

# Preparing for the New Graduation Numeracy Assessment

## What is the Graduation Numeracy Assessment?

### **What it Is**

The Graduation Numeracy Assessment is an assessment that all BC students have to write in order to graduate from the BC school system with a Dogwood Diploma.

It is a multi-subject assessment, incorporating elements of Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and English. It has three parts: 1) a common part that everyone has to write, and is completed online; 2) a student choice part, answered on paper, where students choose 2 of 4 questions, and go deeper into the topics; and 3) a self-assessment part, which is not marked, but gives students a chance to reflect on their numeracy achievements.

The assessment will be used to determine a Numeracy Proficiency Score (1, 2, 3, or 4), which will appear on your Ministry transcript. You may write the assessment up to three times before you graduate. If you don't like the score, you can rewrite to improve it. The score you achieve does not affect graduation.

### **What it Is Not**

The Graduation Numeracy Assessment is not a final exam. It is not associated with any specific course.

It is not a Math exam. It contains elements of Math, but it also contains elements of Science, English, and Social Studies too.

## Things You Can Do to Prepare For the Numeracy Assessment

1. **Go to The Ministry of Education's Graduation Numeracy Assessment webpage.** The following Webpage on The Ministry of Education website has a lot of information about the new Graduation Numeracy Assessment.

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial-assessment/graduation/numeracy>

It is strongly recommended that you read this page to see descriptions about the assessment, and look at what resources are available from the Ministry to help prepare yourself for the assessment.

2. **Watch the videos about the Graduation Numeracy Processes.**

A set of videos have been posted on the Numeracy Assessment webpage. These videos describe how each of these five numeracy processes—Interpret, Apply, Solve, Analyze, and Communicate—can be approached by students. The videos can help students get some insight into how the creators of the Numeracy Assessment expect students to complete the various assessment items.

3. **\*\*\* Try the online sample Graduation Numeracy Assessment. \*\*\***  
**DEFINITELY DO THIS.** The sample assessment is the only complete sample of a Graduation Numeracy Assessment that currently exists. There is a link to the assessment on the

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Ministry webpage. You can directly go to the sample assessment page at the following web address.

[https://www.awinfosys.com/eassessment/eexams\\_sample.htm](https://www.awinfosys.com/eassessment/eexams_sample.htm)

This sample assessment has been designed and formatted in the same way that the actual Numeracy Assessment will be. It will be well worth your while to try to complete this sample assessment prior to completing the actual assessment.

#### 4. Read the Exemplar Student Responses

Exemplar responses are responses to assessment items that the assessment creators expect and hope that students will write. Look at documents like **Sample Response – Q 5 - Student Choice - Giving out Bonuses (PDF)** in the **Workbooks** section, or **Numeracy Scoring Guide and Student Exemplars (PDF)** in the **Additional Resources** section. Both documents contain examples of **ideal** solutions to items produced by students. Note that the reasoning and assumptions being made are important parts of the solutions.

#### 5. Try numeracy tasks at the Peter Liljedahl’s Numeracy Tasks webpage.

Peter Liljedahl’s Numeracy Tasks webpage is at the following web address.

<http://www.peterliljedahl.com/teachers/numeracy-tasks>

These tasks were created by teachers from various school districts in BC. Try the **Junior High School (7-9)** tasks. They are similar to the student-choice questions on the Graduation Numeracy Assessment. (Note: there are no answer keys for these tasks.)

### Things to Do When Preparing for and Taking the Assessment

- Do the things listed in the section “Things You Can Do to Prepare for the Numeracy Assessment” (above).
- Do your best.  
The proficiency score will be part of your transcript. Aim for a 4.
- **Show reasoning and state assumptions.**  
Showing that you know how solve a problem is more important than getting the correct answer. Markers will be checking for work, reasoning, and assumptions you are making when answering a question. Write these things down on your answer sheet. (Look at the exemplars mentioned earlier.)
- Do not panic.  
You can retake the Graduation Numeracy Assessment up to two more times after writing the first one. If you are not satisfied with your score, do it again at another time.
- Do not overthink the items.  
If you are a senior student keep in mind that the assessment has been designed for Grade 10 students, with content based on topics in with Grade 8 and 9 courses. You will not need to create and solve quadratic equations, prove trigonometric identities, or use calculus.