

# Connecticut Mastery Test

The **Connecticut Mastery Test**, or CMT, is a test administered to students in grades 3 through 8. The CMT tests students in mathematics, reading, writing, and science (science will be administered for the first time in March 2008). The test used to be administered only in grades 4, 6, and 8, but the passage of the **No Child Left Behind Act**, which requires testing every year, has forced Connecticut to administer the test in grades 3, 5, and 7 as well. The other major standardized test administered to schoolchildren in Connecticut is the **Connecticut Academic Performance Test**, or **CAPT**, which is given in grade 10.

The CMT is graded on a scale from 1 to 5 in each area tested (mathematics, reading, science (for eighth grade only) and writing). On this scale, 5 is considered "advanced," 4 is considered "goal," 3 is considered "proficient," 2 is considered "basic," and 1 is considered "below basic."

Until the 2005-2006 school year the CMT was administered in the fall; now it is given in the spring.

## Direct Assessment of Writing:

The writing portion comes with a required essay. In 7th to 8th grade the essay is a persuasive essay. It is scored by two trained professionals. Each reader scores it from one to six. The two scores are combined to make one *holistic* score. The state average is 8.0 out of 12.

## Degrees of Reading Power:

Also known as the DRP, this is one of the parts from the reading section. Students must read seven passages which have blanks in them. Pupils who are taking the DRP must choose the correct answer to fill in the blank from a choice of options, a,b,c,d,e. As the student reads on, he/she will find that the passages become more difficult to understand and may come to a point where he/she must guess the correct answer. Students must fill in 70 bubbles on a Scan tron sheet. The sheet is not looked over by professionals. Instead, it is put through a machine and graded that way.

CMT begins Monday March 2, 2009. Parents/Guardians please make sure your child gets plenty of rest and have breakfast. CMT Testing is for 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade. All students must come to school, NO ABSENCES OR TARDIES.
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