

Keystone Exams: Chemistry

Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content



Pennsylvania Department of Education

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General Introduction to the Keystone Exam Assessment Anchors

Introduction

Since the introduction of the Keystone Exams, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has been working to create a set of tools designed to help educators improve instructional practices and better understand the Keystone Exams. The Assessment Anchors, as defined by the Eligible Content, are one of the many tools the Department believes will better align curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices throughout the commonwealth. Without this alignment, it will not be possible to significantly improve student achievement across the Commonwealth.

How were Keystone Exam Assessment Anchors developed?

Prior to the development of the Assessment Anchors, multiple groups of PA educators convened to create a set of standards for each of the Keystone Exams. Enhanced standards, derived from a review of existing standards, focused on what students need to know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready.

Additionally, the Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content statements were created by other groups of educators charged with the task of clarifying the standards assessed on the Keystone Exams. The Assessment Anchors, as defined by the Eligible Content, have been designed to hold together or *anchor* the state assessment system and curriculum/instructional practices in schools.

Assessment Anchors, as defined by the Eligible Content, were created with the following design parameters:

- **Clear:** The Assessment Anchors are easy to read and are user friendly; they clearly detail which standards are assessed on the Keystone Exams.
- **Focused:** The Assessment Anchors identify a core set of standards that could be reasonably assessed on a large-scale assessment, which will keep educators from having to guess which standards are critical.
- **Rigorous:** The Assessment Anchors support the rigor of the state standards by assessing higher-order and reasoning skills.
- **Manageable:** The Assessment Anchors define the standards in a way that can be easily incorporated into a course to prepare students for success.

How can teachers, administrators, schools, and districts use these Assessment Anchors?

The Assessment Anchors, as defined by the Eligible Content, can help focus teaching and learning because they are clear, manageable, and closely aligned with the Keystone Exams. Teachers and administrators will be better informed about which standards will be assessed. The Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content should be used along with the Standards and the Curriculum Framework of the Standards Aligned System (SAS) to build curriculum, design lessons, and support student achievement.

The Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content are designed to enable educators to determine when they feel students are prepared to be successful in the Keystone Exams. An evaluation of current course offerings, through the lens of what is assessed on those particular Keystone Exams may provide an opportunity for an alignment to ensure student preparedness.

How are the Assessment Anchors organized?

The Assessment Anchors, as defined by the Eligible Content, are organized into cohesive blueprints, each structured with a common labeling system that can be read like an outline. This framework is organized first by module, then by Assessment Anchor, followed by Anchor Descriptor, and then finally, at the greatest level of detail, by an Eligible Content statement. The common format of this outline is followed across the Keystone Exams.

Here is a description of each level in the labeling system for the Keystone Exams:

- **Module:** The Assessment Anchors are organized into two thematic modules for each of the Keystone Exams. The module title appears at the top of each page. The module level is important because the Keystone Exams are built using a module format, with each of the Keystone Exams divided into two equally-sized test modules. Each module is made up of two or more Assessment Anchors.
- **Assessment Anchor:** The Assessment Anchor appears in the shaded bar across the top of each Assessment Anchor table. The Assessment Anchors represent categories of subject matter that anchor the content of the Keystone Exams. Each Assessment Anchor is part of a module and has one or more Anchor Descriptors unified under it.
- **Anchor Descriptor:** Below each Assessment Anchor is a specific Anchor Descriptor. The Anchor Descriptor level provides further details that delineate the scope of content covered by the Assessment Anchor. Each Anchor Descriptor is part of an Assessment Anchor and has one or more Eligible Content unified under it.
- **Eligible Content:** The column to the right of the Anchor Descriptor contains the Eligible Content statements. The Eligible Content is the most specific description of the content that is assessed on the Keystone Exams. This level is considered the assessment limit and helps educators identify the range of the content covered on the Keystone Exams.
- **Enhanced Standard:** In the column to the right of each Eligible Content statement is a code representing one or more Enhanced Standards that correlate to the Eligible Content statement.

What impact will the implementation of the K–12 Common Core Standards have on the content of this document?

It is anticipated that there will be significant alignment between PA’s Academic Standards and the Common Core. Every effort will be made to ensure that the alignment of the standards to the Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content is maintained. As more information becomes available, PDE will inform state educators.

MODULE A—Structure and Properties of Matter

FINAL—March 1, 2010

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR		
CHEM.A.1 Properties and Classification of Matter		
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.A.1.1 Identify and describe how observable and measurable properties can be used to classify and describe matter and energy.	CHEM.A.1.1.1 Classify physical or chemical changes within a system in terms of matter and/or energy.	3.2.C.A5
	CHEM.A.1.1.2 Classify observations as qualitative and/or quantitative.	3.2.C.A2
	CHEM.A.1.1.3 Utilize significant figures to communicate the uncertainty in a quantitative observation.	3.2.C.A3
	CHEM.A.1.1.4 Relate the physical properties of matter to its atomic or molecular structure.	3.2.C.A2
	CHEM.A.1.1.5 Apply a systematic set of rules (IUPAC) for naming compounds and writing chemical formulas (e.g., binary covalent, binary ionic, ionic compounds containing polyatomic ions).	3.2.C.A2 3.2.C.A4
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.A.1.2 Compare the properties of mixtures.	CHEM.A.1.2.1 Compare properties of solutions containing ionic or molecular solutes (e.g., dissolving, dissociating).	3.2.C.A1
	CHEM.A.1.2.2 Differentiate between homogeneous and heterogeneous mixtures (e.g., how such mixtures can be separated).	3.2.C.A1
	CHEM.A.1.2.3 Describe how factors (e.g., temperature, concentration, surface area) can affect solubility.	3.2.C.A1 3.2.10.A4
	CHEM.A.1.2.4 Describe various ways that concentration can be expressed and calculated (e.g., molarity, percent by mass, percent by volume).	3.2.C.A2 3.2.C.A4 3.2.10.A5
	CHEM.A.1.2.5 Describe how chemical bonding can affect whether a substance dissolves in a given liquid.	3.2.12.A1 3.2.10.A2 3.2.C.A2

Eligible Content may be assessed using knowledge and/or skills associated with the Nature of Science.

MODULE A—Structure and Properties of Matter

FINAL—March 1, 2010

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR		
CHEM.A.2 Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table		
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.A.2.1 Explain how atomic theory serves as the basis for the study of matter.	CHEM.A.2.1.1 Describe the evolution of atomic theory leading to the current model of the atom based on the works of Dalton, Thomson, Rutherford, and Bohr.	3.2.10.A1 3.2.C.A1 3.2.10.A5 3.2.C.A5 3.2.C.A2 3.2.10.A4 3.2.C.A5
	CHEM.A.2.1.2 Differentiate between the mass number of an isotope and the average atomic mass of an element.	3.2.10.A1 3.2.C.A1 3.2.C.A2
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.A.2.2 Describe the behavior of electrons in atoms.	CHEM.A.2.2.1 Predict the ground state electronic configuration and/or orbital diagram for a given atom or ion.	3.2.10.A5 3.2.C.A1
	CHEM.A.2.2.2 Predict characteristics of an atom or an ion based on its location on the periodic table (e.g., number of valence electrons, potential types of bonds, reactivity).	3.2.C.A2
	CHEM.A.2.2.3 Explain the relationship between the electron configuration and the atomic structure of a given atom or ion (e.g., energy levels and/or orbitals with electrons, distribution of electrons in orbitals, shapes of orbitals).	3.2.C.A2
	CHEM.A.2.2.4 Relate the existence of quantized energy levels to atomic emission spectra.	3.2.12.A2

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MODULE A—Structure and Properties of Matter

FINAL—March 1, 2010

Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.A.2.3 Explain how periodic trends in the properties of atoms allow for the prediction of physical and chemical properties.	CHEM.A.2.3.1 Explain how the periodicity of chemical properties led to the arrangement of elements on the periodic table.	3.2.C.A2
	CHEM.A.2.3.2 Compare and/or predict the properties (e.g., electron affinity, ionization energy, chemical reactivity, electronegativity, atomic radius) of selected elements by using their locations on the periodic table and known trends.	3.2.C.A2

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MODULE B—The Mole Concept and Chemical Interactions

FINAL—March 1, 2010

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR		
CHEM.B.1 The Mole and Chemical Bonding		
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.B.1.1 Explain how the mole is a fundamental unit of chemistry.	CHEM.B.1.1.1 Apply the mole concept to representative particles (e.g., counting, determining mass of atoms, ions, molecules, and/or formula units).	3.2.C.A2 3.2.C.A4 3.2.10.A5
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.B.1.2 Apply the mole concept to the composition of matter.	CHEM.B.1.2.1 Determine the empirical and molecular formulas of compounds.	3.2.C.A4
	CHEM.B.1.2.2 Apply the law of definite proportions to the classification of elements and compounds as pure substances.	3.2.C.A1 3.2.C.A4
	CHEM.B.1.2.3 Relate the percent composition and mass of each element present in a compound.	3.2.C.A2 3.2.C.A4 3.2.10.A5
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.B.1.3 Explain how atoms form chemical bonds.	CHEM.B.1.3.1 Explain how atoms combine to form compounds through ionic and covalent bonding.	3.2.C.A2
	CHEM.B.1.3.2 Classify a bond as being polar covalent, non-polar covalent, or ionic.	3.2.10.A3
	CHEM.B.1.3.3 Use illustrations to predict the polarity of a molecule.	3.2.10.A1 3.2.C.A1 3.2.C.A1

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MODULE B—The Mole Concept and Chemical Interactions

FINAL—March 1, 2010

Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.B.1.4 Explain how models can be used to represent bonding.	CHEM.B.1.4.1 Recognize and describe different types of models that can be used to illustrate the bonds that hold atoms together in a compound (e.g., computer models, ball-and-stick models, graphical models, solid-sphere models, structural formulas, skeletal formulas, Lewis dot structures).	3.2.12.A2
	CHEM.B.1.4.2 Utilize Lewis dot structures to predict the structure and bonding in simple compounds.	3.2.C.A1 3.2.10.A2 3.2.C.A2

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MODULE B—The Mole Concept and Chemical Interactions

FINAL—March 1, 2010

ASSESSMENT ANCHOR		
CHEM.B.2 Chemical Relationships and Reactions		
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.B.2.1 Predict what happens during a chemical reaction.	CHEM.B.2.1.1 Describe the roles of limiting and excess reactants in chemical reactions.	3.2.C.A4 3.2.10.A4
	CHEM.B.2.1.2 Use stoichiometric relationships to calculate the amounts of reactants and products involved in a chemical reaction.	3.2.C.A2 3.2.C.A4 3.2.10.A5
	CHEM.B.2.1.3 Classify reactions as synthesis, decomposition, single replacement, double replacement, or combustion.	3.2.C.A4
	CHEM.B.2.1.4 Predict products of simple chemical reactions (e.g., synthesis, decomposition, single replacement, double replacement, combustion).	3.2.C.A4
	CHEM.B.2.1.5 Balance chemical equations by applying the Law of Conservation of Matter.	3.2.C.A4
Anchor Descriptor	Eligible Content	Enhanced Standard
CHEM.B.2.2 Explain how the kinetic molecular theory relates to the behavior of gases.	CHEM.B.2.2.1 Utilize mathematical relationships to predict changes in the number of particles, the temperature, the pressure, and the volume in a gaseous system (i.e., Boyle's law, Charles's law, Dalton's law of partial pressures, the combined gas law, and the ideal gas law).	3.2.10.A3 3.2.C.A3
	CHEM.B.2.2.2 Predict the amounts of reactants and products involved in a chemical reaction using molar volume of a gas at STP.	3.2.10.A3 3.2.C.A3

Eligible Content may be assessed using knowledge and/or skills associated with the Nature of Science.