



To Precalculus Students and Parents:

Course Description

Precalculus combines the many trigonometric, geometric and algebraic techniques needed for the preparation of the study of Calculus. The course is designed to strengthen the conceptual understanding and mathematical reasoning needed when solving problems. The course emphasizes the use of the graphing calculator as a tool to interpret results as well as a method of obtaining an answer.

Basic Texts

All students are provided with state approved textbooks for this class. Students will need their textbooks both at school and at home every day.

College Preparation

This is a college preparatory math class in which students need to earn a “C” or better in order to fulfill the “a-g” admission requirements for California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC). Students who are enrolled in Precalculus have met the minimum requirements for college admission to CSU and UC which include the three previous math courses, Algebra, Geometry, and Intermediate Algebra. The successful completion of Precalculus will be valuable when taking standardized tests and college placement exams, as well as for future college math courses.

Student Expectations

Students who expect to succeed must take an active part in their Precalculus class, complete all assigned work, perform well on quizzes and tests, and attend class regularly. Students’ grades are based on homework, classwork, Cornell notes, open-ended math questions, quizzes, tests, and other assessments such as presentations and projects.

Cornell Notes

Students are expected to take notes during instruction, which they can refer to for homework and test preparation. Notes include vocabulary, descriptions, examples, visual models, and summaries to create a learning record of math concepts and processes learned.

Homework

Homework is assigned daily, and all work must be shown for credit. This is an area in which parents can take an active role. Parents should provide students with an appropriate work area and periodically check their child’s work for neatness and completeness throughout the year. It is important that students study the material, identify any problem areas, and secure

additional help immediately if they have any questions. Students may get help on homework Monday through Thursday by calling the Homework Helpline at (562) 437-2859 between 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

District Assessments

Precalculus students take a 50-item district multiple-choice exam at the end the first semester. At the end of the school year, teachers of Precalculus administer the LBUSD End-of-Course Exam containing 50 multiple choice questions covering all major precalculus topics.

Calculator Usage

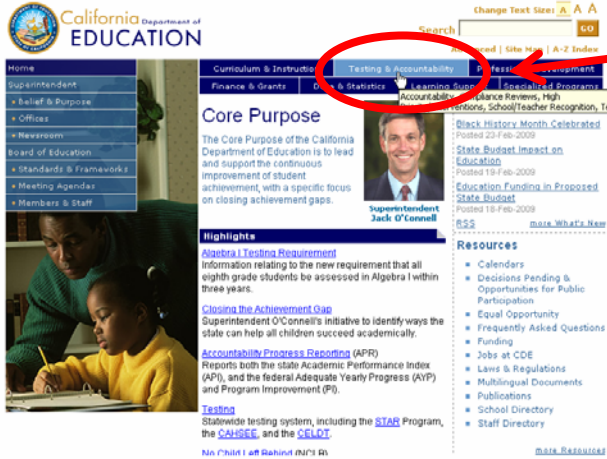
Although Long Beach Unified School District expects students to be proficient in many skills without the use of a calculator, Precalculus requires that students learn to use a graphing calculator for more complex problems and to be skilled in the use of a scientific calculator. Some calculators will be available in the classroom, but it is important that all students own a calculator in order to complete class assignments and homework. The use of calculators is not allowed on the STAR test. The LBUSD 1st semester and End-of Course Exam allow the use of a scientific calculator only.

Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) for Precalculus

All students in grades 9 - 11 will take the STAR test in the spring. Students enrolled in Precalculus take the Summative High School Mathematics California Standards Test (CST). Calculators may not be used for the STAR exam. The Summative exam consists of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Probability and Statistics questions. Released questions for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II can be found on the California Department of Education's website: www.cde.ca.gov (see pages 3 and 4).

Accessing the CST Released Items

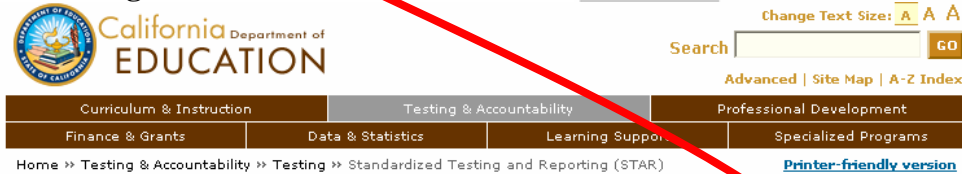
1. Go to www.cde.ca.gov
2. Click **Testing and Accountability**



3. Click **Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)**



4. Click **Program Resources**



Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)

Administration of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. Test results are used for student and school accountability purposes.

[Test Results Reporting Site](#)

STAR 2008 results are now available.

[2008 STAR Program Summary of Results](#) (Posted 15-Aug-2008; DOC; 372KB; 16pp.)

[Testing Variations, Accommodations, and Modifications](#) (Posted 01-11-2008; DOC; 2.3MB; 6pp.)

[Program Resources](#)

Copyright permission, performance level tables, reference sheets, California Standards Tests blueprints, writing guides, sample test questions, information and assistance packets, and technical reports.

[CAPA Alternate Performance Assessment \(CAPA\)](#)

[California Modified Assessment \(CMA\)](#)

[Administrative Documents](#)

STAR regulations, Pre-ID, apportionment, and item and time charts.

[Program Notes](#)

STAR Assessment Notes.

5. Click **California Standards Test (CST) Released Questions**

Program Resources
Supplemental information for the STAR Program.

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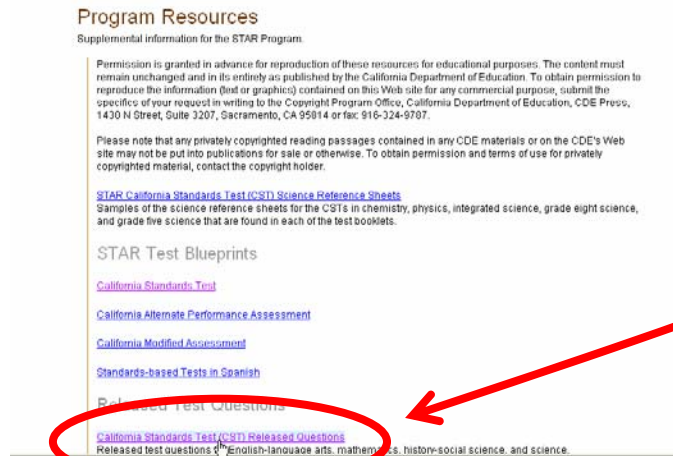
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[STAR California Standards Test \(CST\) Science Reference Sheets](#)
Samples of the science reference sheets for the CSTs in chemistry, physics, integrated science, grade eight science, and grade five science that are found in each of the test booklets.

STAR Test Blueprints

- [California Standards Test](#)
- [California Alternate Performance Assessment](#)
- [California Modified Assessment](#)
- [Standards-based Tests in Spanish](#)
- [Released Test Questions](#)

[California Standards Test \(CST\) Released Questions](#)
Released test questions in English-language arts, mathematics, history-social science, and science.



6. Under **Mathematics**, click **Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II**

Mathematics

[Grade 2](#) (PDF; 3.8MB; 49pp.)

[Grade 3](#) (PDF; 784KB; 32pp.)

[Grade 4](#) (PDF; 706KB; 31pp.)

[Grade 5](#) (PDF; 1.3MB; 30pp.)

[Grade 6](#) (PDF; 554KB; 27pp.)

[Grade 7](#) (PDF; 1.1MB; 30pp.)

[Geometry](#) (PDF; 607KB; 35pp.)

[Algebra I](#) (PDF; 1.1MB; 27pp.)

[Algebra II](#) (PDF; 736KB; 27pp.)

