



Public Schools of North Carolina

Practical Testing Strategies

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The top 10 general strategies for overcoming test anxieties

- # 10 Calm breathing and positive thoughts
- # 9 Watch the clock (know how much time you have)
- # 8 Don't pay attention to what other people are doing
- # 7 Just start
- # 6 Read carefully



Continued ...

- # 5 Have a positive mental attitude
- # 4 Get to class—or the testing site—early
- # 3 Fuel up
- # 2 Get a good night's sleep
- # 1 Be prepared

[This information was obtained from
https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/test-anxiety](https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/test-anxiety)



***Prepared Students
start with
Prepared Teachers...***



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Testing News Network (TNN)

- Check & review online accessibility prior to testing dates (1 month is recommended)
- Student Interface Options:
 - Alternate Background Color
 - Large Font must be entered by the Testing Coordinator
- Just because it's on the IEP does not mean the Testing Coordinator got the information



Designated Features for all Students

Online

- Highlighter Tool
- Color Contrast
- Adapted Mouse
- Adapted Pencil

Paper Pencil

- Highlighters
- Reading Tracker
- Color Acetate
Overlays



Know the Format Standards for Tutorials

Online

- Computer or tablet
- Tutorial at least once per year (Gr 3 twice a year)
- regular or large font (18-point)
- colors contrast

Paper Pencil/Braille

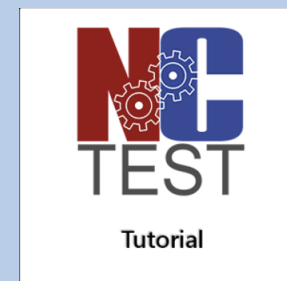
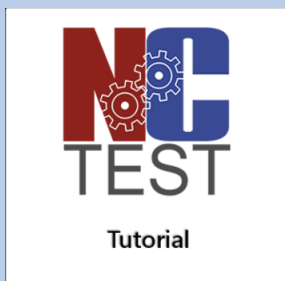
- Gridded Response Practice Activity at least once prior
- 11" × 17" paper using 22-point Verdana font
- Braille format are requested by Code



Online Tutorials

Can be accessed on the
NCTest Chrome App, NCTest Secure Browser,
or the approved iPad App at

<https://data.ncsu.edu/nctest/Destination.html>



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Strategies for Standard Format Tutorials

Online

- Use the video demo*
- Use standard script*

Paper Pencil/Braille

- graph paper
- scratch paper
- braille Paper

* See the Testing Coordinator for access information



Important to consider for VI students

Online

- Not all information is read aloud Ex. a graph, image, fraction ($\frac{3}{4}$) or $4\pi r^2$ is read as an image

Paper Pencil / Braille

- Have students note on their answer sheet(s) form Letter & Color just in case something happens with pre-coded sheets



Prepare the Students ...



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Review Accommodations with student

- The student's classroom teacher may not be the Test Administrator
- Different locations may present problems accessing to technology
- Best practice is to identify a person in the school they can contact if a concern arises
- If a student feels sick or gets nervous encourage them it is OK to raise their hand for assistance



Explain accommodations

- Review the accommodations with students to ensure they know & understand
- Paper clip or use binders on the book, ex. In math for calculator active and in active. Especially for Braille students



Don't forget

- Headphones (connections & working) maybe a backup pair
- Student Marks Answers in Test Book (how does this look for VI students)
- Students may use calculators with more than the minimum requirements.
- At Least the Minimum Calculator Requirements for each state test that requires calculator use are listed



****Practice****

- Practice with the paper pencil gridded response items and even make up some more for proper alignment with magnification devices and large print materials



Gridded Responses

Write your answer in the empty boxes on the top row. Enter only one digit or symbol in each box.

The second row of circles is decimal points.

Circles are for bubbling (darkening) digits. Darken one circle per column.

Remember:
Spaces are not permitted within your answer.

The division sign (/), to indicate fractions, is located in the top row of circles.

Darken one circle in each column that matches your answer printed in the grid.

	.	/	/	/	/
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9



Gridded Responses

- Symbols—Do not use symbols such as commas or dollar signs. Use only symbols that are provided in the circles.
- Mixed Numbers—A mixed number must be changed and entered as an improper fraction or a decimal. For example, the mixed number four and one half could be entered as $9/2$ or as 4.5, with a decimal.
- Equal answers—Entries equal to the correct answer are acceptable. For example, if the answer to a question is $2/4$, it can be entered as $2/4$, $1/2$, 0.5, 00.5, or .5000 as well as other equivalent numbers.



Released Test Page

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms>



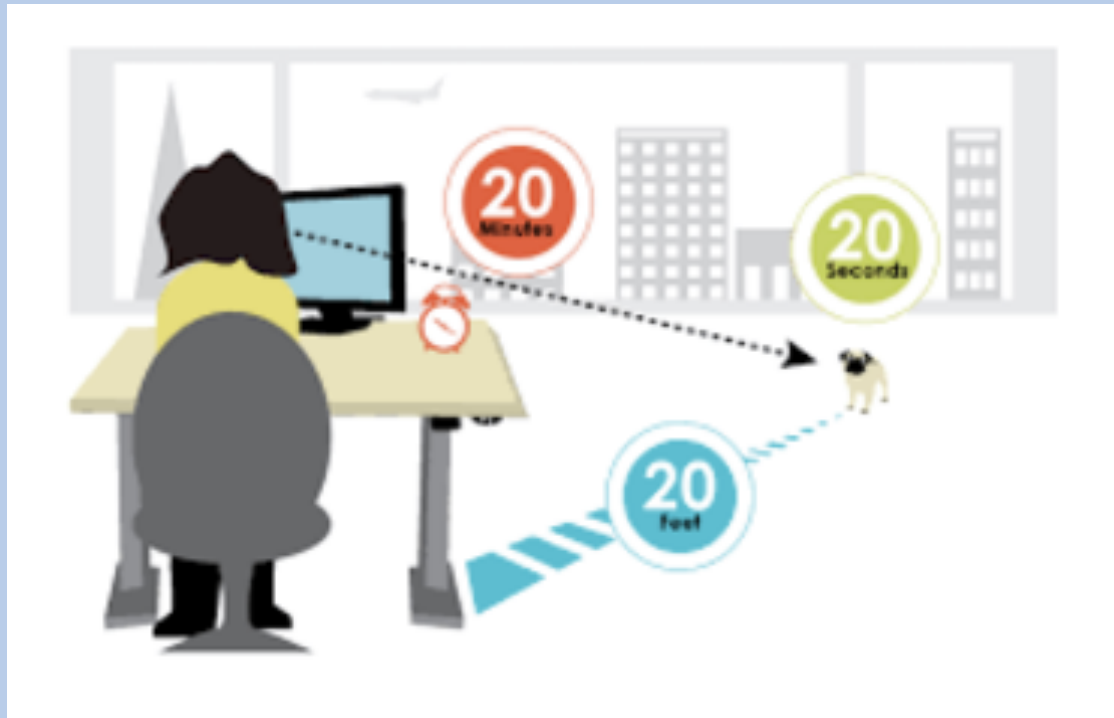
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Stop !! Collaborate & Share

- Do you need prep materials for a certain subject to help with test familiarity?
- Do you have resources that you can share with others in the state?



Eye Fatigue teach 20/20/20 Rule



USE your TOOLS

- Highlight the text- use different colors, symbols or tactile markers to mark important information
- This is key for someone with scanning or eye fatigue



Formulate your answer first

- When you read the question try to formulate the answer before reading all the choices



Graphics take time

- You may want to come back or work through carefully
- Braille Readers be certain to scan the whole page first



Pay attention to detail

- Did it say interpret or predict?
- Pay attention to quotes and italics
- Pay attention to numbered paragraphs



Watch the clock

- Know how much time you have and allocate it
- Make sure no items were left blank



Share Out ...



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