

In 2011 Louisiana adopted new [student standards for social studies](#). These standards call on social studies teachers to make key shifts around content and claims in their social studies classrooms to ensure students;

- Use sources regularly to learn content,
- Make connections among people, events, and ideas across time and place, and
- Express informed opinions supported by evidence from sources and outside knowledge.

This spring, Louisiana will administer new assessments aligned to these new expectations. This document details information on those new assessments including:

- An overview of the new assessments
- The test length
- An overview of the reading level of texts on the assessments
- Resources currently available and coming in the future

## **OVERVIEW OF THE NEW ASSESSMENTS**

The Louisiana Department of Education will administer new assessments that are fully aligned to the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies (for detailed information on the test designs review the [social studies assessment guides](#)). These assessments were built and field-tested with input from Louisiana educators. These assessments reflect the type of teaching strong social studies teachers have been implementing for years. Specifically these new assessments:

- Like the standards, ask students to know essential social studies concepts captured by the [key themes](#). The questions ask students to make connections among the content of the [social studies grade-level expectations](#) rather than memorize basic facts.
- Are more easily administered with a more robust set of resources.
- Are grade specific, ending the practice of cumulative grade 4 and 8 assessments that ask teachers to teach a large scope of content in one year and thus shortening the assessments in those grades.
- Include educators at every step of the development--including standards and assessment design, question review, and scoring decisions.

## **TEST LENGTH**

Louisiana is committed to streamlined and reduced assessments. As a part of this commitment Louisiana will not take more than 2% of student instructional time for state summative assessments. The new social studies LEAP exams hold to this commitment.

Previous LEAP social studies assessments were not timed, thus making it impossible to compare the assessment lengths year over year. That said, the number of questions on the new assessments compares to the previous tests, keeping the assessment similar in length.

GRADE	2014-2015 OLD LEAP/ILEAP	2016-2017 NEW LEAP
Grade 3	34 questions 1 extended response	44 questions + 2 short responses 1 extended response
Grade 4	54 questions 2 constructed response 1 extended response	45 questions 2 short constructed response 1 extended response
Grade 5	44 questions 1 extended response	43-46 questions + 2 short responses 1 extended response
Grade 6	44 questions 1 extended response	50-53 questions + 2 short responses 1 extended response
Grade 7	44 questions 1 extended response	50-53 questions + 2 short responses 1 extended response
Grade 8	64 questions 2 constructed response 1 extended response	50-53 questions 2 short responses 1 extended response
United States History (End-of-Course)	2016-2017 EOC 4 achievement levels	2017-2018 EOC 5 achievement levels Tentative design

### READING LEVELS OF EMBEDDED TEXTS

The new assessments fully measure the scope of the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies, which include expectations for historical thinking skills. Skills for reading sources and conducting research are a key part of success in social studies classrooms. That said, the new assessments are meant to specifically measure social studies standards exclusively. To ensure this occurs, the assessments deliberately ensure:

FOCUS	DETAILS	EXAMPLE
<b>Limited number of reading passages</b>	Many of the question sets include sources that do not require significant reading (e.g. maps, charts, political cartoons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/social-studies-grade-3-task-set---producers-and-consumers.pdf?sfvrsn=4">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/social-studies-grade-3-task-set---producers-and-consumers.pdf?sfvrsn=4</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/social-studies-grade-8-item-set---louisiana-during-wwii.pdf?sfvrsn=6">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/social-studies-grade-8-item-set---louisiana-during-wwii.pdf?sfvrsn=6</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/social-studies-grade-8-task-set---louisiana-economy-during-the-antebellum-period.pdf?sfvrsn=8">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment-guidance/social-studies-grade-8-task-set---louisiana-economy-during-the-antebellum-period.pdf?sfvrsn=8</a></li> </ul>

FOCUS	DETAILS	EXAMPLE
<p><b>When included, reading passages are below grade level or just at grade level</b></p>	<p>Every passage is reviewed by expert reviewers and Louisiana educators</p> <p>Often the passages are below or just at grade level</p>	<p><b>Grade 5 Question Set:</b>  <a href="#">The Columbian Exchange</a>:            Source 3, <i>The Epidemic in New Spain</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading level: Middle of grade band 2-3 (Lexile 560)</li> </ul> <p><b>Grade 7 Question Set:</b>  <a href="#">Women’s Rights Movement</a>            Source 1 Excerpt from the <i>Declaration of Sentiments</i> (July 1848)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading level: Middle of grade band 6-8 (Lexile 1050)</li> </ul> <p>Source 2 Excerpt from <i>Ain’t I a Woman?</i> (July 1851) by Sojourner Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading level: Low grade band 4-5 (Lexile 790)</li> </ul>

**RESOURCES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND COMING**

With all standards and assessments, the Department has released and will continue to release resources to support educators as they implement these standards.

RESOURCE	LOCATION
Instruction: Scope and sequence documents	<a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/k-12-social-studies-resources">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/k-12-social-studies-resources</a>
Instruction: Sample classroom tasks	<a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/k-12-social-studies-resources">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/k-12-social-studies-resources</a>
Instruction: Textbook reviews	<a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/academics/ONLINE-INSTRUCTIONAL-MATERIALS-REVIEWS/curricular-resources-annotated-reviews">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/academics/ONLINE-INSTRUCTIONAL-MATERIALS-REVIEWS/curricular-resources-annotated-reviews</a>
Assessments: Assessment guides	<a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/assessment-guidance">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/assessment-guidance</a>
Assessments: Sample sets	<a href="http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/released-and-sample-test-items">http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/released-and-sample-test-items</a>
Assessments: Practice tests	Available winter/spring
Assessments: EAGLE and additional items	Available during the 2017-2018 school year