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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Administrators
Religious and Independent School Administrators
Charter School Administrators
Leaders of Regional Information Centers

FROM: Steven E. Katz *Steven E. Katz*

SUBJECT: Updated Question Samplers for Computer-Based Testing, Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics, 2017-18 School Year

This memorandum provides information about the release of the New York State Education Department's Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics computer-based testing (CBT) Question Samplers for the 2017-18 school year. The Question Samplers allow users to practice answering questions in each grade/subject on a computer using previously released New York State test questions. Educators, parents, and students will gain experience with the testing tools and accommodations available in the computer-based testing environment.

After last year's administration of operational CBT and field testing on computers, the Department worked with participating schools to identify enhanced functionality that will make for an even better experience for students and educators with CBT in the 2017-18 school year.

New for 2017-18:

- Three Question Samplers per subject/grade level.
- Three Question Samplers per subject/grade level for students who take computer-based tests with the Answer Masking, Reverse Contrast, or Background Color accommodation.
- Three Question Samplers per subject/grade level for students who take the computer-based tests with the Text-to-Speech accommodation.
- Three Question Samplers for math in each of the five translated languages that can be requested through NYSED's online examination request system: Chinese (Traditional), Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.
- Highlighting within passage that spans multiple questions now persists when viewing all questions associated with that ELA passage.
- The math reference sheet can be resized and moved around on-screen (undocked) while students are answering math questions.

The updated Question Samplers, developed by NYSED's contractor for the Grades 3-8 assessments, Questar Assessment Inc., can be accessed at:
<https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice>.

School participation in operational CBT and stand-alone field testing on computers remains voluntary for spring 2018 and can be selected through NYSED's online examination request system. For operational testing, principals will be able to choose computer-based or paper-based testing by grade and content area.

We encourage those schools and districts that believe they are technologically ready and have classrooms that will benefit from a computer-based testing experience to administer operational CBT and stand-alone field testing on computers in their schools. Details about technological readiness as well as other CBT resources are available under "Resources" on the CBT Support website: <http://bit.ly/2fdm1dX>.

You can review screen shots below to learn more about how to access practice tests in the Question Samplers. Please send any questions or comments about the updated Question Samplers to cbtsupport@nysed.gov.

1. Selecting a Subject

The screenshot shows the top of the website with navigation links in Chinese, English, Kreyòl Ayisyen, Korean, Russian, and Spanish. The main heading is "New York State Grades 3-8 Testing Program Question Sampler". Below this is a paragraph explaining the program's purpose and an "Important" note about system requirements. A small inset image shows a sample math question: "Consider the equation $x^2 - 12x + 49 = 22$. Which equation has the same solution(s) as the given equation?" with four multiple-choice options: (A) $(x - 6)^2 = 9$, (B) $(x - 7)^2 = 4.7$, (C) $(x + 7)^2 = 4.7$, and (D) $(x - 12)^2 = -27$.

In the lower section, under the heading "Select Question Sampler", there is a "Select Subject" dropdown menu. An arrow points to this menu, which is open and shows the following options: "Select", "ELA", and "Math". Below the menu is a link that says "More about Question Samplers".

2. Selecting a Grade

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the website's header, main heading, introductory text, sample question, and the "Select Question Sampler" section. However, in this version, the "Select Subject" dropdown menu is set to "ELA". An arrow points to the "Select Grade" dropdown menu, which is open and shows the following options: "Select", "Grade 3", "Grade 4", "Grade 5", "Grade 6", "Grade 7", and "Grade 8". The "More about Question Samplers" link is also visible.

3. Selecting a Sampler

中文 | English | Kreyòl Ayisyen | 한국어 | Русский | Español

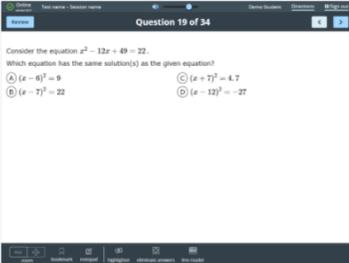
New York State Grades 3-8 Testing Program

Question Sampler

The New York State Education Department and Questar are committed to supporting students, families, teachers and administrators through every step of the testing process. The Question Sampler offers an opportunity for students to become familiar with the test format, the question types and the tools they will experience during testing.

[Learn more](#) or try the Question Samplers below.

Important: Check your device to ensure it meets [minimum system requirements](#) for the Question Sampler



Select Question Sampler

Select Subject: ELA | Select Grade: Grade 3 | Select Test: **Select**

- Select
- Sampler 1
- Sampler 2
- Sampler 3

More about Question Samplers

The Question Sampler is not intended to reproduce the exact environment or



4. Starting a Sampler

中文 | English | Kreyòl Ayisyen | 한국어 | Русский | Español

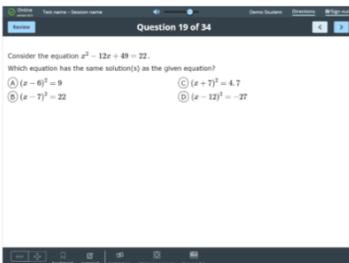
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Select Question Sampler

Select Subject: ELA | Select Grade: Grade 3 | Select Test: **Sampler 3**

Take it online.

Start test

Supplemental Scoring

Answer key for multiple choice questions

5. **Selecting an Accommodation** (Guidance on CBT Accommodations is available here: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/2017/grades3-8cbt-accessibilityfeatures17.pdf>.)

New York State Grades 3-8 Testing Program
Question Sampler

Select Accommodations

The Question Sampler offers a full selection of online accommodations for your preview. Please note that on test day students will not be able to select their own accommodations. Any accommodations needed for test day are pre-selected by a teacher or administrator per the student's IEP or 504 plan.

- Answer Masking**
This tool can help you focus on certain answers by hiding answers. Click on the eye icon to hide or reveal answers.
- Background Color:**
This setting can't be used with Reverse Contrast. It places a layer over the entire test window background in the color you choose.
- Reverse Contrast**
When this setting is turned on, all text is white on black background.
- Text-To-Speech (TTS)**
Text-to-speech reads content on the test aloud to be listened to. Speakers are necessary, headphones are recommended.

Continue

Take it online. **Start test**

Supplemental Scoring
Answer key for multiple choice questions

6. **Selecting Testing Language (Math Only)**

New York State Grades 3-8 Testing Program
Question Sampler

The New York State Education Department and Questar are committed to supporting students, families, teachers and administrators through every step of the testing process. The Question Sampler offers an opportunity for students to become familiar with the test format, the question types and the tools they will experience during testing.

Learn more or try the Question Samplers below.

Important: Check your device to ensure it meets minimum system requirements for the Question Sampler

Select Question Sampler

Select Subject: Math
Select Grade: Grade 3
Select Test: Sampler 1
Select Testing Language: English

Supplemental Scoring: Answer key for multiple choice questions

Take it online. **Start test**