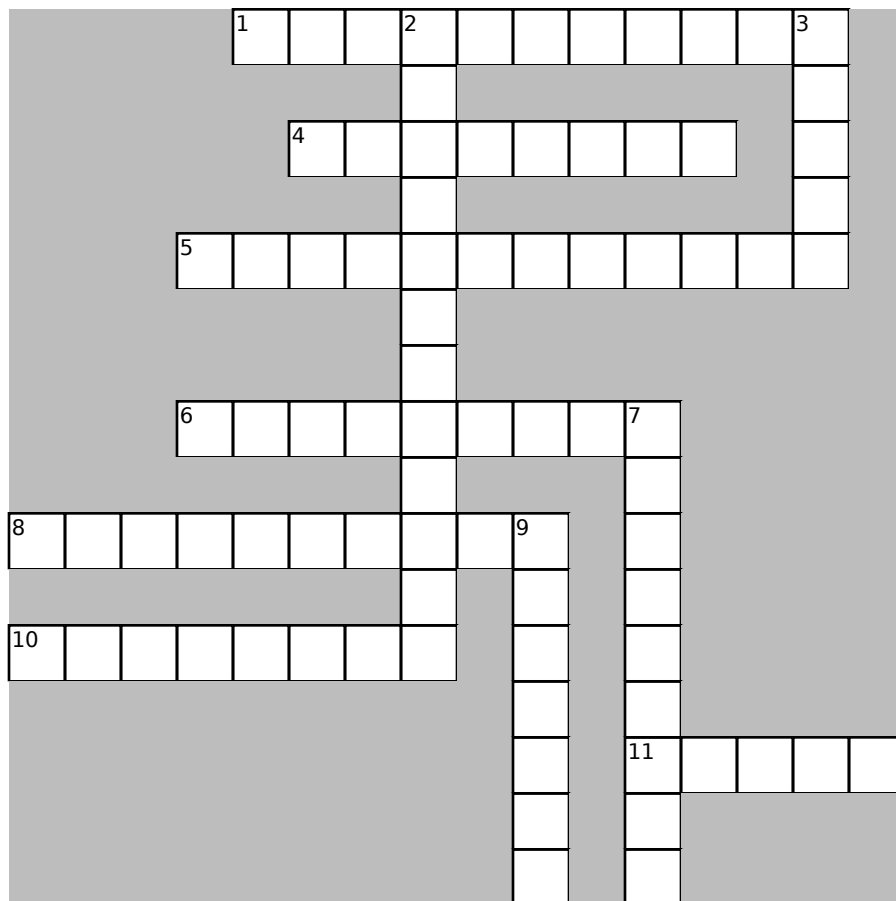


<b>Title:</b> Brochure on the Proficiency Test
<b>Materials:</b> Teacher notes and script. ( <i>This page.</i> ) Proficiency Exam brochure. ( <i>Make a copy back-to-back for each student.</i> ) Proficiency Test Facts crossword puzzle. ( <i>Make a copy for each student.</i> ) Overhead of the answers to the puzzle. ( <i>Make a transparency.</i> )
<b>Previous Knowledge Needed:</b> none
<b>Important Concepts/Methods:</b> Students will learn basic information about the proficiency test.
<b>Script</b>  Give each student a copy of the brochure. They are to read through the brochure silently to themselves (or you can have volunteers read it aloud). Each student should underline anything that they are learning for the first time or any information that they feel is really important.  Have students find a partner. Together, they look at their brochures. If they both have the same thing underlined, then they need to circle it on their respective brochures.  Students work on the crossword puzzle in partners using their brochure as a resource. Once everyone is finished go over the answers together. Students should place the brochure in their portfolio. (Alternative Option: Students could take the brochure home to share with their parent(s) / legal guardian(s).)
<b>Common Mistakes:</b> Students do not understand the importance of the exam or how it is set up. The teacher must stress the gravity of passing, and how it benefits the student to pass it the first time.
<b>Student Problems:</b> None
<b>Assignment:</b> None

# Proficiency Test Facts

## The Proficiency Project

Fun activity to review facts about the high school proficiency exam with students.



### Across

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ are generally NOT allowed to be used on the exam.
- 4 The Math Proficiency Exam is \_\_\_\_\_ choice.
- 5 You will have adequate time to take the test as long as you are working \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 One category of questions is Algebra and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Category C1 questions cover the topics of Numbers and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Level 2 questions include extending \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 If you can eliminate some choices, go ahead and make an educated \_\_\_\_\_.

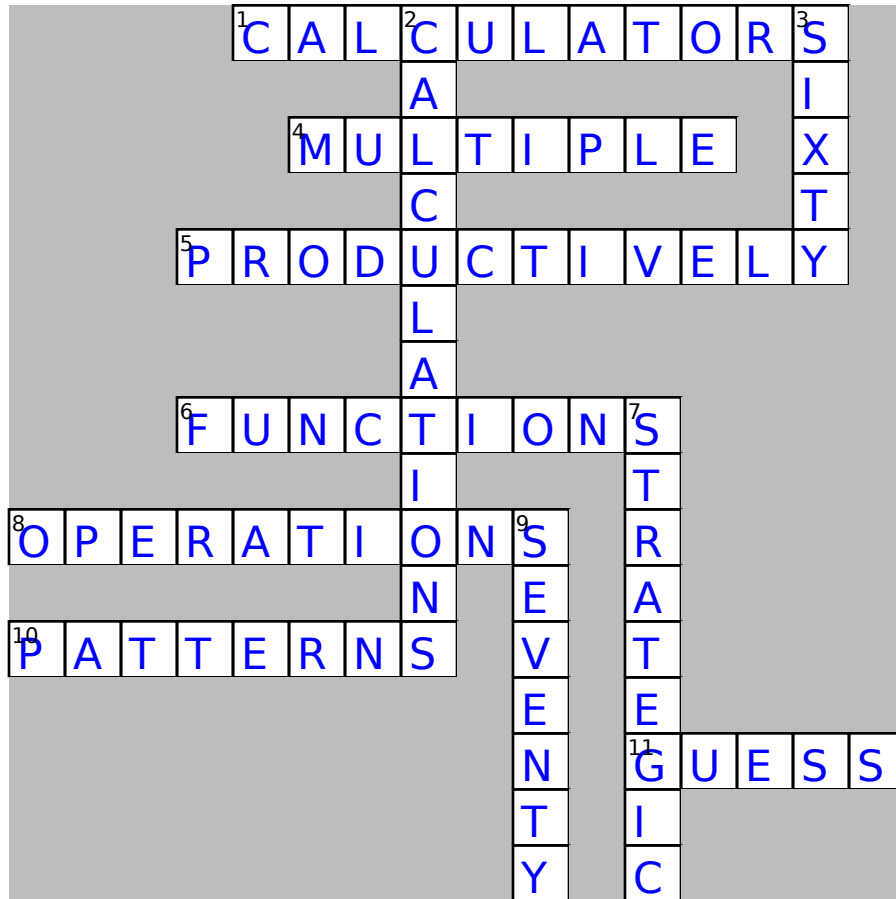
### Down

- 2 One skill needed in Level 1 questions is performing routine \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 How many questions count on the proficiency exam?
- 7 Questions that require you to justify and explain your solutions fall into the category of \_\_\_\_\_ Thinking.
- 9 Your test could have as many as \_\_\_\_\_-five questions.

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## What is on the test? What skills and knowledge are tested?

Category C1 - Numbers and Operations

Category C2 - Algebra and Functions

Category C3 – Measurement and Geometry

Category C4 - Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

## How difficult are the questions?

Depth of Knowledge Level 1 (Recall)  
recall or recognize facts/symbols  
apply/compute algorithms  
apply definitions and formulas  
identify relationships  
perform routine calculations  
read charts and graphs

DoK Level 2 (Skills/Concepts)  
solve with multiple/complex steps  
extend patterns to the  $n$ th term  
compare and contrast figures  
interpret information from charts and graphs

DoK Level 3 (Strategic Thinking)  
use concepts to solve non-routine math problems  
justify and explain your solutions  
draw conclusions and make interpretations of charts/graphs  
analyze similarities/differences between procedures



## Do the difficult questions count more than the easy ones?

No. All questions count the same. That is why you should answer the ones you know and go back to the ones you are not sure of later. If you find yourself spending a long time on a question, you should move on. Of course, be certain you skip that question on the answer sheet.



## How many questions are on the test?

Some versions of the test have 60 questions. Some have 75 questions. If you get a test with 75 questions, you will only be held accountable for 60 of them because 15 of those questions are being tested for future use. You will not know which ones count and which don't, so you must do your best on all of the questions.

## How long will I have to take the test?

You will have adequate time. As long as you are working productively, you will be given additional time.

## Is this a multiple choice test?

Yes.

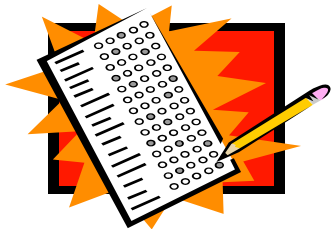
## Should I guess if I don't know how to do something?

If you really don't know how to do a problem and you can eliminate some of the choices and make an educated guess, it is wise to do so.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** On this test, there are no obviously wrong answers. The incorrect answer choices are reasonable answers that students could get by making common mistakes. That is why some students finish the test feeling very confident. "My answer was usually there. I'm sure I passed." And yet they may not pass.

## Can I use a calculator on the test?

No. Students in the general population may not use a calculator. The questions do not rely heavily on difficult computational skills.



### **What is the passing score?**

The passing score varies slightly for different versions of the test, due to some statistical analysis done on the tests intended to make them equivalent. The passing score is usually about 60%, or about 36 out of 60 questions.

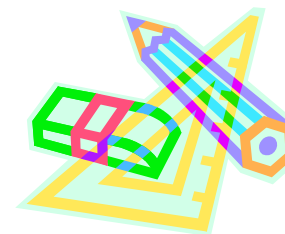
### **How can I prepare for the math proficiency test?**

You must know the math. Work hard in your math classes. Don't be content with a D or D- grade. That might get you a credit, but it doesn't mean you know very much. And if you forget some of what you did know, you won't pass the proficiency test.

Review. Take advantage of the tutoring opportunities at school. Work on practice tests. Think about your problem areas and ask a teacher for help. If you are really doing your best, then relax. If not, increase your effort. We're here to help you, but it's up to you.

## ***Information for Students***

# ***NEVADA HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY TEST IN MATHEMATICS***



***Prepared by  
NWRPDP  
Proficiency Project  
2007***