



Frequently Asked Questions
About the Non-Calculator and Calculator-Allowed Sections
of the
Georgia Milestones EOG Assessments in Mathematics for
Grades 6–8

Question: Is a calculator required for the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade (EOG) mathematics assessments for grades 6, 7, and 8?

Answer: No, the use of a calculator is not required. Currently, there are no items on the test that require a calculator. All items involving computation may be solved by the student using a standard algorithm. In short, **calculators are allowed, but not required.**

Question: In which parts of the Georgia Milestones EOG assessments in mathematics will students in grades 6, 7, and 8 be allowed to use calculators?

Answer: Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 may use calculators in the second part of Section 1 and all of Section 2. Calculators are not allowed in the first part of Section 1.

Question: What kind of calculator is allowed?

Answer: For the grade 6 assessment, students will be allowed to use a basic-function calculator, which only performs addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. For the grade 7 and grade 8 assessments, students may use a scientific calculator. To learn more about which types of calculator are allowed, please see the Georgia Calculator Policy at

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Documents/Milestones/Georgia%20Milestones%20Calculator%20Policy%20Nov%2025%202015.pdf>.

Question: Is a calculator available for students taking the online assessment?

Answer: Yes. Students will have access to online calculators that are provided as part of the testing platform. Students in sixth grade will have access to a basic-function calculator. Students in seventh grade and eighth grade will have access to a scientific calculator, which is designed to function similarly to any standard scientific calculator

Question: Is there a list of standards that will always be represented in the non-calculator section of the Georgia Milestones mathematics test?

Answer: No. Whether a test question appears in the calculator-allowed section or the non-calculator section of the Georgia Milestones EOG mathematics assessment is determined by the content of each question and the way each question addresses the individual standard. While some standards may appear more frequently in the non-calculator section than others, a committee of Georgia mathematics educators evaluates and designates all individual questions as non-calculator or calculator-allowed.

Question: What criteria do the Georgia mathematics educators use to determine whether an individual question is designated for the non-calculator section of the test?

Answer: It depends on the nature of each question. For a test question to be identified as non-calculator, its content must be such that calculator use would compromise the question's capacity to assess the standard it represents. Typically, items in this section are looking for a student's conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts or terms, estimation skills, or ability to apply a standard algorithm. Some test questions are written to assess whether the student can perform computations, and thus, a calculator would compromise the skill being assessed. For example, a question such as "Multiply: 4.03×1.002 ," aligned to **MGSE6.NS.3**, would be in the non-calculator section because the student's computational skill is what is being assessed. Similarly, a question such as "Between which two consecutive whole numbers is $\sqrt{3}$ located on a number line?" assesses the standard **MGSE8.NS.2** and requires the student to compare the size of irrational numbers and locate them approximately on a number line. The use of a calculator on this item would not provide an assessment of the student's ability to evaluate the relative size of irrational numbers. Likewise, a question that asks a student to estimate is typically found in the non-calculator section because the purpose of the question is to determine whether the student can use various estimation strategies to arrive at the best approximation for a situation.

Question: What criteria do the Georgia mathematics educators use to determine whether an individual question is designated for the calculator-allowed section of the test?

Answer: Since there are no items developed for the Georgia Milestones EOG mathematics assessments that require the use of a calculator, any items not directly assessing a student's understanding of a mathematical concept or term, estimation skills, or ability to understand and apply a standard algorithm are good candidates for the calculator-allowed section of the test. If computation is required in items, the questions are developed so that the numbers involved are at a level appropriate to middle school students using either a calculator or a standard algorithm. Thus, many items may reside in either section of the test. These items may involve standard algorithms or multistep problems involving the four operations and may include the full range of numbers found in the grade-level standards. A question such as "Tom makes \$25 on Saturdays. Mary is paid 10% more than Tom on Saturdays. How much does Mary earn?" assesses the standard **MGSE7.EE.3** and could be solved with a calculator or standard algorithm.