

Guiding Principles

Principle 1: The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning.

Principle 2: Assessment systems are fair to students.

Principle 3: Professional development and partnerships support assessment.

Principle 4: Communication about assessment is regular and clear.

Principle 5: Assessment systems are regularly reviewed and improve.

See:

www.education.gov.ab.ca/k%5F12/testing/diploma

For General Information, Guides for Students, Subject Bulletins, Examples of the Standards for Student Writing, Data Booklets, Previous Diploma Examinations and Answer Keys, Information for Students Planning to Write Diploma Examinations, etc.



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GRADE 12
DIPLOMA
EXAMINATIONS
PARENT
INFORMATION

Strong Like Two People



*For more information:
www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/testing/diploma/default.asp*

Who Writes the Exams?

Students who are currently enrolled in an Alberta Examination subject must write the Alberta examination in that subject in order to receive credit. Students who already have a mark in a diploma examination course and wish to improve their mark can write the exam. Mature students can write the exam without taking the course first, challenging the exam.

Alberta Grade 12 Diploma Examinations are mandatory in the following courses:

- English 30-1, 30-2
- Pure Math 30 and Applied Math 30
- Social Studies 30 and 33
- Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, and Science 30
- French Language Arts 30

To qualify for a Graduation Diploma, students must complete an Alberta examination in English 30-1 or English 30-2. These examinations are worth 50% of the final mark in English and the school-awarded mark is worth the other 50%.

Examination Details

English 30-1 and English 30-2: These exams have two parts and are written on two separate days:

- Part A: Written Response (50%)
- Part B: Reading (50%)

Pure Math 30 and Applied Math 30: These exams are written in two parts, on two separate days.

- Part A: Written response (1 hour)
- Part B: Multiple choice (machine scored, 2 hours)

Social Studies 30 and 33: These exams have two parts:

- Part A: Written Response (30%)
- Part B: Multiple Choice (70%)

Physics 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Science 30:

Again, these exams are written in two parts:

- Part A: Written Responses
- Part B: Multiple Choice (machine-scored)

When are the exams written?

The diploma examinations are written in January, June and August. The exams are scheduled to the date and time of administration. Student must be registered prior to the exam date. Students are permitted an additional one-half hour to complete their examinations.

How are the exams marked?

The examinations are marked at a central location. Personal information, including the school name, is removed from each examination booklet before it is marked. The machine-scorable answer sheets are marked by scanning machines. Written responses are marked independently by one or more teacher markers. These markers must meet specific qualifications in order to mark the diploma examinations.

Are there special provisions?

Accommodations, such as additional time, CD versions of examinations, large print, and Braille are available if students have a special diploma examination writing need.

How are the final marks calculated?

To pass a diploma examination course, students must earn a final blended mark of at least 50%. For all courses, your school mark and your diploma examination mark are each worth 50% of your total mark.

If a student repeats a course or rewrites a diploma examination, the most recent school mark will be blended with the most recent diploma examination mark to produce the final mark

How are the marks delivered?

The Results Statement will be mailed to the student about three weeks after the last examination.

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