

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Reporting Categories

In your preparation for the next-generation assessments from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), you've probably noticed that the assessment reports the scores of students differently than your previous state examinations.

- Scores are reported based on assessment claims; the test is making a statement about what the student knows.
- Claims reflect the broader goals of college and career readiness.

The reporting categories of Smarter Balanced represent individual assessment claims that are broad, evidence-based statements about what students know and can do as demonstrated by their performance on assessments.

At each grade level within math and English language arts, there is one overall claim encompassing the entire content area and four specific content claims. Each claim is then further divided into content categories and assessment targets that connect to the Common Core State Standards.

Math Claims

Smarter Balanced features four math claims, all of which are tested during the assessments. The reporting categories for Study Island Benchmark Assessments and Edmentum Assessments provide student data based on these claims. Claims 2 and 4 are grouped into one reporting category, so the test results will show scores for a total of three reporting categories.

Claim 1: Concepts and Procedures — Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.

Claim 2: Problem Solving — Students can solve a range of complex well-posed problems in pure and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and problem solving strategies.

Claim 3: Communicating Reasoning — Students can clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others.

Claim 4: Modeling and Data Analysis — Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems.

Because Smarter Balanced believes that reporting categories based on domains (e.g., geometry, algebra, number, etc.) do not match the intent of Common Core math standards and can lead to invalid inferences regarding the evidence gathered and claims made, the reporting categories are designed around claims instead of domains. The rationale for using claims as reporting categories is grounded in research by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

English Language Arts Claims

Smarter Balanced features four claims for English language arts. Both Edmentum Assessments and Study Island Benchmark Assessments are designed following the criteria of claims 1, 2, and 4.

Claim 1: Reading — Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.

Claim 1 gives equal weight to reading both informational and literary texts. Both categories assess students' ability to meet Common Core standards in each text type for the following targets: key details, central ideas, word meaning, reasoning and evidence, analysis within or across texts, text structures and meanings, and language use.

Claim 2: Writing — Students can produce effective writing for a range of purposes and audiences.

For claim 2, students are asked to compose, revise, and edit narrative, informative, and argumentative writing. Students in grades 3–5 produce opinion-based samples rather than argumentative pieces. At least one extended response question on the assessment requires students to compose a full essay related to one or more of these writing types. Instead of a full essay, Study Island and Edmentum Assessments use questions that require a written response of one to two paragraphs.

Claim 3: Speaking/Listening — Students can employ effective speaking and listening skills for a range of purposes and audiences.

In claim 3, students are asked to analyze, interpret, and use information that is delivered orally. Smarter Balanced focuses assessment on listening skills and does not test speaking standards or related assessment targets in this claim. Study Island and Edmentum Assessments do not assess Speaking/Listening standards for the 2014–2015 school year.

Claim 4: Research — Students can engage in research/inquiry to investigate topics and to analyze, integrate, and present information.

For claim 4, students are asked to analyze research sources and integrate research into their writing. Students are able to use evidence from research to support their ideas.

Testing Blueprints and Edmentum Solutions

These reporting categories have been identified by the Smarter Balanced testing blueprints for years, giving Edmentum time to proactively design the best products to prepare students for these assessments.

Both Edmentum Assessments and Study Island Benchmark Assessments have been built around these blueprints. They not only provide the best experiences for students to prepare for the test, but they also report data in the same way that the consortium will. The result: teachers get a snapshot of student performance, which informs their instruction throughout the year.

To see more detail about the test structure, you can access the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Content Specifications and the Preliminary Assessment Blueprints on the website listed below:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/>

Contact us today for more information!

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