
Grade 6 Parent Guide

Alberta Provincial Achievement Testing
Including French Immersion Subjects



This document was written primarily for

Students

Teachers

Administrators

Parents ✓ Grade 6

General Audience

Others

2024–2025 Grade 6 Parent Guide

Distribution: This document is posted on the [Alberta Education website](#).

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Contents

Questions Frequently Asked About the Provincial Achievement Testing Program.....	3
• What are the purposes of the provincial achievement tests?	3
• Who is expected to write the tests?	3
• What tests are administered and when?	3
• What do the provincial achievement tests assess?	3
• How are provincial achievement tests developed?	4
• What are test accommodations?	4
• How can parents help their children prepare for the tests?	4
• How can teachers prepare their students for writing the tests?	4
• How are the provincial achievement tests marked?	4
• How should provincial achievement test results be communicated and used?	5
• How should school councils use provincial achievement test results?	5
• Should schools be ranked according to their results on provincial achievement tests?	5
Sample—Individual Student Profile (ISP).....	6
Test Descriptions and Sample Questions.....	8
• Sample questions	8
English Language Arts and Literature	9
• Test descriptions	9
• Sample questions	9
French First Language and Literature/French Immersion Language Arts and Literature	10
• Test descriptions	10
Mathematics / Mathématiques	11
• Test descriptions	11
• Sample questions	11
Science / Sciences	12
• Test description	12
Social Studies / Études Sociales	13
• Test description	13
• Sample questions	13
Contacts	14

Appendix.....	15
• New French spelling	15

Please note that if you cannot access one of the direct website links referred to in this document, you can find provincial achievement test-related materials on the [Alberta Education website](#).

Questions Frequently Asked About the Provincial Achievement Testing Program

Students in Grade 6 write provincial achievement tests in language arts/language arts and literature, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students who are registered in French immersion programs write a French form of the mathematics, science, and social studies tests in addition to the French Immersion Language Arts and Literature and English Language Arts and Literature tests. Students in Grade 9 also write provincial achievement tests. Parents often ask the following questions about the Provincial Achievement Testing Program as their children prepare to write provincial achievement tests.

In 2024/25, Grade 6 Science, French Immersion Language Arts and Literature (FILAL), and Français Langue Première et Littérature (FLPL) provincial achievement tests will not be administered.

What are the purposes of the provincial achievement tests?

The purposes of the provincial achievement tests are to determine if students are learning what they are expected to learn; to report to Albertans how well students have achieved provincial standards at given points in their schooling; and to assist schools, school authorities, and the province in monitoring and improving student learning.

Who is expected to write the tests?

All students registered in grades 6 and 9 or those in their sixth or ninth year of schooling are expected to write the tests for their grades.

What tests are administered and when?

Provincial achievement tests are administered to students registered in Grade 6 as follows:

Subject		Official Time*	Month
English Language Arts and Literature	<i>Part A: Writing</i>	120 min	May
	<i>Part B: Reading</i>	60 min	June
Mathematics / Mathématiques	<i>Part A</i>	30 min	June
	<i>Part B</i>	75 min	June
Social Studies / Études Sociales		60 min	June

*All students may use up to twice the official time, if needed.

What do the provincial achievement tests assess?

Alberta's provincial achievement tests are aligned with the provincial curriculum, or programs of study. No single test can assess everything. The provincial achievement tests address only those learning outcomes that can be readily assessed. The clearest picture of students' growth and development is gained when a wide variety of assessment information is considered. The provincial achievement tests provide part of the picture. In addition, classroom teachers use many different assessment strategies throughout the school year to gain information about what students are learning.

How are provincial achievement tests developed?

Classroom teachers from across the province are involved at every stage of the test development and implementation process, including:

- writing, revising, and reviewing questions
- administering field tests
- validating test forms
- validating French translations
- validating scoring guides
- confirming standards
- administering the tests
- marking students' written responses

What are test accommodations?

Alberta Education provides alternative test formats and/or administration conditions for students with special test-writing needs in order to allow these students to do their best. Test accommodations may include Braille or large-print formats, sign language, use of a reader or scribe, and recorded responses. Students who regularly use aids of this type in the classroom to support their learning may make use of these accommodations when writing one or more of their provincial achievement tests. More information can be found in the [Provincial Achievement Testing General Information Bulletin](#).

How can parents help their children prepare for the tests?

It is important that children feel relaxed and comfortable when they write any test, including provincial achievement tests. Children's feelings about a test are very much influenced by what adults close to them say about those tests. Parents can be of most help to their children by encouraging them to relax and do their best, just as students would when writing any test.

How can teachers prepare their students for writing the tests?

Alberta Education discourages test rehearsal and coaching. Provincial achievement tests are like any other test students would normally write. The best preparation for students to write the provincial achievement tests is effective instruction based on the full range of learning outcomes in the Alberta curriculum, or programs of study.

How are the provincial achievement tests marked?

All provincial achievement tests, except the language arts and literature writing tests, are machine scored. The written-response component of the language arts and literature test is marked centrally, in July, by experienced grade 6 language arts and literature teachers who have been nominated by their superintendents. These teachers are trained by, and work under the supervision of, Alberta Education staff.

Alberta Education encourages teachers to mark provincial achievement tests using the scoring guides and exemplars that are provided to them each year. Locally awarded marks on the language arts and literature written-response tests that are submitted to Alberta Education will be used as the first reading of a student's response. The papers will then be marked centrally as the second reading. Both marks contribute to the student's final mark. In the event of a discrepancy between the two marks, papers will receive a third reading, which will determine the final mark that the paper is awarded. In this way, valid and reliable individual and group results can be reported. Papers that are not marked locally by teachers will be marked centrally only once.

Answer keys for each digitally-scored provincial achievement test are provided to teachers, who are expected to mark the tests and report the preliminary results to parents in June.

Although no single test can provide a comprehensive picture of a student's achievement, when used in conjunction with more information gained from various classroom assessments, preliminary results can assist parents in more timely and better understanding of their child's achievement.

How should provincial achievement test results be communicated and used?

In late September Alberta Education makes available copies of the Individual Student Profile (ISP) of each student to the staff of the school where the student wrote the provincial achievement tests (see samples on pages 4 and 5). PAT Results Individual Student Profiles (ISP) Reports are available in the Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI) system. Schools are responsible for forwarding ISPs to parents through the following options: forwarding PDFs of the ISPs electronically to parents via school systems, printing the PAT Results ISP Reports for mailing, or signing up parents for myPass access to their child's account. Students and parents will be able to access the PAT Results ISP Reports as needed via myPass. As a result of the implementation of the new curriculum in Grade 6 English language arts and literature, and mathematics the reporting of PAT results in these subjects may be modified from the normal reporting information available. Further details on the reporting approach will be provided in a future update.

School staff, in consultation with their school council, should look at the school report to see what patterns and trends are evident in the results and to determine how the school's programs might be improved. The principal, teachers, parents, and community can look at these results in relation to past results, along with school and district assessments and other information about students and programs. They can use this information to provide the best possible learning opportunities for their students.

Similarly, it is helpful if the school board and the jurisdiction look at the school authority report to see how district-wide programs can be improved for students.

It is also important for Alberta Education to examine the provincial results to see whether changes are needed in provincial programs or policies.

Used in these ways, the test results support continuous improvement in program planning and in teaching. This helps to ensure that as many students as possible achieve provincial standards.

How should school councils use provincial achievement test results?

In collaboration with the school staff, a school council should review the provincial achievement test results. Questions such as the following may serve as a starting point:

- What are the strengths of our school?
- What are the areas requiring growth?
- What factors could be contributing to our school's performance?
- What trends in provincial achievement test results can we identify for our school over the past several years?
- What are our local achievement targets for this year?
- What plans can we develop to address the areas requiring growth and to help students to do their best?

Should schools be ranked according to their results on provincial achievement tests?

Alberta Education **does not support** comparisons of schools or school authorities based on provincial achievement test scores. Rather, in evaluating a school, people should consider a variety of factors that are relevant to that school. Alberta Education emphasizes the importance of provincial standards, local targets, and past performance as the basis for examining the test results and planning instructional programs.

Sample—Individual Student Profile (ISP)



Grade 6 Achievement Tests - School Year 2022/2023 Individual Student Profile

Student Name:
Alberta Student Number:
School of Writing:
School Authority:

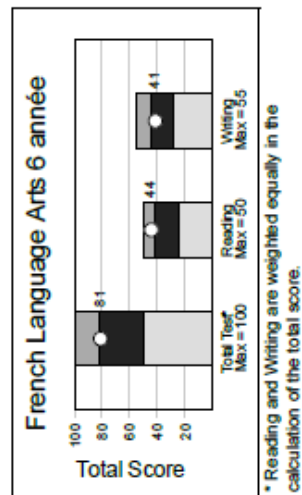
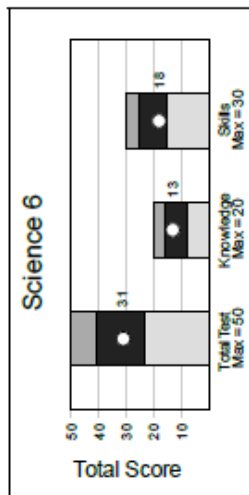
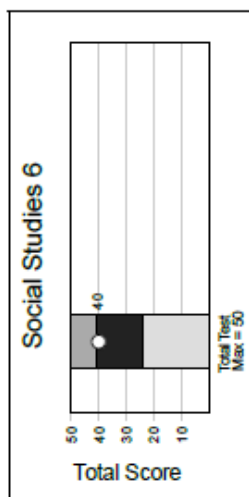
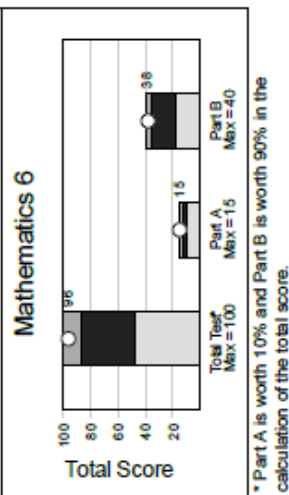
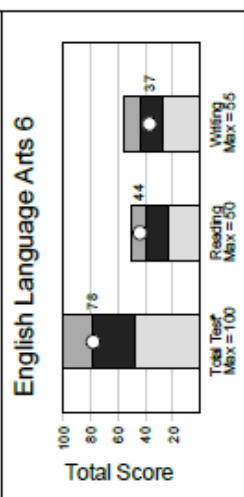
Graph Legend

- Standard of Excellence
- Acceptable Standard
- Below Acceptable Standard
- Student Score

Explanatory Notes

The point on each bar graph indicates the score obtained by the student on the total test and on each of the two components of the test.

The shaded regions indicate the range of scores at the Standard of Excellence (dark grey region), the Acceptable Standard (black region), and below the acceptable standard (light grey region).



Grade 6 Achievement Tests - School Year 2022/2023 Individual Student Profile



Student Name:
Alberta Student Number:
School of Writing:
School Authority:

Subject	Component	Student's Results		Range of Scores Within Each Standard ¹	
		Score	Standard Achieved	Acceptable Standard	Standard of Excellence
English Language Arts 6	Total Test 2	78 / 100	Acceptable	48 - 78	79 - 100
	Reading Writing	44 / 50 37 / 55	Excellence Acceptable	23 - 38 28 - 43	39 - 50 44 - 55
Mathematics 6	Total Test 3	96 / 100	Excellence	47 - 86	87 - 100
Written in French	Part A Part B	15 / 15 38 / 40	Excellence Excellence	10 - 12 18 - 34	13 - 15 35 - 40
	Total Test	40 / 50	Acceptable	24 - 40	41 - 50
Social Studies 6					
Written in French					
Science 6	Total Test	31 / 50	Acceptable	23 - 40	41 - 50
Written in French	Knowledge Skills	13 / 20 18 / 30	Acceptable Acceptable	8 - 15 15 - 24	16 - 20 25 - 30
	Total Test 4	81 / 100	Acceptable	49 - 81	82 - 100
French Language Arts 6 année					
Written in French	Reading Writing	44 / 50 41 / 55	Excellence Acceptable	24 - 41 28 - 43	42 - 50 44 - 55

The table above provides the student's scores for each subject and for the components of that subject. Also included is the range of scores that define each standard.

- ¹These standards reflect provincial expectations.
- ² Reading and Writing are weighted equally in the calculation of the total score.
- ³ Part A is worth 10% and Part B is worth 90% in the calculation of the total score.
- ⁴ Reading and Writing are weighted equally in the calculation of the total score.

Test Descriptions and Sample Questions

The Grade 6 provincial achievement tests are designed to reflect the nature and aims of the learning outcomes that are prescribed in provincial curriculum, or programs of study and to assess the achievement of these outcomes. More information about these provincial curriculum, or programs of study is available in [Parents](#).

Descriptions of several of the [Grade 6 provincial achievement tests](#) have been included to give you a first-hand look at what provincial achievement tests are all about.

Sample questions

To view provincial achievement tests sample questions, visit the [Practice Tests](#) web page.

English Language Arts and Literature

Test descriptions

Part A: Writing consists of two writing assignments—one fiction and one non-fiction—developed to be completed in 120 minutes; however, students may have up to 240 minutes to complete the test should they need it. For the first 10 minutes of the 2 hours, students may discuss both assignments with classmates in groups of two to four or think alone about the prompts. Students will engage in this discussion time without teacher participation. During this discussion time, students may record their ideas on the planning pages provided. The allotted test time provides students with time for planning, drafting, and revising both the fiction and non-fiction writing assignments. Students may take up to 4 hours to complete the test.

Part B: Reading (multiple choice) is developed to be completed in 60 minutes; however, students may take up to 2 hours to complete the test should they need it. The test consists of 50 multiple-choice questions based on reading selections from fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual media.

For more information, see the [Grade 6 English Language Arts and Literature Subject Bulletin](#).

Sample questions

To view sample questions, visit the [Practice Tests](#) webpage.



French First Language and Literature/French Immersion Language Arts and Literature

Test descriptions

In 2024/25, Grade 6 French Immersion Language Arts and Literature (FILAL), and Français Langue Première et Littérature (FLPL) provincial achievement tests will not be administered.

Mathematics / Mathématiques

Test descriptions

The *Grade 6 Mathematics Provincial Achievement Test* consists of two parts:

Part A consists of 15 questions from the Organizing Idea: Number in two reporting categories: integers, decimals, and powers; and fractions, rates, and ratios. Manipulatives may be used; however, use of a calculator is not permitted. The questions will be in various formats supported by the new digital assessment platform, while the printed format will consist of machine-scored numerical-response questions. The test is designed to be completed in 30 minutes; however, students may have up to 60 minutes to complete the test should they need it.

Part B consists of 40 machine-scored questions from all Organizing Ideas in the grade 6 mathematics curriculum. Manipulatives may be used; however, use of a calculator is not permitted. The questions will be in various formats supported by the new digital assessment platform, while the printed format will consist of machine-scored multiple-choice and numerical-response questions. The test is designed to be completed in 75 minutes; however, students may have up to 150 minutes to complete the test should they need it.


A 12x12 multiplication grid is permitted on Part A and Part B, provided its use is recorded as a regular accommodation. If a student requires the use of a calculator for Part B, a school may complete a unique accommodation request, with supporting documentation, such as a psychoeducational assessment, or a medical note from a physician that clearly identifies the diagnosis, condition, or disability, and presents the current need for a special accommodation. More information on accommodations can be found in the [General Information Bulletin](#).

Questions are categorized according to three levels of complexity: low, moderate, and high.

For more information, see the [Grade 6 Mathematics Subject Bulletin](#).

Sample questions

To view sample questions, visit the [Practice Tests](#) webpage.



Science / Sciences

Test description

In 2024/25, Grade 6 Science provincial achievement tests will not be administered.

Social Studies / Études Sociales

Test description

The *Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test* consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. The official time for the test is 60 minutes; however, students have up to 120 minutes to complete the test should they need it. For those writing on the digital platform, the questions will be in various formats supported by the new digital assessment platform, while the paper format will consist of multiple-choice questions. Test items are created from the learning outcomes contained within the Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum.

For more information, see the [Grade 6 Social Studies Subject Bulletin](#).

Sample questions

To view sample questions, visit the [Practice Tests](#) webpage.

Contacts

If you have additional questions or comments about provincial achievement testing, please speak with your child's teacher or school principal, or connect with Provincial Achievement Testing:

Hours

8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Test format, content, confirming standards, marking, and results reporting

Email: edc.pats@gov.ab.ca

Test security, rules, scheduling, and policy issues

Email: exam.admin@gov.ab.ca

Address

Student Learning Assessments and Provincial Achievement Testing

Alberta Education

6th Floor 44 Capital Boulevard

10044 108 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6

Appendix

New French spelling

As of January 2008, all French-language Alberta Education documents have been published in accordance with the new spelling rules adopted by the *Conseil supérieur de la langue française* of France in 1990.

These new rules apply to approximately 2 000 words in the French language. Even though these new rules have been officially approved, they are not mandatory. During this transition period, which could last many years, both spellings are admitted. Neither spelling, traditional or new, is wrong. Consequently, no student who uses either spelling convention, even within a given written assignment, is to be penalized. This holds true for all school work as well as for all written responses in the French-language provincial achievement tests and diploma exams.

The key new rules are as follows:

- 1. The elements of compound numbers are all joined by a hyphen.**
 - a. Traditional spelling: deux cent quarante-sept
 - b. New spelling: deux-cent-quarante-sept
- 2. The circumflex accent is no longer used on *i* and *u*.**
 - a. Traditional spelling: connaître, coûter, août, maîtrise
 - b. New spelling: connaitre, couter, aout, maitrise
- 3. The grave accent replaces the acute accent before a syllable having a silent e.**
 - a. Traditional spelling: événement, crèmerie, céleri
 - b. New spelling: évènement, crèmerie, cèleri
- 4. The hyphen is removed from compound words having a prefix, such as *entre-* and *contre-*, and in words borrowed from other languages.**
 - a. Traditional spelling: entre-temps, contre-exemple, auto-école, basket-ball
 - b. New spelling: entretemps, contrexemple, autoécole, basketball
- 5. The second element of compound words is now pluralized when the word is used in the plural.**
 - a. Traditional spelling: des brise-glace, des cure-dent, des après-midi
 - b. New spelling: des brise-glaces, des cure-dents, des après-midis