

2017–18 NC Final Exams of 4th- and 5th-Grade Social Studies

North Carolina Assessment Specifications

Purpose of the Assessments

The North Carolina Final Exams (NCFEs) for Social Studies measure students' academic progress in the [NC Essential Standards](#) adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education in [December 2010](#).

NCFEs are not used for school and district accountability under the Accountability Model or for federal reporting purposes.

Developing Assessments

North Carolina educators are recruited and trained to write new items for the NCFEs. The diversity among the item writers and their knowledge of the current standards are 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. Teachers interested in training to become an item writer or reviewer for the North Carolina Testing Program can visit <https://center.ncsu.edu/ncpd/course/view.php?id=128>.

For an in-depth explanation of the test development process see State Board of Education [policy TEST-013](#) or reference the [Test Development Process: Item, Selection, and Form Development](#).

Curriculum and Assessment Cycle

2010: North Carolina State Board of Education adoption of the [NC Essential Standards](#)

2012–13: Operational administration of the Measures of Student Learning: Common Exams

2013–14: Redesign and subsequent first operational administration of the NCFEs

2014–15: Second operational administration of the NCFEs

2015–16: Third operational administration of the NCFEs

2016–17: Fourth operational administration of the NCFEs

2017–18: Fifth operational administration of the NCFEs

Prioritization of Standards

Members of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Test Development Section 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 a multiple-choice item format.

Tables 1 and 2 describe the percentage range of total score points that will appear on the NCFE forms. NCFEs for Grades 4 and 5 will contain only multiple-choice items. The multiple-choice items are worth one point each. In order to ensure that the four dimensions of historical thinking

remain central to the history tests, item developers incorporated Standard 1 across as many items as possible.

Table 1. *Test Specification Weights for the 4th Grade Social Studies NCFE*

Standards	Percent of Total Score Points
History	
H 1.1, H 1.2, H 1.3, H 1.4	14–18%
H 2.1, H 2.2	7–10%
Geography and Environmental Literacy	
G 1.1, G 1.2, G 1.3, G 1.4	14–18%
Economics and Financial Literacy	
E 1.1, E 1.2, E 1.3, E 1.4	14–18%
E 2.1, E 1.2	7–10%
Civics and Government	
C&G 1.1, C&G 1.2, C&G 1.3, C&G 1.4	14–18%
C&G 2.1, C&G 2.2, C&G 2.3	7–12%
Culture	
C 1.1, C 1.2	8–12%
Total	100%

Table 2. *Test Specification Weights for the 5th Grade Social Studies NCFE*

Standards	Percent of Total Score Points
History	
H 1.1, H 1.2, H 1.3	9–16%
H 2.1, H 2.2, H 2.3	10–13%
Economics and Financial Literacy	
G 1.1, G 1.2, G 1.3, G 1.4	10–13%
Geography and Environmental Literacy	
E 1.1, E 1.2	8–10%
E 2.1, E 2.2	9–14%
Civics and Government	
C&G 1.1, C&G 1.2, C&G 1.3,	9–14%
C&G 2.1, C&G 2.2, C&G 2.3, C&G 2.4	14–18%
Culture	
C 1.1, C 1.2, C 1.3, C 1.4	14–18%
Total	100%

Cognitive Rigor

The items on the Social Studies NCFEs were aligned to the [NC Essential Standards](#) using the Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy (RBT).

Types of Items and Supplementary Materials

The Social Studies NCFEs in the 4th and 5th grades consist of four-response-option multiple-choice items.

Many of the items require students to process factual content as they read, interpret, and/or analyze stimulus material, including maps, graphs, and excerpts of primary- and secondary-source documents.

A complete list of the supplemental test materials (i.e., *2017–2018 NC Final Exams Materials List*) may be reviewed at the [NCDPI/Accountability Services](#) website.

Released items are also available on the [NCDPI/Accountability Services](#) website. Released items may be used by school systems to help acquaint students with items. The released items, however, may not reflect the breadth of the standards assessed and/or the range of item difficulty found on the NCFE. These materials must not be used for personal or financial gain. The released items are also available to schools through NCTest, the NCDPI’s online assessment platform.

Schools must ensure every student participating in an online assessment for the North Carolina Testing Program has completed the appropriate Online Assessment Tutorial for the associated assessment(s) at least one time per year at the school before the test day. The tutorial provides students the opportunity to practice the mechanics of navigating through the testing platform, to become familiar with the tools, and to respond to the sample items. Refer to the [Online Test Administrator’s Guide](#) for additional information.

Testing Structure and Test Administration Time

The Social Studies NCFE at 4th grade contains a total of 42 multiple-choice items. The Social Studies NCFE at 5th grade contains a total of 43 multiple-choice items.

Included in the total item counts are embedded multiple-choice field test items that do not count toward or against a student’s score. These items are used for multiple purposes including, but not limited to, linking between curriculum cycles, examining across-grade performance, and examining items for inclusion on future operational tests. These items are indistinguishable from operational items and should not interfere with the students’ test-taking experience.

NC Final Exam 2017–18	Number of Operational Items	Number of Field Test Items*	Total Number of Items
Grade 4 Social Studies	38 multiple-choice	4 multiple-choice	42
Grade 5 Social Studies	38 multiple-choice	5 multiple-choice	43

*Field test items will not count toward or against a student’s score.

Students will be given 120 minutes to answer all items.

Appendices A–B show the number of operational test items for each clarifying objective for the 2017–18 exams. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the content category weights in Tables 1 and 2.

Test Cycle and Delivery Mode

The NCFEs are administered to students enrolled in fall, spring, and yearlong courses. A list of course codes that align with the 2017–18 NCFEs (i.e., *Course Codes that Align with the NC Final Exams*) is available on the [NCDPI/Accountability Services](#) website. The 4th- and 5th-Grade Social Studies NCFEs are available for administration during the spring cycle only.

The NCFEs are available in both paper-and-pencil and online formats. Online administrations are required through NCTest, the NCDPI’s online assessment platform.

The NCFEs are only provided in English; translated versions are not available.

Appendix A
Grade 4 NC Final Exam 2017–18
Number of Items by Clarifying Objectives

The following table shows the number of operational (scored) test items for each clarifying objective. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the test specification weights in Tables 1 and 2. Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective, may be tested within the context of another objective, or may be included as an embedded field test item.

<u>Grade 4 Social Studies</u> <u>Clarifying Objectives</u>	Number of Operational Items by Objective
Analyze the chronology of key historical events in North Carolina history.	
4.H.1.1	1
4.H.1.2	1
4.H.1.3	3
4.H.1.4	1
Understand how notable structures, symbols, and place names are significant to North Carolina.	
4.H.2.1	2
4.H.2.2	1
Understand how human, environmental, and technological factors affect the growth and development of North Carolina.	
4.G.1.1	2
4.G.1.2	2
4.G.1.3	1
4.G.1.4	1
Understand how a market economy impacts life in North Carolina.	
4.E.1.1	3
4.E.1.2	1
4.E.1.3	1
4.E.1.4	1
Understand the economic factors when making personal choices.	
4.E.2.1	1
4.E.2.2	2
Understand the development, structure, and function of North Carolina's government.	
4.C&G.1.1	2
4.C&G.1.2	1
4.C&G.1.3	–
4.C&G.1.4	3

Analyze the North Carolina Constitution.	
4.C&G.2.1	2
4.C&G.2.2	2
4.C&G.2.3	–
Understand the impact of various cultural groups on North Carolina.	
4.C.1.1	3
4.C.1.2	1

Appendix B
Grade 5 NC Final Exam 2017–18
Number of Items by Clarifying Objectives

The following table shows the number of operational (scored) test items for each clarifying objective. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the test specification weights in Tables 1 and 2. Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective, may be tested within the context of another objective, or may be included as an embedded field test item.

<u>Grade 5 Social Studies</u> <u>Clarifying Objectives</u>	Number of Operational Items by Objective
Analyze the chronology of key events in the United States.	
5.H.1.1	1
5.H.1.2	2
5.H.1.3	2
Understand the role of prominent figures in shaping the United States.	
5.H.2.1	2
5.H.2.2	1
5.H.2.3	1
Understand how human activity has and continues to shape the United States.	
5.G.1.1	1
5.G.1.2	1
5.G.1.3	–
5.G.1.4	2
Understand how a market economy impacts life in the United States.	
5.E.1.1	2
5.E.1.2	1
Understand that personal choices result in benefits or consequences.	
5.E.2.1	3
5.E.2.2	2
Understand the development, structure, and function of government in the United States.	
5.C&G.1.1	2
5.C&G.1.2	2
5.C&G.1.3	1
Analyze life in a democratic republic through the rights and responsibilities of citizens.	
5.C&G.2.1	2
5.C&G.2.2	2
5.C&G.2.3	–

5.C&G.2.4	2
Understand how increased diversity resulted from migration, settlement patterns, and economic development in the United States.	
5.C.1.1	–
5.C.1.2	2
5.C.1.3	3
5.C.1.4	1