# Superintendent’s Memo #238-19

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: September 27, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Resources for the New History and Social Science Tests Assessing the 2015 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*

As stated in [Superintendent’s Memorandum #092-19](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/092-19.docx), dated April 19, 2019, implementation of the new history and social science tests based on the 2015 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* (SOL) will begin with the spring 2020 administration for the following SOL tests:

* Virginia Studies
* Civics and Economics
* Virginia and U.S. History

This memo introduces resources for the new history and social science tests.

# **New Test Blueprints**

Test blueprintsfor the new history and social science tests have been developed and are posted on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) [History and Social Science 2015](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml) web page. The blueprints indicate the reporting categories for each test, the number of test items in each reporting category, and the number of field test items per test.

# **SOL Practice Items**

An updated practice item set is available for each *new* history and social science SOL test. These practice items provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of test questions that will be administered to assess the 2015 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*.

Practice items must be accessed via the installable TestNav 8 application. See the [TestNav 8 Technical Assistance Document](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8/testnav8-tech-assistance.pdf)(PDF) for information on the system requirements to access TestNav 8, along with instructions for downloading the [TestNav 8 application](https://support.assessment.pearson.com/display/TN/Set+up+and+Use+TestNav). Guided practice suggestions accompany these practice test items to provide specific guidance for teachers or other adults to lead students through the questions. This guidance may be found on the VDOE [TestNav 8 SOL Practice Items](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8.shtml) web page.

# **Audio SOL Practice Items**

Audio versions of the new history and social science practice item sets have been updated to reflect the change in how this accommodation will be delivered in online versions of the new history and social science tests. For students assigned an online audio version of the new history and social science test beginning in spring 2020, the audio accommodation will be delivered through text-to-speech audio tools. These tools vary from the traditional audio player found in previous online audio tests. The audio versions of the new history and social science practice items will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the function of these audio tools. Guidance on using the online text-to-speech audio tools may be found in the Guided Practice Suggestions on the VDOE [TestNav8 SOL Practice Items](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8.shtml) web page.

**Tests Based on the 2008 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning***

In addition, the other history and social science Standards of Learning tests, which include the end-of-course World History to 1500, World History from 1500 to the Present, and World Geography tests, will continue to be based on the 2008 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*.

If you have any questions, please contact the student assessment staff by email at [Student\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or by phone at 804-225-2102.

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