



## 2014–15 NC Final Exam of U.S. History

### North Carolina Assessment Specifications

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#### **Purpose of the Assessments**

- NC Final Exams were developed to replace locally developed assessments, providing teachers and principals with a common measure for all students state-wide during a given testing window.
- North Carolina's Final Exam for U.S. History will measure students' academic progress in the NC *Standard Course of Study*, adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education in 2006. The *Standard Course of Study* (2006) for U.S. History is posted at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/2003-04/067eleventhgrade>
- NC Final Exam scores (along with any other relevant end-of-course or end-of-grade assessment scores) will be used in the Educational Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) to produce student growth measures to satisfy Standards 6 and 8 of the North Carolina Educator Evaluation System. For more information on the North Carolina Educator Evaluation System, go to: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/effectiveness-model/>.
- NC State Board of Education policy GCS-A-016 directs schools to use the results from all course-specific NC Final Exams as a minimum of 20% of the student's final course grade.
- NC Final Exams will not be used for school and district accountability under the READY Accountability Model or for Federal reporting purposes.

#### **Developing Assessments**

North Carolina educators were recruited and trained to write new items. The diversity among the item writers and their knowledge of the current standards was addressed during recruitment. Trained North Carolina educators also review items and suggest improvements, if necessary. The use of North Carolina educators to develop and review items strengthens the instructional validity of the items.

#### **Curriculum and Assessment Cycle**

- 2006: North Carolina State Board of Education adoption of the NC *Standard Course of Study*.
- 2012–13: Operational administration of the Measures of Student Learning: Common Exams.
- 2013–14: First operational administration of the NC Final Exams.
- 2014–15: Second operational administration of the NC Final Exams. The 2014–15 school year will be the last year the U.S. History NC Final Exam will be available.

#### **Prioritization of Standards**

- Members of the Test Development section of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) invited teachers to collaborate and develop recommendations for a

prioritization of the standards indicating the relative importance of each standard, the anticipated instructional time, and the appropriateness of the standard for multiple-choice and constructed response item formats.

*Table 1* describes the percentage range of total score points that will appear on the NC Final Exam forms. The U.S. History NC Final Exam will contain only multiple choice items. The multiple-choice items are worth one point each. The table of test specification weights describe the percent of total score points, rather than the percent of total items.

*Table 1. Test Specification Weights for the U.S. History NC Final Exam*

Competency Goal	Percent of Total Score Points
1	8% to 12%
2	8% to 12%
3	5% to 7%
4	5% to 7%
5	5% to 7%
6	7% to 9%
7	7% to 9%
8	4% to 6%
9	8% to 12%
10	8% to 12%
11	12% to 15%
12	4% to 6%
Total	100%

### **Cognitive Rigor**

The items on the U.S. History NC Final Exam were aligned to the 2006 *NC Standard Course of Study* using the Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy (RBT). To learn more about RBT go to: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/>.

### **Types of Items and Supplementary Materials**

The NCFinal Exam of U.S. History will consist of four-response-option multiple-choice items.

A complete list of the supplemental test materials (i.e., *NC Final Exams Materials List*) may be reviewed at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/common-exams/>.

Released items are available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/common-exams/released-items/>. Released items may be used by school systems to help acquaint students with items. These materials must not be used for personal or financial gain.

**Testing Structure and Test Administration Time**

- The NC Final Exam of US History will contain 50 multiple-choice items.
- Students will be given 120 minutes to answer all items. Students should monitor the clock to ensure they allow themselves adequate time to respond to all items.
- Appendix A shows the number of operational items for each clarifying objective for the 2014–2015 tests.

**Test Cycle and Delivery Mode**

- The NC Final Exams are administered to students enrolled in fall and spring courses. A list of course codes that align with the 2014-15 NC Final Exams (i.e., *Course Codes that Align with the NC Final Exams*) is available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/common-exams/>.
- The NC Final Exams are available for paper-and-pencil mode. However, transition to online administrations is proceeding during the 2014-2015 academic year.

<b>NC Final Exam</b>	<b>Fall 2014 Delivery Mode Option(s)</b>	<b>Spring 2015 Delivery Mode Options</b>
U.S. History	Paper-and-Pencil and Online via NCTest	Paper-and-Pencil and Online via NCTest

**Appendix A**  
**U.S. History NC Final Exam 2014–15**  
**Number of Items by Clarifying Objectives**

The following table shows the number of operational test items for each clarifying objective. Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective or may be tested within the context of another objective.

U.S. History Clarifying Objective	Number of Items Per Objective*
1.01	3
1.02	2
1.03	–
2.01	1
2.02	1
2.03	1
2.04	–
2.05	1
2.06	1
3.01	1
3.02	–
3.03	1
3.04	1
3.05	1
4.01	1
4.02	1
4.03	–
4.04	1
5.01	1
5.02	1
5.03	1
5.04	–
6.01	1
6.02	2
6.03	1
7.01	1
7.02	1
7.03	2

7.04	1
8.01	1
8.02	–
8.03	1
9.01	2
9.02	1
9.03	1
9.04	1
9.05	1
10.01	1
10.02	1
10.03	1
10.04	–
10.05	1
11.01	1
11.02	2
11.03	–
11.04	1
11.05	1
11.06	2
12.01	1
12.02	1
12.03	–
12.04	–
12.05	–
12.06	–

\* Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective or may be tested within the context of another objective.