



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Performance Assessment of Standards and Skills (PASS)

1. What is Performance Assessment of Standards and Skills (PASS)?

PASS is a standards-based assessment tool developed by GRACE which is designed to measure the proficiency level of students in the competencies and standards set by the Department of Education (DepEd).

2. What type of test is PASS?

PASS is a paper-and-pencil form of assessment with structured (multiple-choice questions) and unstructured questions (i.e. constructed response type and essay questions).

3. What are the unique features of PASS?

PASS is a summative and criterion-referenced test that assesses student performance against a set of predetermined learning standards based on the latest K-12 curriculum guides of DepEd. PASS provides concise written descriptions of what students are expected to know and able to do at a specific grade level. It also evaluates the extent to which they have learned a specific set of knowledge and skills.

4. What are the subjects and grade levels covered in PASS?

PASS is offered to Grades 1-10 students and it covers the five (5) major subject areas of the K-12 curriculum namely: English, Math, Science, Filipino, and Araling Panlipunan. It is the prerogative of the client school to choose which subject/s and grade level/s they would like their students to be tested on.

5. How were the items/questions for PASS formulated?

In ensuring the quality of its assessment tool (PASS), GRACE underwent the standard and stringent process of test development. Anchored on a conceptual framework using Anderson and Krathwohl's Cognitive Process Dimensions, a team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from various fields and disciplines were commissioned to develop items/questions based on the Test of Specifications (TOS) formulated by GRACE. The initial items were then subjected to an external item review by another panel of SMEs. After a rigorous process of content validation, the items were pilot tested with selected private schools across the country. Data collated from the pilot test was used to conduct item analysis and establish PASS psychometric properties in order to develop the final set of items.

6. Are the tests valid and reliable?

PASS tests were tested in for internal consistency reliability and for construct validity. Cronbach alpha values on the various scales of the PASS tests range from 0.6 to 0.8. Construct validity evidence is also available for all of the tests. In addition, convergent validity in studies correlating PASS scores with teacher-assessment scores was also established and contrast group's studies on the PASS tests shows significant differences in the performance of low and high groups at alpha = .05

7. How did GRACE come up with the proficiency levels for PASS?

Despite the release of a more recent grading system per DO 8, s. 2015, GRACE still uses the proficiency levels in DO 73, s. 2012. The grading system stated in the previous order is more consistent with standards-based assessment and its description levels can accurately demonstrate understanding and mastery of knowledge and skills that students are expected to learn. The proficiency levels are as follows:

PROFICIENCY LEVEL	INTERPRETATION
Beginning	The student at this level struggles with his/her understanding; prerequisite and fundamental knowledge and/or skills have not been acquired or developed adequately to aid understanding.
Developing	The student at this level possesses the minimum knowledge and skills and core understandings, but needs help throughout the performance of authentic tasks.
Approaching Proficiency	The student at this level has developed the fundamental knowledge and skills and core understandings and, with little guidance from the teacher and/or with some assistance from peers, can transfer these understandings through authentic performance tasks.
Proficient	The student at this level has developed the fundamental knowledge and skills and core understandings, and can transfer them independently through authentic performance tasks.
Advanced	The student at this level exceeds the core requirements in terms of knowledge, skills and understandings, and can transfer them automatically and flexibly through authentic performance tasks.

*Proficiency levels are color coded as listed above.

8. What are the procedures for availing of the PASS assessment services of GRACE?

Once the client school decides to avail of the assessment service, GRACE immediately coordinates with the school administrator/principal through an agent from Phoenix Publishing House (PPH) to formally sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) effective for one (1) year. GRACE will then contact a representative from the client school for details on the test administration.

9. Who will administer the test?

In practice, the client school has two (2) options for test administration:

- (1) The school may opt to request their teachers to serve as proctors. In such case, GRACE will set a 1-hour briefing for teachers scheduled two (2) days before the testing date to orient the teachers regarding the PASS test administration policies and procedures. A proctor's fee will be provided for the assigned teachers and the distribution of payment will be coordinated with the school administrator/principal.
- (2) The school may request for GRACE to provide the proctoring services. In this case, GRACE will provide trained examiners and proctors to administer the test to the students of the school.

10. What is the difference between the pre-test and post-test? Why is it important to take both?

The PASS pre-test is typically administered at the beginning of the school year to measure the pre-existing knowledge of students, whereas the post-test is conducted at the end of the school year to compare the knowledge attained after instructional interventions done by the teacher. Having both the pre-test and the post-test would result in a concise and effective evaluation of student progression and learning throughout the school year.

11. What will the school receive after the test administration?

After the test administration, GRACE will provide the client school with comprehensive PASS test reports with description of the grade level standards and domains taken verbatim from the DepEd K-12 curriculum guides. The reports are divided into three categories:

PASS REPORTS	
Individual reports	Individual Profile Report (IR)
	Individual Competency Performance Report (ICPR)
	Individual Progress Report (ICPR)*
Class report	Summary report for class teachers
School reports	School report (SR)
	School Competency Performance Report (SCPR)
	School Progress Report (SPR)*

*For client schools who availed both the pre-test and post-test

12. How are the reports made?

The PASS test uses Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) answer sheets for scanning therefore blank responses are disregarded. The scanner produces a soft copy of datasets to be scored and processed into reports by licensed psychometricians. A Quality Assurance (QA) team will then review the generated reports for further validation and evaluation.

13. How are essay responses scored?

Essay responses are manually scored by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) using holistic scoring rubrics on selected grade levels. The scores are then encoded in the datasets endorsed to the psychometricians for processing.

14. When will the reports be delivered?

The reports will be delivered fourteen (14) working days after the testing date for Metro Manila schools and twenty-one (21) working days for provincial schools.