RENAISSANCE®

Parent's Guide to Star Assessments™: Questions and Answers

RENAISSANCE
Star Assessments®

Your child will be taking a Star assessment during this school year. This guide will explain what a Star assessment is. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or visit the Renaissance Learning™ website at **http://renlearn.co.uk**.

What are Star assessments?

Renaissance Learning pioneered computer-adaptive testing in the classroom in 1996 with the introduction of Star Reading™, and has been improving upon it ever since. As a result we offer a line of testing products that all function the same, are all built with the same high level of measurement accuracy and all share the same design principles.

Star Early Literacy™ is the leading computer-based diagnostic assessment of early literacy skills developed students in years 1–4. Star Early Literacy tracks development in seven domains:

• General Readiness

• Graphophonemic Knowledge

• Phonemic Awareness

• Phonics

• Comprehension

• Structural Analysis

• Vocabulary

Star Reading™ is a reliable, valid and efficient progress-monitoring assessment of general reading achievement and reading comprehension.

Star Maths™ is an assessment of maths achievement for students in years 2–13. Star Maths tracks development in eight domains:

• Numeration Concepts

• Computation Processes

• Estimation

• Geometry

• Measurement

• Data Analysis and Statistics

• Word Problems

• Algebra

What are computer-adaptive tests?

All Star assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. CATs save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.

How long does it take to complete a Star assessment?

Star tests are designed to be as efficient as possible. On average, students will complete the Star Maths test in about 20 minutes, the Star Reading test in about 15 minutes or the Star Early Literacy test in 10 minutes. However, some students may require more time.

What are Star assessments used for?

Star Reading and Star Maths assessments help determine reading and maths achievement levels in order to place students into the Accelerated Reader™ and Accelerated Maths™ programs. Star Early Literacy assessments help educators monitor your child's growing literacy skills and their progress to becoming independent readers.

Star assessments can also be used to monitor your child's growth throughout the year. In addition, Star can help your child's teacher determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that your child is ready to learn.

What kind of score does my child get?

For every Star assessment a student receives a **scaled score (SS)**, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child's performance over time and across years. Star Reading and Star Maths scaled scores range from 0–1400. Star Early Literacy scaled scores range from 300–900.

Star offers educators a variety of scores and reports. Some of the other scores compare your child's performance to a specific content or to a standard (criterion-referenced scores). Star reports also include scores which compare your child's performance to other students who have taken the same test (norm-referenced scores). The criterion- and norm-referenced scores are based on the scaled score.

How can I help my child prepare for a Star assessment?

The teacher who gives the test uses pre-test instructions to explain the test to your child. It is important for you to encourage your child to try their best on the assessment. Since Star is a general measure of student ability in maths or reading, students perform best on the assessment in the same way they perform best in school—when they have had plenty of rest, attend school regularly and have eaten.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Please ask your child's teacher for the results from any of the Star assessments. Often teachers may share this information during a parent/teacher conference. Due to privacy laws, Renaissance Learning is not able to release individual student's data directly to parents.