

Parent PARCC Information

February 2015



Common Core

- Illinois adopted Common Core in 2010
- 45 states have adopted Common Core



Options for testing Common Core

- SBAC – Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
- PARCC – Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers
- ACT Aspire
- Customized state tests (e.g., Indiana, Florida)



Why are there tests?

- To assess state school systems
- To assess districts within a state
- To assess schools within a district
- To assess teachers (new evaluation requirement)



PARCC

- Illinois and 8 other states are using PARCC this year



ISAT (previous state test) vs. PARCC

ISAT	PARCC
Tested reading, math and science	Testing reading and math
Tested grades 3-8	Testing Grades 3-8 and high school
Could compare only within Illinois	Can compare across 9 states
Took 6-7 hours	Takes 13- 15 hours
Tested on less rigorous Illinois Standards	Tests on more demanding standards
Tested only in March	Tests in March and May



What has D200 done to prepare?

- Tried to limit PARCC practice
- Raised the rigor of our standards
- Created our own online district tests
- Gave teachers resources to help with tech skills if needed
- Tested on district technology
- Attended many information sessions



What are the concerns?

- Diminishing instructional time
- Lower percentages of students passing, especially at first
- Possible tech testing program glitches
- Possible student frustration at test length
- Validity of high school comparisons
- Lack of state wide data (Chicago Public Schools is using with only a few schools)



Late Breaking News

- On Tuesday, February 2, the state gave districts the opportunity to request PARCC as a paper test



D200 Decision to not take PARCC on line

- D200 had made sure our tech was ready
- D200 had prepared staff as best we could
- D200 believes in the importance of on line testing

.... We are not confident in the PARCC on line assessment system.



When will PARCC happen?

- Our three week window will be from March 9 – March 27. Schools will determine exact testing dates.
- There will be another testing window in May.

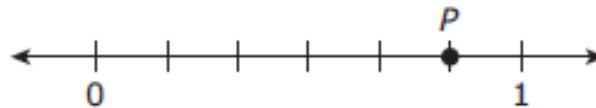


Questions before Sample Questions



3rd Math Performance-Based Assessment

Mia placed point P on the number line.



- Give the value of the number P as a fraction.
- What does the denominator of your fraction represent on the number line?
- What does the numerator of your fraction represent on the number line?

Enter your answer and your explanation in the space provided.



5th Math Performance-Based Assessment

Shannon is building a rectangular garden that is 18 feet wide and 27 feet long.

Part A

Write an equation that represents the area of Shannon's garden. In your equation, let g represent the area of Shannon's garden. Then solve your equation.

Part B

Shannon is putting a fence around the garden, except where there is a gate that is 3 feet wide.

One foot of the fence costs \$43. The cost of the gate is \$128.

Write an expression that represents the total cost of the fence and the gate.

Explain how you determined your expression.

Part C

Use your expression from Part B to find the total cost, in dollars, of the fence and the gate.



3rd Math End-of-Year

Which **two** statements can be represented by the expression 4×8 ?

- Ⓐ A teacher puts 8 chairs at each of 4 tables.
- Ⓑ Tom buys 4 red markers and 8 black markers.
- Ⓒ Marie shares her 8 marbles equally among 4 friends.
- Ⓓ There are 4 rows of flowers. There are 8 flowers in each row.
- Ⓔ There are 8 ducks in the pond. Then, 4 more ducks join them.



5th Math End-of-Year

Len walks $\frac{3}{10}$ mile in the morning to school. He walks $\frac{2}{5}$ mile in the afternoon to a friend's house.

Len says that he walks a total of $\frac{5}{15}$ mile in the morning and afternoon.

Which **two** statements are true?

- Ⓐ Since $\frac{3}{10}$ plus $\frac{2}{5}$ is $\frac{5}{15}$, the total of $\frac{5}{15}$ is reasonable.
- Ⓑ Since $\frac{5}{15}$ is less than $\frac{2}{5}$, the total of $\frac{5}{15}$ is not reasonable.
- Ⓒ The fractions $\frac{5}{15}$, $\frac{3}{10}$, and $\frac{2}{5}$ are all less than $\frac{1}{2}$, so the total of $\frac{5}{15}$ is reasonable.
- Ⓓ The fraction $\frac{5}{15}$ is $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$ is greater than $\frac{3}{10}$. Since $\frac{5}{15}$ is greater than one of the addends, the total of $\frac{5}{15}$ is reasonable.
- Ⓔ The fractions $\frac{3}{10}$ and $\frac{2}{5}$ are each greater than $\frac{1}{4}$, so the total must be greater than $\frac{1}{2}$. The fraction $\frac{5}{15}$ is less than $\frac{1}{2}$, so the total of $\frac{5}{15}$ is not reasonable.



4th English Language Arts Performance-Based Assessment

English Language Arts/Literacy

Today you will research wild horses in the United States and read three articles about them. As you review these sources, you will gather information about the illustrations and answer questions about wild horses so you can write an essay.

Read the passage from "The Wild Horses of Assateague Island." Then answer questions 3 through 10.

from "The Wild Horses of Assateague Island"



Wild Horses of Assateague Island. Photo by Peter H. Ravn, US Department of the Interior.

A National Treasure

1 The wild horses of Assateague Island are descendants of domesticated animals brought to the island over 300 years ago. Horses tough enough to survive the scorching heat, abundant insects, storms, weather, and poor quality food found on this windswept barrier island have formed a unique wild horse society. Enjoy their lonely lives a distance, and you can help make sure these extraordinary wild horses will continue to thrive on Assateague Island.

2 "My treasure do not click together or glitter. —They gleam in the sun and neigh in the night." —debrale provins.

Where did they come from?

Were the horses shipwreck survivors . . .

3 Louis L'Amore describes the Assateague horses as survivors of a shipwreck off the Virginia coast. While this dramatic tale of struggle and survival is popular, there are no records yet that confirm it.

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English Language Arts/Literacy



Wild Horses of Assateague Island. Photo by Peter H. Ravn, US Department of the Interior.

... or settlers' horses?

4 During the 17th century free-roaming horses, cows, sheep and pigs caused extensive crop damage to local farms. Farmers were required to pay taxes on all mainland livestock and fence them in.

5 Like people in the 21st century, these resourceful coastal residents looked for ways to avoid paying this tax. They turned to nearby Assateague Island with its abundance of food, shelter and a natural "corral" made of water to solve their problems.

6 It is likely that modern Assateague horses are descendants of those hardy animals turned loose on the island to graze tax-free.

Living the wild life in Maryland

7 Assateague's horses are uniquely adapted to survive on a barrier island. How do they do it?

What do they eat?

8 The horses spend most of their time grazing an abundant but nutrient-poor saltmarsh cordgrass, salt-tolerant rice and beach grass. The horses' short stature is a result of hundreds of years of adaptation to this low quality diet. Genetically they are considered horses, even though they are now pony size.

9 The Assateague horses drink over twice the amount of water that domesticated horses will due to their salty food supply. All that drinking combined with a high salt diet contributes to their bloated appearance.

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English Language Arts/Literacy

Where do they live throughout the year?

10 Spring brings cool, rainy weather and fresh plant growth to the island. Many of the horses live in the marshes close to their best food sources. Foals are usually born in late spring and live with their mothers in a family group called a "band." Each band is usually made up of 2-30 mares, their offspring, and a stallion.

11 Hot, humid, and full of insects, summer brings a new set of challenges. The horses escape the mosquitoes and flies of the marsh by spending more time on the beach and in the surf, letting the refreshing ocean breeze carry away airborne pests. Cooler fall weather and fewer insects allow the bands to move from the beaches back to the marshes and their abundant grasses.

12 The horses prefer to browse in shrub thickets during the damp, chilly, winter season. Their thick, heavy coats will protect them from ferocious winter winds and the occasional snowstorm.

Do they receive veterinary care?

13 While action may be taken to end the suffering of a severely ill, seriously injured, or dying horse, no measures are taken to prolong the lives of Maryland's wild horses. As with other species of Assateague wildlife, horses that are sick or weak do not survive. This helps maintain a hardy, healthy population of wild horses.

14 Virginia's horses are privately owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department and receive some veterinary care.

Where can you see the wild horses?

In Maryland

15 Maryland's horses are owned and managed by the National Park Service. They are free-roaming wildlife and could be anywhere in the park. During the summer months many bands can be found on the beach. You can often see the horses and other wildlife by driving slowly along park roads. Protect island habitat by parking only in designated parking areas. The "Life of the Forest" and "Life of the Marsh" trails are good places to look, especially during spring, fall and winter seasons.

16 Do not feed or pet the horses. Horses that learn to come up to the road are hit and killed by cars.

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Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 7 of "The Wild Horses of Assateague Island."

Assateague's horses are uniquely adapted to survive on a barrier island.

What does the word **adapted** mean as it is used in the sentence?

- Ⓐ chosen because of a gentle manner
- Ⓑ changed in order to fit certain conditions
- Ⓒ cared for because of harsh living conditions
- Ⓓ colored in order to match the surroundings

Part B

Which statement from "The Wild Horses of Assateague Island" **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "Genetically they are considered horses, even though they are now pony size."
- Ⓑ "Many of the horses live in the marshes close to their best food sources."
- Ⓒ "Foals are usually born in late spring"
- Ⓓ "This helps maintain a hardy, healthy population of wild horses."



Part A

Which statement provides the **best** explanation of why the Assateague horses have survived on the barrier island for so long?

- (A) The townspeople have kept the horses as pets for many years.
- (B) The horses are protected when visitors drive cautiously.
- (C) The horses adjusted to the island.
- (D) The fire department provides the horses with some veterinary care.

Part B

Which sentence from "The Wild Horses of Assateague Island" **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) "The wild horses of Assateague Island are descendants of domesticated animals brought to the island over 300 years ago."
- (B) "The Assateague horses drink over twice the amount of water that domesticated horses will due to their salty food supply."
- (C) "Virginia's horses are privately owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department and receive some veterinary care."
- (D) "You can often see the horses and other wildlife by driving slowly along park roads."



Part A

Which statement about how the horses came to live on Assateague Island has the **most** support in “The Wild Horses of Assateague Island”?

- Ⓐ The horses were placed on the island by the government.
- Ⓑ The horses swam to the island after a shipwreck.
- Ⓒ The horses were put on the island by farmers.
- Ⓓ The horses were native to the island.

Part B

Which phrase from “The Wild Horses of Assateague Island” **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . dramatic tale of struggle and survival . . .”
- Ⓑ “. . . descendants of those hardy animals turned loose . . .”
- Ⓒ “. . . owned and managed by the National Park Service.”
- Ⓓ “. . . free-roaming wildlife and could be anywhere . . .”



Good Resources

- PARCC assessment info under parent resources on D200 website (www.cusd200.org)
- PARCC practice tests - one for each grade level in math and English Language Arts (ELA)
- PTA PARCC

