



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"

# GHSWT Update Bulletin

January 30, 2015

## Spring 2015 Calendar

### Materials arrive:

February 10-13, 2015

### Testing Dates:

#### **Main Administration:**

February 25, 2015

#### **Make-up Day:**

February 26, 2015

### Final day for GCA to receive answer documents:

March 4, 2015

### Results arrive in systems:

April 6-10, 2015

The Georgia High School Writing Assessment (GHSWT) measures student competency in persuasive writing. In persuasion, the writer assumes a position on an issue and uses language to influence the reader. The purpose is to express a writer's opinion on a subject either explicitly or implicitly.

It is important to note that the GHSWT remains a requirement for diploma eligibility for those students who entered grade nine for the first time prior to July 1, 2013.

Students are given 100 minutes to complete the writing task. They should be encouraged to monitor their time. No extended time is allowed unless it is specified in a student's IEP, IAP, or EL/TPC Plan. Distribution and collection of materials will require approximately 30 minutes.

Analytic scoring provides detailed information on four domains: the Ideas score is given a weight of 40%; the other domains of Organization, Style, and Conventions are given a weight of 20% each. Domain scores combine for a total score that is then converted to a three-digit scaled score. The scaled scores yield three performance levels: Does Not Meet (100-199), Meets (200-249), and Exceeds (250+).

The Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) will be administered on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 with a make-up session on February 26, 2015.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Conditional Administration is the term for a non-standard administration. Fill in the circle with the letter Y if an administration is Conditional. Use of conditional accommodations must be pre-approved by the Assessment Division. Requests should be submitted to the Assessment and Accountability Division by first calling the main number at (404) 656-2668 and submitting the form found in the [Student Assessment Handbook](#) by fax at (404) 656-5976 or by the MyGaDOE portal. **Please allow a minimum of six weeks to review and respond to the request. The preference is for up to six weeks to be provided for review and consideration.**

Dictionaries are not allowed on the GHSWT. Exception: EL students may use a word-to-word translation dictionary if their EL/TPC indicates the accommodation.

A word processor is not allowed unless it is a part of the student's IEP or IAP/Section 504 Plan and is a regular part of the student's classroom instruction. All spelling and grammar checks must be disabled. The printed document should be placed inside the answer document and include the student's GTID number and topic form number in the upper right-hand corner of the paper.

Students who have an unexpected temporary physical impairment that prevents production of a handwritten response should not participate in the assessment unless an accommodation can be made that enables the student to test. Eligible students may be provided accommodations based on an emergency IAP/Section 504 Plan.

For more information on the Georgia High School Writing Test, visit the Assessment Web site at:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-High-School-Writing-Test.aspx>

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## **CODING OF ANSWER DOCUMENTS**

When approved accommodations are allowed, the Specific Accommodation Type should be coded in the FOR TEACHER USE ONLY – ACCOMMODATIONS section of the Answer Document. Use the four bubbles to the right of “Accommodation Type” to indicate type(s) of accommodation(s) used by the student: S represents setting accommodation; P represents presentation accommodation; R represents response accommodation; and SC represents scheduling accommodation. The types of accommodations are illustrated in the [System and School Test Coordinator’s Manual](#).

The PTNA and EL Deferred bubbles are in the FOR TEACHER USE ONLY – ACCOMMODATION section. **PTNA** should be marked only if a student does not attempt the writing assessment at all. **EL Deferred** is to be coded for students who are in the United States schools for the first time this year and for whom their Testing Participation Plan has determined it is not in their best educational interest to test.

**SDU A** is used by the GNETS programs to report their assigned facilities identification code. The two-digit code should be marked for all students who are served at a GNETS facility. This information is collected to provide summary reports to each center. Codes can be found in the *System and School Coordinator’s Manuals*.

**SDU B** is used to record irregularities and invalidations. Do not use this without being given specific directions by the GaDOE Testing Specialist for Writing. If a testing irregularity occurs during the administration, contact Michael Huneke to report the irregularity (404-232-1208 or at [mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us)). Instructions will be given for reporting irregularities in the MyGaDOE Portal. Some situations may result in the invalidation of a student’s work and/or reporting to the Ethics Division of the Professional Standards Commission.

## **REMINDERS**

This administration of the GHSWT is for all 11th grade and 12th grade students. Eligible students also include those who are subject to the GHSWT requirement and have left school with a High School Certificate or Special Education Diploma. Students who had not passed the GHSWT and entered grade 9 for the first time prior to July 1, 2005 must be assigned the QCC prompt.

<b>Dates are based on when students entered grade 9 for the first time:</b>	<b>BST</b>	<b>QCC</b>	<b>GPS</b>
Writing	July 1, 1987 – June 30, 1991	July 1, 1991 – June 30, 2005	July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2013*

\*As a result of amendments to State Board of Education rule 160-3-1-.07 on August 21, 2014

Testing materials will arrive in systems February 10-13, 2015. Orders for additional materials may be placed on [TestTime](#) between February 10, 2015 and February 23, 2014.

All final drafts must be written on pages 3 and 4 of the Answer Document in order for the paper to be scored. Only responses written in the Answer Document will be scored.

Students **MUST** record the form number of their topic on pages 1 and 3 of the Answer Document in order for their responses to be scored.

*Please note that late return of answer documents can impact scoring of the system and potentially other systems. If one system sends in their answer documents late, it could delay results for the entire state.*