

Mississippi Curriculum Matrix Summary

The Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT2) and the Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) are criterion-referenced tests that measure how well a student has mastered the content standards. The Mississippi Curriculum Test is administered at Grades 3 through 8. The Subject Area Testing Program assesses students on the content at the completion of Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History from 1877.

English Language Arts

The Mississippi content standards define what students should know and be able to do in English Language Arts. Mississippi competencies define what students should know and be able to do at the end of a given grade level and further define the content standards and benchmarks.

Priority Designations

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to test data was obtained from the Mississippi Department of Education Web Site <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/>. Assessment Guides for MCT2 and SATP can be viewed at this site.

The assessment guides for MCT2 and the SATP indicates the number of test questions related to each competency on the test and indicates the relative emphasis placed on each competency

The same method was used to determine priority designations for MCT2 and the SATP. The average (mean) numbers of score points (or percent of score points) for each standard/strand were calculated at each grade level/course. The standard deviation (STD) was returned and subtracted from the mean to establish the cut-off point between Medium (M) and High (H) designations. Table 1 below reveals the cut-off points that distinguish L, M, and H priority designations. A summary of ELA test designations are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 1: English Language Arts Priority Designation Data

	Mean	STD	Mean – STD	Designations		
				L = Low	M = Medium	H = High
Grade 3	12.5	2.9	9.6	0	1-10	>10
Grade 4	12.5	2.8	9.5	0	1-10	>10
Grade 5	15	4.5	10.5	0	1-11	>11
Grade 6	15	4.5	10.5	0	1-11	>11
Grade 7	17.5	7	10.5	0	1-11	>11
Grade 8	17.5	7	10.5	0	1-11	>11
English II	17.5	7.8	9.7	0	1-10	>10

Table 2. English Language Arts Data Summary

	Standards	Grade Level Expectations	MCT2/SATP			NESS*		
English Language Arts			H	M	L	H 1-19	M 20-38	L 39+
Grade 3	4	21	14	7	0	14	6	1
Grade 4	4	20	13	7	0	11	6	3
Grade 5	4	21	14	7	0	12	6	3
Grade 6	4	21	14	7	0	13	6	2
Grade 7	4	21	14	7	0	15	5	1
Grade 8	4	21	14	7	0	12	9	0
English II	4	20	16	4	0	7	13	0
Totals	28	145	99	46	0	84	84	10

Mathematics

The Mississippi content standards define what students should know and be able to do in Mathematics. Mississippi competencies define what students should know and be able to do at the end of a given grade level and further define the content standards and benchmarks.

Priority Designations

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to test data was obtained from the Mississippi Department of Education Web Site <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/>. Assessment Guides for MCT2 and SATP can be viewed at this site.

The assessment guides for MCT2 and the SATP indicates the number of test questions related to each competency on the test and indicates the relative emphasis placed on each competency

The same method was used to determine priority designations for MCT2 and the SATP. The average (mean) numbers of score points (or percent of score points) for each standard/strand were calculated at each grade level/course. The standard deviation (STD) was returned and subtracted from the mean to establish the cut-off point between Medium (M) and High (H) designations. Table 1 below reveals the cut-off points that distinguish L, M, and H priority designations. A summary of Mathematics test designations are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 3: Mathematics Priority Designation Data

	Mean	STD	Mean – STD	Designations		
				L = Low	M = Medium	H = High
Grade 3	9	3.7	5.3	0	1-5	>5
Grade 4	9	3.2	5.8	0	1-6	>6
Grade 5	10	2.4	7.8	0	1-8	>8
Grade 6	10	2.6	7.4	0	1-8	>8
Grade 7	10	2.1	7.9	0	1-8	>8
Pre-Algebra	10	2.5	7.5	0	1-8	>8
Algebra	10.6	6.1	4.5	0	1-5	>5

Table 4. Mathematics Data Summary

	Strands	Grade Level Expectations	MCT2/SATP			NESS*		
			H	M	L	H 1-16	M 17-42	L 43+
	Mathematics		H	M	L	H 1-16	M 17-42	L 43+
Grade 3	5	20	20	0	0	13	7	0
Grade 4	5	28	28	0	0	19	8	1
Grade 5	5	22	16	6	0	13	8	1
Grade 6	5	31	21	10	0	19	10	2
Grade 7	5	29	21	8	0	21	7	1
Pre-Algebra	5	28	21	7	0	15	10	3
Algebra	5	21	21	0	0	7	10	4
Totals	35	179	148	31	0	107	60	12

**Mississippi Curriculum Matrix Summary Totals
For MCT2/SATP Tested Grade Levels
In English Language Arts and Mathematics**

Table 8 below summarizes the data for English Language Arts and Mathematics assessed by the MCT2 and the SATP.

Table 7. Totals for MCT2 and SATP Tested Grade Levels in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

	Strands/ Standards	Competencies	MCT2/SATP			NESS*		
			H	M	L	H	M	L
English Language Arts	28	145	99	46	0	84	84	1
Mathematics	35	179	148	31	0	107	60	12
Grand Totals	63	324	247	77	0	191	144	13

**Mississippi Curriculum Matrix Summary
Total Percentage for MCT2/SATP Tested in
English Language Arts and Mathematics**

Table 8 below presents the number of GLEs compared to the number of learning standards for MCT2 and SATP programs.

Table 8. Total Percentage for MCT2 and SATP in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

	Number of Competencies	Number of Competencies Tested	Percent of Standards Tested
English LA	145	145	100%
Mathematics	179	179	100%
Total	324	324	100%

Information Sources

Mississippi Department of Education

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/>

Division of Standards, Assessment, and Accountability

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/osa/>

***The National Essential Skills Study** asked participants to identify what they believe are the 20 to 30 most important topics in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The topics compiled for each content area were adapted from national standards as identified by the National Council of Teachers of English, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the National Research Council, the National Council for the Social Studies, and from various state standards. All topics were reviewed by teams of subject-specialist teachers. In all, 50 English language arts, 70 mathematics, 85 science, and 60 social studies topics were identified for incorporation in NESS.

