GRADE 8

Arts Assessment

Information About The Nation’s Report Card

2016
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I. About This Booklet

On behalf of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), I want to thank you for your participation in this essential measure of student achievement in the United States. NAEP tells us what students in our country know and can do. In the coming year, eighth-graders will participate in the NAEP arts assessment. This assessment requires approximately 120 minutes of a student’s time, and each student will be assessed in either music or visual arts. Students will also complete brief questionnaires about themselves and their educational experiences. For example, students may be asked if they play a musical instrument, if they keep a sketchbook, or if they have visited an art museum on their own time.

NAEP is voluntary. Results are reported for the nation in all subjects, and for states and selected large urban districts in certain subjects, but not for individual schools or students. Answers to all student questions are confidential and student names are removed from all assessment materials before they leave the school. Results of the 2016 arts assessment will be reported only on a national level as The Nation’s Report Card (www.nationsreportcard.gov). Assessment results are widely discussed in the press and are used by elected officials, policymakers, educators, and researchers to make decisions about education policy and to improve education.

The national assessment results are more useful when parents, educators, and policymakers are able to study the proficiencies (or scores) and gain information about student experience, the school environment, and learning opportunities available to students. The questionnaires provide educators and policymakers with contextual information for the assessment, as well as information about factors related to students’ learning. This booklet includes the questionnaires for music and visual arts as well as sample questions in order to promote understanding of the assessment.

If you have any questions or comments regarding NAEP or would like to view previous report cards, please visit the NAEP website at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard.

Peggy G. Carr, Ph.D.
Acting Commissioner
National Center for Education Statistics
Institute of Education Sciences
II. The NAEP Assessments

Each NAEP assessment is built around an organizing framework, which is the blueprint that guides the development of the assessment. The National Assessment Governing Board oversees the development of the NAEP frameworks, which describe the specific knowledge and skills to be assessed in each subject. Frameworks incorporate ideas and input from subject area experts, school administrators, policymakers, teachers, parents, and others.

The arts assessment includes two components: music and visual arts. Each student will be assessed in only one of these components.

The Arts Assessment

Music

The NAEP music assessment measures what students know and can do in the field of music. This includes knowledge and understanding of musical works, such as their personal, historical, cultural, and social contexts; and perceptual, technical, and intellectual/reflective skills evidenced in evaluating musical works.

Each student participating in the assessment will take two timed cognitive blocks that contain multiple-choice questions, as well as short and extended constructed-response questions. Students participating in the music assessment may be asked to

- describe and identify music that is played, using musical terms,
- demonstrate understanding of musical notation, and
- evaluate the quality and effectiveness of others’ performances.

Visual Arts

The NAEP visual arts assessment measures what students know and can do in visual arts. This includes knowledge and understanding of works of visual art, such as their personal, historical, cultural, and social contexts for artworks; and perceptual, technical, and intellectual/reflective skills evidenced in the creation and evaluation of works of art.

Each student participating in the assessment will take two timed cognitive blocks that contain multiple-choice questions, as well as short and extended constructed-response questions. Students participating in the visual arts assessment may be asked to

- look at reproductions of artworks from a variety of genres and cultural contexts, analyze and describe different characteristics of the works, describe the historical and social contexts of the works, and create and reflect upon their own artworks; and
- consider principles of the design of practical objects. Use aesthetic and pragmatic considerations to design new objects.
Booklet Directions

In each of the next two sections, you will answer a series of questions about music or art. You should think carefully about your answers, and you should use all the time available to complete each section.

You will be asked to respond to several different types of questions. Some of the questions will require you to choose the best answer and fill in the oval for that answer in your booklet.

Example 1

The artwork Guernica is a

- painting
- sculpture
- bas relief
- installation

For other questions, you will be asked to write short answers on the blank lines provided in your booklet. Here is an example of a question that requires you to provide a short answer.

Example 2

Identify one characteristic of the work that helps to identify it as being a contemporary work of art.

The artist takes a common object and makes it much bigger than it really is.
You will also be asked to answer some questions by writing longer, more detailed responses on a full page of blank lines. For example, here is a question that requires you to provide a longer answer.

**Example 3**

Explain three reasons why the song you just heard was used by people doing work in fields.

The song was good for people doing work for three reasons. It has a slow steady beat. It has long words to learn. It also has a nice melody. This is why people use this music to work.

When you are asked to write your response, be sure that your handwriting is clear. Think carefully about each question, and make your answers as complete as possible, using as many lines as you need.

Finally, in some questions you may be asked to draw pictures or work with other materials.

If you finish before time is called, be sure to look at your work again and change anything in your answers that you think will make them better.

Do not go past the STOP sign until you are told to do so.
III. Sample Questions

Music

The following sample questions and correct responses are from the music portion of a previous arts assessment. They are related to one of three songs a student would hear on a CD.

1. What instruments do you hear in this piece?
   - Guitars
   - Violins
   - Flutes
   - Trumpets

2. Mark an X by all of the things that you heard in this song:
   - [X] Verses that were repeated
   - [X] A group of people singing all together
   - [ ] A woman singing by herself
   - [ ] Brass instruments playing
   - [ ] Drums playing a steady beat
   - [ ] Violins playing a melody

3. Describe two ways in which the beat changed in the part of the music that you just heard. Use musical terms in your response.

   1. I heard a gradual ritardando.
   2. Then, I heard it speed back up gradually.
Visual Arts

The following sample questions and correct responses are from the visual arts portion of a previous arts assessment. They are related to a set of prints a student would receive in a packet.

1. Which statement best describes an important difference between painting number 1 and painting number 2?
   - The interior space is defined by simplification of form in painting number 1, and by realism in painting number 2.
   - Painting number 1 shows an aerial view of the interior space, while painting number 2 shows the interior space from the eye level of the people in the painting.
   - Painting number 1 uses one-point perspective and painting number 2 uses two-point perspective.
   - Negative space plays a larger role in painting number 1 than in painting number 2.

2. Painting number 1 is characterized by
   - minimal contrast between colors
   - flat areas of color
   - the use of soft light
   - a wide range of textures

3. Which statement best describes how space has been organized in painting number 2?
   - Perspective is used to show both shallow and deep space.
   - Flat objects and lines create spatial tension.
   - Objects are arranged to create a feeling of open, uncluttered space.
   - High contrast of colors defines near and far space.
IV. Contextual Questionnaire

Grade 8

DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

Example 1

1. How often do you watch movies on TV?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>Once or twice a week</th>
<th>Almost every day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

Example 2

2. Which event would you prefer to attend?

☐ basketball game
☐ car show
☐ concert
☐ play

Make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

Do not go past the STOP sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.
In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. Please answer questions about your home based on where you live most of the time during the school year. The section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only one oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in one or more ovals.
   - ☐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in one or more ovals.
   - ☐ White
   - ☐ Black or African American
   - ☐ Asian
   - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
3. About how many books are there in your home?
   - Few (0–10)
   - Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
   - Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
   - Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

4. Is there a computer at home that you use?
   - Yes
   - No

5. Do you have the following in your home? Fill in ovals for all that apply.
   - Access to the Internet
   - Clothes dryer just for your family
   - Dishwasher
   - More than one bathroom
   - Your own bedroom

6. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?
   - 5 or fewer
   - 6–10
   - 11–15
   - 16–20
   - More than 20

7. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?
   - Never or hardly ever
   - Once every few weeks
   - About once a week
   - Two or three times a week
   - Every day

8. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?
   - None
   - 1 or 2 days
   - 3 or 4 days
   - 5 to 10 days
   - More than 10 days
9. How far in school did your mother go?
   ☐ She did not finish high school.
   ☐ She graduated from high school.
   ☐ She had some education after high school.
   ☐ She graduated from college.
   ☐ I don’t know.

10. How far in school did your father go?
    ☐ He did not finish high school.
    ☐ He graduated from high school.
    ☐ He had some education after high school.
    ☐ He graduated from college.
    ☐ I don’t know.

11. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?
    ☐ Never
    ☐ Once in a while
    ☐ About half of the time
    ☐ All or most of the time

12. Do the following people live in your home? Fill in ovals for all that apply.
    ☐ Mother
    ☐ Stepmother
    ☐ Foster mother or other female legal guardian
    ☐ Father
    ☐ Stepfather
    ☐ Foster father or other male legal guardian

13. Write the ZIP code of your home address in the boxes.
V. Subject Questionnaires

Music

This section has 10 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Follow the instructions for each question.

1. How much do you agree with each of the following statements? Fill in one oval on each line.

a. I like to listen to music.

b. I like to play music alone or with others.

c. I think I have talent for music.

d. People tell me I am a good musician.

e. I like to play music for other people.

f. I would like to be a musician when I grow up.

2. When you take music class in school, how often does your teacher do each of the following things? Fill in one oval on each line.

a. Play music for you to listen to

b. Ask you to sing

c. Ask you to play instruments

d. Ask you to write down music

e. Ask you to work on group assignments

f. Ask you to make up your own music

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
3. Which of the following activities do you do in school? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Play in a band</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Play in an orchestra</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Sing in a chorus or choir</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Take private singing lessons</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Take private lessons on an instrument</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Do you have your own musical instrument?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

5. In the last year, how many times did you go with your class to a concert?
   ☐ None
   ☐ 1 or 2 times
   ☐ 3 or more times
6. When you are not in school, do you ever do the following things on your own, not in connection with schoolwork? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Play with a group, band, or orchestra</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Sing in a group, chorus, or choir</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Play a musical instrument on your own</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Take private lessons on a musical instrument or in singing</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Listen to a musical tape, CD, or record</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Enter a music competition</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Go to a summer music program</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Read a book about music</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Watch a videotape or television program about music</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Talk with your family or friends about music</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Have you ever listened to a musical performance in any of the following places? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. At school</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. On the street or outdoors</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. In a theater</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. On television</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?
   ☐ Easier than other tests
   ☐ About as hard as other tests
   ☐ Harder than other tests
   ☐ Much harder than other tests

9. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?
   ☐ Not as hard as on other tests
   ☐ About as hard as on other tests
   ☐ Harder than on other tests
   ☐ Much harder than on other tests

10. How important was it to you to do well on this test?
    ☐ Not very important
    ☐ Somewhat important
    ☐ Important
    ☐ Very important
Visual Arts

This section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Follow the instructions for each question.

1. How much do you agree with each of the following statements? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. I like to look at art.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. I like to do artwork.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. I think I have talent for art.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. People tell me I am a good artist.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. I like to show my artwork to other people.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. I would like to be an artist when I grow up.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Are you taking an art course now, or have you taken an art course this year?

☐ Yes

☐ No
3. When you have art in school, how often does your teacher have you do the following things? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every day</th>
<th>Once a week</th>
<th>Once a month</th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Paint or draw</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Make things out of clay or other materials</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Choose your own art project</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Work in a pair or a group on an art project</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Talk with others about your artwork or that of other students</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Write about your artwork</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Look at videotapes, filmstrips, slides, or television programs about art</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Work with a camera, computer, or photocopier to make artwork</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. How often does your teacher have you show your artwork in an exhibit?
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a year
- Never or hardly ever

5. In school, do you ever illustrate your work in other subjects?
- Yes
- No

6. Do you keep an art journal or sketchbook in school?
- Yes
- No

7. Do either you or your teacher save your artwork in a portfolio?
- Yes
- No
8. How often do you have homework for art class?
- ☐ About once a week
- ☐ About once a month
- ☐ Never or hardly ever

9. In the last year, how many times did you go with your class to an art museum, gallery, or exhibit?
- ☐ None
- ☐ 1 or 2 times
- ☐ 3 or more times

10. When you are not in school, do you ever do the following things on your own, not in connection with schoolwork? Fill in one oval on each line.

   a. Go to an art museum or exhibit
   b. Take art classes
   c. Make artwork
   d. Exhibit your artwork
   e. Enter an art competition
   f. Go to a summer art program
   g. Look at or read a book about art
   h. Watch a videotape or television program about art
   i. Talk with your family or friends about art
   j. Visit an artist's studio
   k. Keep an art journal or sketchbook
11. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?
   ☐ Easier than other tests
   ☐ About as hard as other tests
   ☐ Harder than other tests
   ☐ Much harder than other tests

12. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?
   ☐ Not as hard as on other tests
   ☐ About as hard as on other tests
   ☐ Harder than on other tests
   ☐ Much harder than on other tests

13. How important was it to you to do well on this test?
   ☐ Not very important
   ☐ Somewhat important
   ☐ Important
   ☐ Very important
VI. About NAEP

**NAEP OVERVIEW.** NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation’s students know and can do in various academic subjects. NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about the NAEP program, visit the NAEP website at [http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard) or call 202–502–7420.

**PARTICIPATION.** States and districts that receive Title I funds are required to participate in biennial NAEP reading and mathematics assessments at grades 4 and 8. Student participation is always voluntary. Learn more about participation in NAEP at [https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.aspx](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.aspx), or contact your school’s NAEP coordinator for details.

**NAEP CONTENT.** The National Assessment Governing Board sets policy for NAEP and oversees the creation of the NAEP frameworks, which describe the specific knowledge and skills that should be assessed in each subject. For additional information on framework development, see the Governing Board’s website at [http://www.nagb.org/publications/frameworks.htm](http://www.nagb.org/publications/frameworks.htm).

**NAEP SECURE QUESTIONS.** On written request, adults may review NAEP questions and instruments still in use. These arrangements must be made in advance, and persons reviewing the assessment may not remove the booklets from the room, copy them, or take notes. Contact your school’s NAEP coordinator for more information.

**NAEP PUBLICATIONS.** NAEP reports and brochures can be searched and downloaded from the NAEP website at [http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.** For prompt field staff support on these or other matters, call the NAEP Help Desk at 800–283–6237.

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