

FASTFAQ 2 CASAS Testing Basics for ABE and ASE Teachers

1. How much time are students allowed to take a CASAS test?

Students have 60 minutes to take a CASAS test. If the allotted time expires, students may be allowed to finish the question they are working on.

2. To help make sure students show a testing gain, can instructors give less time for the pretest and more time for posttests?

No, absolutely not. This practice and others that are intended to artificially increase Payment Points are illegal.

3. When do I give the pretest?

Students should be pre-tested immediately upon beginning a class or beginning a new contract, before learning takes place.

4. How do I know which test to give each student for the pretest?

A test matrix is available from the WIA Advisor at your site.

5. When do I give the first posttest?

Students using a learning contract take the first posttest at the time designated in the contract. Other students take the first posttest after about 40 hours of instruction.

6. How do I know which test to give for the posttest?

Your WIA Advisor will determine which test to give. If it is time to posttest, and you are not sure which is the correct test, ask your WIA Advisor.

7. Do the pretest and the posttest have to be taken in the same section (class) with the same teacher?

No. For example, the pretest might be taken in one teacher's section in the fall semester, and the posttest might be taken in a second teacher's section in the spring semester. The records in the computer database follow the Student ID, not the class section number.

8. A student is studying both math and another subject. What modality do I test?

Federal legislation says that focus should be on a student's weakest modality. Our data shows that this is usually math. It is always good to test in math, because students usually earn a two-level gain, earning two Payment Points. Also, it is all right to test in multiple modalities (subject areas).

9. How do I learn my students' pretest and posttest Scale Scores?

Your WIA Advisor will give you reports that show your students' scale scores. If you do not receive timely reports, ask for them.

10. How many more questions answered correctly earns a Payment Point?

Payment Points are earned by gains in the scale score, not directly by the number of questions answered correctly. Depending on the test used and the pretest score, usually two or three additional questions must be correct.

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11. How many Scale Score points does a student need to earn Payment Points?

For most ABE and ASE students, **3 additional** scale score points are needed for a Payment Point.

CASAS Instructional Level	CASAS Pretest Scale Score	Minimum Posttest Scale Score increase to earn 1 Payment Point	Minimum Posttest Scale Score increase to achieve a 2-Level Gain
Beginning Basic Skills	201 – 210	5 or more points	221
Intermediate Basic Skills	211 – 220	3 or more points	236
Advanced Basic Skills	221 – 235		246
Adult Secondary	236 – 245		N/A
Adv. Adult Secondary	246 +		N/A

12. How do I know if my students have earned CASAS testing Payment Points?

Ask your WIA Advisor for the Student Gains by Class report. There are also many other reports available. Consult your WIA Advisor to get reports most helpful to you.

13. Does a student automatically earn a Payment Point with a testing gain?

No. The student must also have a valid Entry Record and Update Record on file in the database.

14. After students earn one or more Payment Points from CASAS testing, do they have to continue testing in the same school year?

No. Once significant learning gains are realized and Payment Points are earned, students do not have to continue testing. Some schools issue certificates and/or wallet cards after students earn Payment Points that the students use to excuse themselves from further testing during that school year. Talk to your WIA Advisor to learn what options may be available at your school.

15. If a student took the pretest at the end of the past school year, do I re-test?

Only tests from the current school year count. However, by special action of your WIA Advisor, the score of a pretest taken May 12 through June 30 may be transferred to the next school year up until September 30. If you have students who began learning contracts late in the school year and who pre-tested late in the school year, ask your WIA Advisor about transferring their scores (called proxy scores). If scores are not transferred, these students must be given a new pretest as early in the new school year as possible. The score from the pretest the previous year will not count.

16. What are Paired Scores?

Paired scores are two test scores that are eligible to show a learning gain and earn Payment Points. Paired scores include a pretest and a posttest. The pretest is the first test of the school year a student takes in a modality. There is only one pretest each year in a given modality. Posttests are all subsequent tests a student takes in a designated modality.

17. What are Diamond Scores and what do they mean?

On some reports there is a black diamond next to some CASAS scale scores. These are called diamond scores. The diamond signifies that the student scored at the upper end of the valid range of the test, but the score is considered accurate and is treated as any valid score. See your WIA Advisor for additional information that may relate to the black diamond designation.