

# CHSPE Test Section Specifications

The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) consists of two test sections: **English Language Arts (ELA)** and **Mathematics**. Both sections must be passed to receive a Certificate of Proficiency.

The ELA section consists of two subtests: **Language** and **Reading**. To pass the ELA section, both subtests must be passed. The two subtests do not have to be passed at the same test administration and can be taken separately.

## About the Mathematics Section

The Mathematics section has **50 multiple-choice questions** that assess content in the following areas: number sense and operations; patterns, relationships, and algebra; data, statistics, and probability; and geometry and measurement. The questions also assess the mathematical processes of communication and representation, estimation, mathematical connections, and reasoning and problem solving. A reference sheet containing necessary formulas is provided.

### Number of Questions by Area

Area	Number of Questions
Number Sense and Operations	9
Patterns, Relationships, and Algebra	15
Data, Statistics, and Probability	12
Geometry and Measurement	14
<b>Total Questions</b>	<b>50</b>

## About the ELA Section - Reading Subtest

The Reading subtest has 54 reading comprehension questions and 30 vocabulary questions, **all of which are multiple-choice**. The reading comprehension questions test initial understanding, interpretation, critical analysis, and strategies using three types of text: literary, informational, and functional. The vocabulary questions assess synonyms, multiple meaning words, and context clues.

### Number of Questions by Area

Area	Content Cluster	Number of Questions
Comprehension	Initial Understanding	10
Comprehension	Interpretation	20
Comprehension	Critical Analysis	14
Comprehension	Strategies	10
Vocabulary	Synonyms	12
Vocabulary	Multiple Meaning Words	6
Vocabulary	Context Clues	12
<b>Total Questions</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>84</b>

## About the ELA Section - Language Subtest

The Language subtest has 48 multiple-choice questions and one writing task, **both of which must be completed at the same administration**. Please note that if only the writing task or only the multiple-choice questions are taken in one administration, the Language subtest cannot be passed.

The multiple-choice questions measure language mechanics and language expression. For the writing task an expository essay is written, which will be scored on both writing proficiency and ability to address the subject.

### Number of Questions by Area

Area	Content Cluster	Number of Questions
Mechanics	Capitalization	8
Mechanics	Usage	8
Mechanics	Punctuation	8
Expressions	Sentence Structure	10
Expressions	Prewriting	5
Expressions	Content and Organization	9
<b>Total Questions</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>48</b>
Writing Task	Writing Task	1

## Passing the CHSPE

### Passing the ELA Section

A scale score of at least 350 is required to pass the Reading subtest.

The passing standard for the Language subtest is based on the combination of the multiple-choice and writing task scores. The combination of scores needed to pass the language subtest are listed below.

Writing task score:	Multiple-choice score:
2 or lower	The language subtest cannot be passed with a writing task score of 2 or lower.
2.5	At least 365
3	At least 350
3.5	At least 342

### Passing the Mathematics Section

A scale score of at least 350 is required to pass the mathematics section.