



Understanding Your Texas Educator Certification Program Test Scores

Texas educator certification is governed by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). The tests required for educator certification are administered under the authority of Texas Education Agency (TEA) by contract with Educational Testing Service (ETS). These tests include the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards™ (TExES™), the Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET), the Texas Examinations for Master Teachers™ (TExMaT™), the Texas Oral Proficiency Test™ (TOPT™), the Texas Assessment of Sign Communication™ (TASC™), and the Texas Assessment of Sign Communication – American Sign Language™ (TASC-ASL™). The intent of this publication is to explain the reporting and the interpretation of scores on the various tests required for Texas educator certification.

APPLYING FOR TEXAS EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

Once you pass the required tests and meet all requirements for a Standard Certificate, **YOU MUST APPLY ONLINE** and pay the appropriate fee. Please refer to the SBEC website at www.sbec.state.tx.us.

Score Scales

Total test performance scores for all of the tests administered under the TExES and TExMaT series are reported on a scale of 100 to 300, with a score of 240 established as the passing score required for certification. Total test performance scores for the ExCET language tests in French, German, Latin and Spanish are reported on a scale of 0 to 100, with a score of 70 established as the passing score required for certification. The score scales and passing scores for the TOPT, TASC and TASC-ASL tests are shown in the chart on page 3 of this publication.

How Scores are Reported

Score reports are posted in the online registration system on the ETS TExES website at www.texas.ets.org. They are viewable for 90 days from the score reporting date listed in the *Registration Bulletin* and on the website. Each score report contains scores for one test. You should save or print a copy of your score report for your records. Score reports may show up to four types of information. Numbers 2, 3 and 4 are not applicable to every test.

- 1) Total Test Performance
- 2) Performance by Domain
- 3) Performance by Competency
- 4) Holistic Score

Your test results are automatically added to your certification file and made available to TEA, SBEC, and if applicable, your recommending Texas Educator Preparation Program (college, university or alternative certification program).

Total Test Performance

Your score report shows your Passed/Not Passed status. Your Total Scaled Score shows how you performed on the test as a whole and determines whether or not you passed the test. Scaled scores are comparable across all versions of the same test. The scaled score range and the minimum passing score for the test you took are shown in this area of the score report.

Minimum passing standards were established by SBEC with input from committees of Texas educators. The passing scaled score for each test is designed to reflect the minimum level of knowledge required for effective performance by a beginning educator in Texas public schools. The minimum passing score for the test you took is shown in this area of the score report. Further information about scoring is provided later in this publication. Summary statistics are available in the Test Results and Score Reporting sections on the ETS TExES website at **www.texas.ets.org**.

Performance by Domain and Competency

For most tests, information is provided about performance in major content areas, called domains. In many instances, information is also provided about performance in specific areas within the domains, called competencies. For each domain and competency, the number of scored questions on the test and the number you answered correctly are indicated. These counts are provided for informational purposes only. Individual domains and competencies do not have passing scores and are not used in determining total scaled scores. Passing status is based only on the test's total scaled score.

To more fully understand your performance within specific areas covered by the test, refer to the list of domains and competencies provided in the test preparation manual for the test you took. Test preparation manuals are available on the ETS TExES website at **www.texas.ets.org**.

It is important to use caution when interpreting data reported by domain and competency. The reliability of data based on a small number of questions, generally fewer than 10, is insufficient to make meaningful interpretations. Note that the number of scorable questions within a given domain or competency may vary across different versions of a test.

Holistic Score

For TOPT, TASC, TASC–ASL and most other tests with constructed-response and/or performance-assessment components, holistic scores are provided. Each point on the scale represents the degree to which the required performance characteristics were demonstrated in your response(s).

Tests for Which Holistic Scores are Provided*			Thorough Knowledge	General Knowledge	Limited or No Knowledge	Unscorable**
TASC/TASC–ASL			A (Passing)	B, C (Passing)	D, E	U
TOPT (French and Spanish)			8 (Passing)	7, 6 (Passing)	4, 3, 2	U
TEExES	Braille	Transcription Assignments	4	3	2, 1	U
TEExES	English Lang. Arts and Reading 8–12	Essay	4	3	2, 1	U
TEExMaT	all TEExMaT tests <i>except</i> those below	Essay	4	3	2, 1	U
	Master Science Teacher 4–8	Essay	4	3, 2	1	U
	Master Technology Teacher	Case Study Assignment	4	3	2,1	U
Performance Assessments		3	2	1	U	

* BTLPT – Spanish is not shown because scores for constructed responses in that test are incorporated into the overall scaled score and not reported as holistic scores.

** Constructed responses may be unscorable for a variety of reasons, e.g., blank, too short, illegible, off topic, off task, etc.

Analytical Feedback

If your score report indicates that you demonstrated limited or no knowledge on a constructed-response component of your test (as identified in the table above), your score report will also contain information regarding your performance.

- For the TOPT, TASC, TASC–ASL, TEExES English Language Arts and Reading 8–12 and all TEExMaT tests (with the exception of the performance assessment components of the Master Technology Teacher test) your score report will contain analytical feedback indicating areas for improvement.

For the two performance-assessment components on the TExMaT Master Technology Teacher test and the four transcription assignments on the TExES Braille test, in lieu of analytical feedback, your score report will show the individual holistic score you received for each assignment.

How the Tests Are Scored

New Test Questions

The total number of questions indicated on your score report is typically less than the total number of questions on the test. New test questions are generally introduced as unscored questions before they are included as scored questions on future versions of the test. These questions are not used in calculating your scores.

Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice answer sheets are scanned and scored by computers. On all TExES, ExCET and TExMaT tests, each four-choice question answered correctly is worth one raw score point. The total raw score is the number of scored questions answered correctly on the entire test.

Constructed-Response Questions

Responses that are produced by the test taker (including those that are written, brailled, audiotaped or videotaped) are scored by Texas education professionals who are experts in the appropriate content areas. These individuals are carefully trained and supervised to assure that they apply standardized scoring methods in a fair and accurate manner. Additional statistical checks may be made to account for differences in difficulty across versions of a test.

The TExES English Language Arts and Reading 8–12, TExES Braille and all TExMaT tests use the same scoring model for each constructed response. This scoring model requires two scorers to independently rate your response to each question. If the two ratings disagree by more than 1 point on a 0 to 4 scale, a third scorer rates the response. Under no circumstances does your total score depend entirely on a single scorer.

The TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) – Spanish contains five oral-expression questions and three written-expression questions. Each response is independently rated on a 0 to 3 scale by two scorers. If the two ratings vary by more than 1 point, a third scorer rates the response. Under no circumstances does your total score depend entirely on a single scorer.

The TOPT, TASC and TASC-ASL tests are composed entirely of constructed-response questions. The TOPT test has 15 constructed-response questions. Combinations of responses are independently scored by two scorers; if the two ratings disagree on a 0 to 4 scale, a third scorer rates the responses. The TASC and TASC-ASL tests consist of a 20-minute videotaped interview. Three scorers reach consensus on the single holistic score assigned to the entire interview. Under no circumstances does your TOPT, TASC or TASC-ASL total score depend entirely on a single scorer.

Mixed-Format Tests Consisting of Multiple-Choice and Constructed-Response Questions

Your total raw score for tests that consist of multiple-choice sections and constructed-response sections is a weighted sum of scores on the multiple-choice and constructed-response sections. The following tests include both types of questions:

- The TExES English Language Arts 8–12 test consists of a multiple-choice section and an essay.
- The TExES Braille test consists of a multiple-choice section and four performance assessments.
- The TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) – Spanish consists of two multiple-choice sections, five oral-expression tasks and three writing tasks.
- The TExMaT Master Reading, Master Mathematics, and Master Science Teacher tests each consist of a multiple-choice section and an essay.
- The TExMaT Master Technology Teacher test consists of a multiple-choice section, a case-study essay and two performance assessments.

A Word of Caution

The adjustment for difficulty makes it possible to give the same interpretation to identical scores on different versions of the *same* test. For example, a score of 250 on the TExES History 8–12 test will reflect approximately the same level of knowledge, regardless of which version of the test was administered.

However, identical scores on *different* tests do not necessarily have the same meaning. A score of 250 on the TExES History 8–12 test, for example, does not reflect the same level of knowledge as a score of 250 on the TExES Mathematics 8–12 test.

Registering for Future Administrations

In most cases, if you are approved to retake a test that you did not pass, you can register via the online registration system on the ETS TExES website at **www.texas.ets.org**. Consult the current *Registration Bulletin* and the website for test dates and registration procedures. *Registration Bulletins* can be downloaded from the website.

Frequently Asked Questions About Test Scores

Q Did I pass?

A Your score report will indicate a PASSED or NOT PASSED status for the total scaled score earned on each test taken.

The passing scores shown in the score reports are the passing scores in effect, according to our records, at either the date the test was taken (test date) or at the time the score reports are produced (reporting date). The State of Texas sets the passing score.

Q How many questions do I need to get right to pass the test?

A Unfortunately, there is no way to predict this. There are several versions of each test, and each version contains different questions. The questions on one version may be slightly more or less difficult than those on another version. To make all versions of a test comparable, conversion tables adjust for difficulty among versions. There is no way to predict which version of the test you will take.

Q Can I have my multiple-choice, essay or constructed-response test score verified?

A Yes. With the exception of the multiple-choice sections of tests taken by computer, score verification is available. This service is described in the *Registration Bulletin* and on the ETS TExES website at www.texas.ets.org.

Q On my TExES BTLPT – Spanish score report, how is the number of “points possible” established for each of the four domains?

A The Listening Comprehension and Reading Comprehension domains are composed entirely of multiple-choice questions, with each scored question receiving a maximum of 1 point. For these two domains, the number of points possible is equal to the number of scored questions in the domain.

The Oral Expression and Written Expression domains are composed entirely of constructed-response questions. Because constructed-response questions require more time and effort to answer than multiple-choice questions, and because each constructed-response question assesses more of an examinee’s knowledge, skills and abilities than a single multiple-choice question does, additional weighting is applied in establishing the total number of points possible for each constructed-response question. After scoring and weighting:

- each of the five questions in the Oral Expression domain has a total of 9 points possible, resulting in a total of 45 points possible for that domain
- each of the three questions in the Written Expression domain has a total of 12 points possible, resulting in a total of 36 points possible for that domain

Q Who receives a copy of my score report?

A Your test results are automatically added to your certification file and made available to TEA, SBEC, and if applicable, your recommending Texas Educator Preparation Program (college, university or alternative certification program). Your score report is for your information only; you should not submit it with your application for certification. Application for certification does not proceed automatically based upon receipt of your scores by TEA. To apply for certification, you must go to the SBEC website at **www.sbec.state.tx.us** and follow the application for certification instructions.

Q Why didn't I receive scores for all the tests I took on a particular day?

A Some tests, particularly those including constructed-response sections, take longer to score than others.

Q What should I study to improve my score?

A The best preparation for taking any Texas Educator Certification Program test is the knowledge and experience you acquired in college. The detailed information on your score report may help you identify the content categories that offer the greatest opportunity to improve your score. Test preparation manuals are available for many of the tests on the ETS TExES website at **www.texas.ets.org**.