances, his/her score would likely remain in the following range: 1520-1550.

1200	1439	1500	1546	1800
Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	

Highest Total Test Scale Score to Date - 1535

| Inadequate academic performance that indicates little understanding and minimal display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors & Eligible Content. There is a major need for additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient level. | Marginal academic performance, work approaching, but not yet reaching, satisfactory performance. Performance indicates a partial understanding and limited display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors & Eligible Content. The student may need additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient level. | Satisfactory academic performance indicating a solid understanding and adequate display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors & Eligible Content. | Superior academic performance indicating an in-depth understanding and exemplary display of the skills included in the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors & Eligible Content. |

Algebra I - SAMPLE STUDENT

	Module 1 Operations and Linear Equations & Inequalities			Module 2 Linear Functions and Data Organization			Total Test [1]	
	Result	Scale Score	Test Date	Result	Scale Score	Test Date	Scale Score	Performance Level
Highest Total Test Scale Score to Date [2]	Passed	1524	Spring 2011	Passed	1547	Spring 2011	1535	Proficient

[1] The scale score for the Total Test reflects the highest score computed as the combination of the two highest module scores to date. Given that modules contain varying item content and difficulty, the total scale score may not equal the average of the modules.

[2] Students who do not score Proficient on the Total Test may choose to take the test more than once.

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Page 2

DESCRIPTIONS OF PAGE 2 OF THE STUDENT REPORT (CONTINUED)

9

STANDARD ERROR OF MEASURE
This range reflects the standard error of measurement (SEM) for the student's Keystone Exam score. Specifically, it provides a reasonable range of scores that the student might receive if he or she took an equivalent version of the exam. (In other words, the student took an exam that covered exactly the *same* content, but included a *different* set of items.) For example, if the Keystone Exam score is 1750 and the SEM range is 1700 to 1800, then the student would be likely to score somewhere between 1700 and 1800 if a different version of the exam is taken under similar conditions.

10

MEANING OF PERFORMANCE LEVELS
This section provides a general description of the Pennsylvania performance levels. Student performance on the Keystone Exams falls into one of four performance levels: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced.

11

STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE IN EACH MODULE
This section indicates the student's performance within each module. It provides the assessment anchors covered in each module. Additionally, it identifies the result, scale score, and date of testing for each module.

Note: Students do not need to pass both modules in order to score Proficient on the exam.

12

STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE FOR TOTAL TEST
This section indicates the student's scale score and performance level for the total test. The scale score for the total test reflects the highest score computed as the combination of the two highest module scores. Because modules contain varying item content and difficulty, the total scale score may not equal the average of the modules. Students taking the Keystone Exam for the first time must take both modules in order to receive a total test scale score.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

CONTENT COVERED ON THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

Each Keystone Exam is organized into two major reporting categories known as modules. Each module is organized around specific assessment anchors and eligible content within a content area. Assessment anchors and eligible content are statements that clarify the standards assessed on each Keystone Exam and serve as one tool to align curriculum, instruction, and assessment. All questions on the Keystone Exams are aligned to the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content, which can be found on the SAS website at www.pdesas.org/Standard/Views.

FORMATS FOR THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Keystone Exams are available in both online and paper/pencil formats. Districts determine whether online, paper/pencil, or both formats are used locally.

TYPES OF QUESTIONS ON THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Keystone Exams include multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended, questions. For each Keystone Exam, approximately 60% to 75% of the total score is from multiple-choice questions and 25% to 40% of the total score is from constructed-response questions.

PROCESS FOR REPORTING RESULTS

Two copies of the individual student report for all Keystone Exams are sent to each school district and charter school for distribution to parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and/or principals. School districts and charter schools may publish the results of the Keystone Exams school-level reports.

RESOURCES FOR THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

More information about the Keystone Exams can be found on the SAS website at www.pdesas.org. All resources listed below are available to the public.

To access resources on the SAS website, click on the **Assessments** tab near the top of the home page. Select the **Keystone Exams** tab on the toolbar that appears below.

GENERAL RESOURCES

The following resources provide information about the Keystone Exams.

KEYSTONE EXAMS PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The program overview provides a summary of the Keystone Exams. It includes information regarding high school graduation requirements, testing students with special needs and English Language Learners, Keystone Exams schedules, and Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. It also contains a detailed outline of each exam design for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.

KEYSTONE PROJECT-BASED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM FAQs
If a student is unable to meet the high school graduation requirements after taking a Keystone Exam twice, the student may supplement a Keystone Exam score with satisfactory completion of a project-based assessment. The FAQs document addresses commonly asked questions regarding the requirements and administration of project-based assessments in place of the Keystone Exams.

KEYSTONE EXAMS PARENT LETTER
The parent letter answers commonly asked questions regarding the administration of the Keystone Exams. It addresses student participation, content covered for each subject, formats available for taking the exams, types of questions, and reported results.

KEYSTONE EXAMS AND CDT NEWSLETTER
The newsletter provides updates concerning the Keystone Exams and Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) programs. It contains schedules for upcoming releases and trainings, as well as brief summaries describing the programs.

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC MATERIALS

The following resources are available for educators and parents/guardians to help prepare students for the Keystone Exams.

ITEM AND SCORING SAMPLERS
Item and Scoring Samplers for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature are currently available. Each sampler contains annotated multiple-choice questions and constructed-response questions aligned to the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. They provide an idea of the types of exam questions (items) that appear on the operational Keystone Exams. The questions may be used as examples for creating assessment items in the classroom, and they may also be copied and used as part of a local instructional program. Since the samplers include examples of how constructed-response questions are scored, classroom teachers may want to have students respond to the constructed-response items in the sampler. Educators can then use the sampler as a guide to score the responses either independently or together with colleagues in a school or district.

KEYSTONE EXAMS ASSESSMENT ANCHORS AND ELIGIBLE CONTENT WITH SAMPLE ITEMS DOCUMENTS

Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content with Sample Items documents are currently available for Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology, Geometry, and Literature. Samples of exam questions demonstrate examples of one way a specific eligible content may be assessed on a Keystone Exam. A glossary of commonly used terms pertaining to the identified Keystone Exam is also included at the end of each document.

GLOSSARIES

The terms and definitions provided in each glossary are associated with the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. Each glossary is intended to assist Pennsylvania educators in better understanding the Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. The glossary does not define all possible terms included on an actual Keystone Exam, and it is not intended to define terms for use in classroom instruction for a particular grade level or course. Except for English Composition, each glossary document can be found at the end of the corresponding Keystone Exams Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content with Sample Items document.

GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SCORING GUIDELINES

General Descriptions of the Scoring Guidelines are provided for each Keystone Exam. These guidelines consist of criteria for how student responses are awarded points for constructed-response questions. The General Descriptions of Scoring Guidelines are also available for students to reference when taking the accompanying Keystone Exam. These guidelines are provided in the front pages of each Keystone Exam test book and answer book and in the online help tool when taking the Keystone Exam online.

MATH FORMULA SHEETS

The Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry formula sheets each contain different formulas specific to the appropriate Keystone Exam. Students should be familiar with the formulas on each formula sheet as they are expected to apply the formulas when taking the corresponding Keystone Exam. Formula sheets are also available for students to reference during Keystone Exams; the formula sheet is provided at the beginning of each module in the Keystone Exam test book and answer book or as an online tool when taking the Keystone Exam online.

KEYSTONE EXAMS PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) are currently available for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. The PLDs paint a broad picture of how a typical student would perform at the Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced levels. Each set of PLDs is unique for the Keystone Exam course for which they are written. In particular, descriptions for the Basic, Proficient, and Advanced levels are content based.