

Grade 6  
Assessment Highlights  
Social Studies

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Alberta Provincial Achievement Testing 2018–2019

This document was written primarily for:

Students	
Teachers	✓ Grade 6 Social Studies
Administrators	✓
Parents	
General Audience	
Others	

Alberta Education, Government of Alberta

2019–2020

*Social Studies 6 Assessment Highlights*

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# Contents

<i>2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test</i> .....	1
2019 Test Blueprint and Student Achievement.....	2
Commentary on 2019 Student Achievement .....	3
Provincial Achievement Testing Program Support Documents .....	5

You can find [provincial achievement test-related materials](#) on the Alberta Education website.

Additional topics of interest are found in the [General Information Bulletin](#).

This document contains assessment highlights from the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test*.

*Assessment Highlights* provides information about the overall test, the test blueprint, and student performance on the provincial achievement test that was administered in 2019. Also provided is information on student performance at the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence on selected items from the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test*. This information is intended for teachers and is best used in conjunction with multi-year and detailed school reports that are available to schools via the Stakeholder File Exchange (SFX). *Assessment Highlights* for all provincial achievement test subjects and grades are posted on the Alberta Education website every year in the fall.

The examination statistics that are included in this document represent both French and English writers. If you would like to obtain English-only statistics or French-only statistics that apply to your school, please refer to your detailed reports, which are available on the Stakeholder File Exchange (SFX).

### **Provincial Assessment Sector**

Telephone: 780-427-0010

Toll-free within Alberta: 310-0000

### **For further information, contact**

#### **Robyn Pederson**

Grade 6 Humanities Senior Manager

[Robyn.Pederson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Robyn.Pederson@gov.ab.ca)

#### **Stacie Arends**

Grade 6 Humanities Examiner

[Stacie.Arends@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Stacie.Arends@gov.ab.ca)

#### **Nicole Lamarre, Director**

Student Learning Assessments and Provincial Achievement Testing

[Nicole.Lamarre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Nicole.Lamarre@gov.ab.ca)

# 2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test

This report provides teachers, school administrators, and the public with an overview of the performance of those students who wrote the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test*.

## How many students wrote the test?

A total of 49 670 students in Alberta wrote the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test*.

## What was the test like?

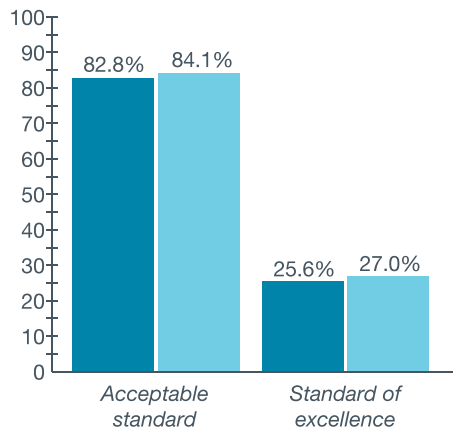
The *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test* consisted of 50 multiple-choice questions based on two social studies topics:

- Citizens Participating in Decision Making
- Historical Models of Democracy: Ancient Athens and the Iroquois Confederacy.

## How well did students do?

The percentages of students meeting the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence in 2019 are shown in the graph below. Out of a total score of 50 on the test, the provincial average was 33.2/50 (66.4%). The examination statistics that are included in this document represent all writers. If you would like to obtain English-only or French-only statistics that apply to your school, please refer to the detailed reports that are available on the extranet.

**Percentage of Students Meeting the Acceptable Standard & Standard of Excellence (%)**



**2018 Achievement Standards:** The percentage of students in the province that met the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence on the *2018 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test* (based on those who wrote)

**2019 Achievement Standards:** The percentage of students in the province that met the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence on the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test* (based on those who wrote)

# 2019 Test Blueprint and Student Achievement

In 2019, 84.1% of students who wrote the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Achievement Test* achieved the acceptable standard, and 27.0% of students who wrote achieved the standard of excellence. These results are consistent with previous administrations of the provincial achievement test.

Student achievement on the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Achievement Test* averaged 33.2 out of a total score of 50 (66.4%).

The blueprint below shows the reporting categories and test sections (curricular content areas) by which 2019 summary data are reported to schools and school authorities. The blueprint also shows the provincial average of student achievement by both raw score and percentage.

		Knowledge and Understanding	Skills and Processes	Provincial Student Achievement (Average Raw Score and Percentage)
Citizens Participating in Decision Making	Democratic Principles and Ideals			7.53/11 (68.45%)
	Structure and Function of Local and Provincial Governments			6.83/10 (68.30%)
	Individual, Group, and Community Involvement			5.77/9 (64.11%)
Historical Models of Democracy	Ancient Athens			7.03/11 (63.9%)
	Iroquois Confederacy			6.07/9 (67.4%)
	Number (Percentage) of Questions	13.99/21 (66.6%)	19.23/29 (66.3%)	33.2/50 (66.4%)

# Commentary on 2019 Student Achievement

The following discussion addresses specific areas of strength and weakness demonstrated by students who wrote the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test*. Sample questions from the *2019 Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test* are provided to highlight these areas for students meeting the acceptable standard and for those meeting the standard of excellence on multiple-choice questions. For each sample question, the keyed answer is marked with an asterisk. These questions are no longer secured and will not be reused on future provincial achievement tests.

**Multiple-choice question 6** required students to identify an example of mobility rights, as defined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This question belongs in the Democratic Processes and Ideals reporting category.

*Use the following information to answer question 6.*

7 424 more people moved to Alberta from other provinces than moved away in 2015.

—data from Treasury Board and Finance, 2018

6. The action described above is an example of which of the following rights from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms?
- A. Legal rights
  - B. Equality rights
  - \*C. Mobility rights
  - D. Democratic rights

This question was straightforward, with 82.8% of students answering correctly. Option A was chosen 8.4% of the time. Option B was chosen 3.8% of the time. Option D was chosen 4.9% of the time. Approximately 91.6% of students who met the acceptable standard were able to answer this question correctly, whereas approximately 99.1% of students who met the standard of excellence chose the correct response.

**Multiple-choice question 20** required students to recall the names of elected positions in local governments. This question belongs in the Local and Provincial Governments reporting category.

- 20.** Mayors, reeves, chiefs, and school board chairpersons are all elected leaders of
- A.** lobby groups
  - \*B.** local governments
  - C.** cultural organizations
  - D.** provincial governments

This question was fairly straightforward, with 72.3% of students answering correctly. Option A was chosen 6.8% of the time. Option C was chosen 6.1% of the time. Option D was chosen 14.7% of the time. Approximately 76.1% of students who met the acceptable standard were able to answer this question correctly, whereas approximately 93.7% of students who met the standard of excellence chose the correct response.

**Multiple-choice question 43** required students to recognize an example of collective identity in the Iroquois Confederacy. This question belongs in the Historical Models of Democracy: Iroquois Confederacy reporting category.

*Use the following information to answer question 43.*

At the Grand Council, each chief wore a distinct headdress that identified him with his nation.

- 43.** The statement above is an example of what concept in the Iroquois Confederacy?
- A.** Equality
  - B.** Collective rights
  - C.** Democratic rights
  - \*D.** Collective identity

This question was straightforward, with 70.8% of students answering correctly. Option A was chosen 9.2% of the time. Option B was chosen 10.0% of the time. Option C was chosen 9.8% of the time. Approximately 77.7% of students who met the acceptable standard were able to answer this question correctly, whereas approximately 92.3% of students who met the standard of excellence chose the correct response.



# Provincial Achievement Testing Program Support Documents

The Alberta Education website contains several documents that provide valuable information about various aspects of the provincial achievement testing program. To access these documents, go to the [Alberta Education website](#). Click on one of the specific links to access the following documents.

## Provincial Achievement Testing Program *General Information Bulletin*

The [General Information Bulletin](#) is a compilation of several documents produced by Alberta Education and is intended to provide superintendents, principals, and teachers with easy access to information about all aspects of the Provincial Achievement Test Program. Sections in the bulletin contain information pertaining to schedules and significant dates; security and test rules; test administration directives, guidelines, and procedures; calculator and computer policies; test accommodations; test marking and results; field testing; resources and web documents; forms and samples; and Provincial Assessment Sector contacts.

## Subject bulletins

At the beginning of each school year, subject bulletins are posted on the Alberta Education website for all provincial achievement test subjects for grades 6 and 9. Each bulletin provides descriptions of assessment standards, test design and blueprinting, and scoring guides (where applicable) as well as suggestions for preparing students to write the tests and information about how teachers can participate in test development activities.

## Examples of the standards for students' writing

For provincial achievement tests in grades 6 and 9 English Language Arts and Français/French Language Arts, writing samples are designed for teachers and students to enhance students' writing and to assess this writing relative to the standards inherent in the scoring guides. The exemplars documents contain sample responses with scoring rationales that relate student work to the scoring categories and scoring criteria.

## Previous provincial achievement tests and answer keys

All January provincial achievement tests (parts A and B) for Grade 9 semestered students are secured and must be returned to Alberta Education. All May/June provincial achievement tests are secured except *Part A* of grades 6 and 9 English Language Arts and Français/French Language Arts. Unused or extra copies of only these *Part A* tests may be kept at the school after administration. Teachers may also use the released items and/or tests that are posted on the Alberta Education website.

## Parent guides

Each school year, versions of the [Alberta Provincial Achievement Testing Parent Guide](#) for grades 6 and 9 are posted on the Alberta Education website. Each guide answers frequently asked questions about the Provincial Achievement Test Program and provides descriptions of and sample questions for each provincial achievement test subject.

## Involvement of teachers

Teachers of grades 6 and 9 are encouraged to take part in activities related to the Provincial Achievement Test Program. These activities include item development, test validation, field testing, and marking. In addition, arrangements can be made through the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia for teacher in-service workshops on topics such as interpreting provincial achievement test results to improve student learning.