

Module 5: Scoring Paper-Based TABE 11/12 Subtests

This module provides information about hand scoring TABE 11/12 paper-based subtests.

The following are important terms related to the scoring process:

Number-Correct, Total Points, Raw Score is the number of items correctly answered by a learner.

Scale Score is used to describe achievement in units on a single scale. These equal-interval units are used across all levels of the TABE 11/12. The score scale ranges from 300 to 800. Scale scores make it possible to make comparisons among learners, classes, and schools.

Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) is not a test score, but it facilitates appropriate interpretation of the test scores. The SEM is an estimate of the expected amount of error in test scores from a specific test. In a nutshell, the smaller the SEM the more accurate the test score is expected to be.

Required Materials for Hand Scoring the TABE 11/12

- TABE 11/12 tests to be scored
- Answer Keys
- TABE 11/12 Scoring Guide

Note: TABE 11/12 question types

Most of the questions on the TABE 11/12 are traditional multiple-choice questions. There also are some new question types on the TABE 11/12 that require special attention. Some questions require more than one answer, such as:

“Which four sentences best support the conclusion?” and

“Which two words would be the best replacements for the underlined word in the sentence?”

In those cases, the number of points that should be awarded is explained in the “SCORING GUIDELINES” section of the answer key for each subtest.

Below is an example of how a question that requires four correct answers should be scored:

2 points: Four correct responses selected with 0 incorrect responses selected.
1 point: Two correct responses selected with 0, 1, or 2 incorrect responses selected **OR** three correct responses selected with 0 or 1 incorrect response selected **OR** four correct responses selected with 1 incorrect response selected.
0 points: One or no correct responses selected **OR** three or four correct responses selected with two incorrect responses selected **OR** more than two incorrect responses selected.

The TABE 11/12 also includes two-part questions (Part A and Part B). Those are pairs of questions that must be scored together because they are closely related. The number of points that should be awarded for such questions is also explained in the “SCORING GUIDELINES” section of the answer key for each subtest.

This module is part of the TABE 11/12 Administration and Scoring Training developed by the Center for Educational Assessment at UMass-Amherst for use by Adult Education programs funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Training materials are also available at <http://blogs.umass.edu/aclstesthelp/>. Questions? Please email aclstesthelp@educ.umass.edu.

Below are two examples of scoring rules for two different pairs of two-part questions. Note that in Example 1, learners are awarded 1 point if they answer either Part A or Part B correctly. However, in Example 2, learners are awarded 1 point only if they answer Part A correctly (and Part B incorrectly); answering Part B correctly (and Part A incorrectly) is worth 0 points.

Example 1:

2 points: Correct responses for both Part A and Part B.

1 point: Correct response for Part A **OR** correct response for Part B.

0 points: Incorrect responses for both parts.

Example 2:

2 points: Correct responses for both Part A and Part B.

1 point: Correct response for Part A, but incorrect response for Part B.

0 points: Incorrect responses for both parts **OR** incorrect response for Part A with correct response for Part B.

Calculating the Scale Score

Step 1: Determine the sum of the number of correct responses, or total points awarded, using the appropriate answer key. For the reading and mathematics subtests, the sum will include the number of correct responses for part 1 and part 2. This is the raw score for the subtest.

Program staff scoring TABE 11/12 tests must be aware that in addition to the new question types, each TABE 11/12 subtest includes between five and seven field test questions. Those questions were added by the test publisher (Data Recognition Corporation, DRC) to aid in the development of future test forms.

Field test questions DO NOT count towards learners' total score on any subtest. They should be administered, but not scored. The field test questions are seamlessly embedded in the subtests and look like regular questions to test takers. In addition, they are in different spots across subtests. To ensure consistency in administration procedures—and because test administration times were set based on the understanding that all questions will be administered—all programs must administer complete subtests, without skipping any questions.

Starting with the TABE 11/12, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) has introduced a web-based scoring option. It involves using a regular office scanner (that must meet a set of requirements) and a free web-based program that automatically scores answer sheets. For more information regarding this scanning and scoring option, please contact DRC at 800-538-9547.

For programs that use the scanning option described above, the web-based DRC scoring program will automatically disregard any field test questions when computing total scores. For programs that use hand scoring, test administrators should ignore all questions marked with asterisks on the answer key, as shown in the answer key excerpt from a Language subtest below.

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LANGUAGE		
* 22.		B
23.		C
* 24.		C
25.		A
26.		B
27.		E, F
28.		D, F
29.		A, F
30.		D
31.		D
32.		B
33.		D
* 34.		D
* 35.		A, E
* 36.		D
37.		E, F
38.		B
39.		C
40.	Part A	C
	Part B	D

* indicates field test questions

Figure 6. Answer key excerpt for a Language subtest

Field test questions are also identified as such in the “SCORING GUIDELINES” section of the answer key for each subtest.

Field Test Question Value (Do not include in Total Score)				
Number 22 1 point	Number 24 1 point	Number 34 1 point	Number 35 2 points	Number 36 1 point

Figure 7. Excerpt of the “SCORING GUIDELINES” section for a Language subtest

Step 2: Using the TABE 11/12 Scoring Guide, locate the appropriate scoring table for the test level and subtest to convert the raw score to the TABE 11/12 scale score. See Figure 8.

Table 44. Reading Level D

	Form 11			Form 12		
Raw Score	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level
0	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
1	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R

Figure 8. Scoring Guide Table 44 for Reading Level D

Step 3: Locate the learner’s raw score in the raw score column in the appropriate table. See Figure 9.

Table 44. Reading Level D

	Form 11			Form 12		
Raw Score	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level
0	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
1	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
2	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
3	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
4	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
5	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
6	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
7	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
8	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
9	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
10	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
11	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
12	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
13	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
14	501-	16	3	501-	14	3

Figure 9. Identification of a raw score of 14 on the Reading Level D subtest.

Step 4: Find the scale score. Use the scale score column for the appropriate test Form (11/12). See Figure 10.

Table 44. Reading Level D

Raw Score	Form 11			Form 12		
	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level
0	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
1	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
2	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
3	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
4	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
5	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
6	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
7	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
8	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
9	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
10	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
11	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
12	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
13	N/A	N/A	O/R	N/A	N/A	O/R
14	501-	16	3	501-	14	3

Figure 10. A raw score of 14 on Form 11 is equal to a scale score of 501 the Reading Level D subtest.

Step 5: Record the scale score in the state management information system.

Remember, the smaller the SEM associated with the scale score obtained by a learner, the more accurately the score represents the learner's ability.

The publisher also provides tables in the Scoring Guide for domain-level performance. The domain-level performance tables provide diagnostic information that can be used to inform instruction and identify strengths and weaknesses of students. You can read more about the domain-level performance tables on page 2 of the Scoring Guide.