

## Quick Reference

### *Teachers' Guide to Statewide Assessment*

### *Social Studies*

- 1) Read the Test Design for Social Studies on pages 1–9. This section provides information on the approximate weight of each strand for each grade level, identifies stimulus material that could be used, provides the World History and Geography Alert for grades 8 and 11, and outlines specific information about Part B of the test. Page 11 has the structure of the benchmark codes, a very helpful guide in how to read the codes.
- 2) Read the Assessment Framework for each grade level. We have identified the benchmarks assessed, the key concepts, the contents limits for each category under each strand, and have provided a description of the test questions. (Grade 4–pages E1-E31; Grade 8–pages M1-M40; Grade 11–pages H1-H49)
- 3) Use sample items provided for each grade level. (Grade 4–pages E32-E66; Grade 8–pages M41-M92; Grade 11–pages H50-H108)
- 4) In the appendix, we have provided the standards and benchmarks for the *Louisiana Social Studies Content Standards* and LEAP 21 Scoring Information.
- 5) Always read the content limits in each thematic category. In addition, identify benchmarks that are **not** assessed on the exam.
- 6) Use the key concepts from each thematic category to introduce topics. They provide a great source for “words of the day” or lessons.
- 7) Use the ideas from the *Teachers' Guide* to create constructed-response items, using the key concepts and benchmarks as guides.

**Grade 4 tips:**

- ◆ *Geography* - This strand is straightforward. Read all of the benchmarks to identify how you can integrate them in your daily lessons.
- ◆ *Civics* - Note that thematic categories A and D have the majority of benchmarks.
- ◆ *Economics* - This is traditionally the lowest performing area. However, there are only two thematic categories. Focus on them, please!
- ◆ *History* - Pay close attention to thematic category C (U.S. and LA History).

**Grade 8 tips:**

- ◆ *Geography* - This strand is straightforward. Read all of the benchmarks to identify how you can integrate them in your daily lessons.
- ◆ *Civics*- Look at page M-14. Look for stimulus material under the Description of Test questions.
- ◆ *Economics* - Only 3 strands. Focus on benchmarks and concepts.
- ◆ *History* - Note U.S. and World History Eras covered (Page M-29 is helpful for stimulus material).

**Grade 11 tips:**

- ◆ *Geography* - This strand is straightforward. Read all of the benchmarks to identify how you can integrate them in your daily lessons.
- ◆ *Civics*- Be familiar with possible stimulus material.
- ◆ *Economics* - Focus closely on content limits in this section. There are several important notes.
- ◆ *History*- Be sure to read the stimulus material on page H35. The Part B key concepts are very useful. Be sure to note the World History limits in Part C.