

Frequently Asked Questions About TExES Score Reports

(Note: These questions and answers are based on previous TExES administrations. The specific examples given may or may not relate directly to the test(s) you took or the score(s) you received.)

1. I answered 56 out of 80 questions correctly (70%), yet I received a scaled score of 238. Why didn't I pass the test?

TExES tests are not scored by the percent of questions answered correctly. Rather, your raw score (the number of questions you answered correctly) is converted to a scaled score by placing the form of the test you took on a scale common to all forms of that TExES test.

Examinee performance on a test form is placed on a common scale because generally no two forms of a TExES test are exactly the same. While every effort is made to create test forms that have the same overall level of difficulty as the original form of the test (on which the passing standard was set), there are often minor differences in overall difficulty from test form to test form. Your total scaled score adjusts for these differences.

Each test form is statistically equated back to the original form of the test. *Therefore, in order to maintain fairness to all candidates, a candidate who takes a slightly more difficult form of a test will be required to answer one or two fewer questions correctly in order to achieve a scaled score of 240 (a passing score) than a candidate who takes a slightly less difficult form of the test. Conversely, a candidate who takes a slightly less difficult form of the test will be required to answer one or two more questions correctly.*

2. How is the passing standard determined?

When the first (original) form of a test in any given field (e.g., Mathematics 4–8) is administered, a committee of Texas educators in that field meets to review the questions on the test form. The committee then recommends a passing standard to the SBEC Board. A committee may recommend, for example, a passing standard of 53 of 80 questions correct (66.25%) or 57 of 80 questions correct (71.25%) on the original form of a test. The SBEC Board makes the final determination of the passing standard after considering the recommendation of the committee and other relevant information, such as passing rate data.

Note: The original raw score passing standard on a test form is not necessarily 70% of the questions answered correctly.

3. How is the overall difficulty of a TExES test form determined?

A TExES test form is constructed to sample the specific content outlined in the test frameworks, which are found in the TExES Preparation Manuals. Questions with a range of difficulty are selected to sample this content. Some questions are typically answered correctly by a large majority of examinees, while others present a greater challenge. As a

group, the questions selected for a test form may be *slightly* more (or less) difficult than those on another test form. Different forms of a test may not be equally difficult. Examinee performance on the questions on a test form determines how difficult that test form is overall. (Although the same form of a specific test is given to all examinees on a particular administration date, different forms are administered on different test dates.)

4. **So the number of questions I need to answer correctly in order to achieve a scaled score of 240 (passing) may differ depending on which test I am taking AND on which date I take the test?**

Yes. As explained above, the raw score passing standard set on the original form of the test given in each field (e.g., Mathematics 4–8) may vary from field to field. Additionally, the scaled scores you receive represent a statistical conversion of raw scores (the number of questions a candidate answers correctly) to a scale that ranges from 100 to 300. A scaled score of 240 represents the passing standard on all TExES tests. Basing the passing decision on a scaled score of 240 ensures that all candidates who pass must demonstrate the same level of achievement on the content tested in a particular field, no matter which form of the test the candidate took or which date the test was administered.

5. **Do other testing programs use scaled scores?**

Yes. Most other large-scale testing programs (e.g., LSAT, SAT, GRE, TAAS, TAKS) use scaled scores. Scaled scores allow for comparisons across test forms and administrations.