

Adaptive Testing FAQs: 2021-2022

Terms you will see throughout this FAQs

| Term | Definition |
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| Adaptive Testing | Adaptive Testing is a computer-based (online) approach to testing that adapts test content to the student’s performance on the test. The ISASP Reading and Science online tests are adaptive for spring 2022. |
| Stage | A stage is a set of questions that are presented to the student based on the student’s performance. The ISASP Reading online test consists of three (3) stages. The ISASP Science online test consists of two (2) stages. |
| Navigation Page | The ISASP Reading and Science online tests will have new navigation landing pages to indicate the start of a stage and the end of a stage. Students should read the navigation pages carefully and follow the additional instructions on these pages. |


*The responses to the questions are based on the information that we have at this time. Responses may be updated as we gather more information.

| Question | Response |
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| General Information | |
| What is Adaptive Testing? | Adaptive Testing is a computer-based (online) approach to testing that adapts test content to the student’s performance on the test. As the student enters responses to test questions, TestNav will present different sets of questions, or stages , based on the student’s performance. The ISASP Reading and Science online tests are adaptive for spring 2022. |

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| <p>What is a “stage” that is referenced with the ISASP adaptive tests?</p> | <p>A stage is a set of questions that are presented to the student based on the student’s performance. The Reading online test consists of three (3) stages. The Science online test consists of two (2) stages. Please see the Introduction to Adaptive Testing bulletin for an image of how each stage links to the next.</p> |
| <p>What are the new “navigation pages” in ISASP adaptive tests?</p> | <p>In the Reading and Science online tests, there will be new navigation landing pages in each stage to indicate the start of the stage and end of the stage. Students should read and follow the additional instructions on these navigation pages.</p> |
| <p>What are the advantages of adaptive testing?</p> | <p>Adaptive tests allow for greater measurement precision of the student’s proficiency. Test security is also enhanced as the different stages allow for a more individualized student testing experience and progress.</p> |
| <p>What about the Mathematics and Language/Writing online tests?</p> | <p>The Mathematics and Language/Writing online tests will remain as fixed-form tests for spring 2022.</p> |
| <p>Are there changes to test administration with the ISASP adaptive tests?</p> | <p>Yes, there are two (2) changes to be aware of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students may not skip questions. Students can bookmark questions and return to them to review or change answers prior to completing a stage. However, students must answer each question when it is first presented to advance to the next question. 2. Students will submit completed questions at the end of each stage. To take advantage of the adaptive nature of the Reading and Science online tests, students will submit their answered questions at the end of each stage. Students will be able to review bookmarked questions or change answers at the end of the stage but will not be able to return to these questions once the stage has been submitted. |

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| <p>Will the total number of questions vary from student-to-student with the ISASP adaptive tests?</p> | <p>No, although students will be presented different sets of items within a stage, the total number of questions presented to every student in each grade and subject will be the same.</p> |
| <p>Will there be non-adaptive versions of the ISASP Reading and Science online tests?</p> | <p>No, all Reading and Science online tests will be of adaptive design for all grade levels.</p> <p><i>Note: The only exception is the Spanish-translated Science online test; this test will be a fixed-form test.</i></p> |
| <p>Will students taking ISASP adaptive tests be presented items from adjacent grade levels?</p> | <p>No, only on-grade level content will be presented in ISASP adaptive tests.</p> |
| <p>Will the ISASP paper-and-pencil tests be adaptive?</p> | <p>No, ISASP paper-and-pencil tests will remain fixed-form tests.</p> |
| <p>Before Testing</p> | |
| <p>How can we prepare students to take the ISASP adaptive tests for the first time?</p> | <p>The Reading and Science online practice tests on the ISASP Portal have been updated to simulate the adaptive testing experience.</p> <p>Navigation pages indicate the start/end of a stage will also be included. Coordinators and Proctors are strongly recommended to also access these practice tests to see the new adaptive design.</p> <p>Read aloud directions have also been updated to alert students on test day to changes in how they will navigate the adaptive tests relative to past administration of fixed-form tests.</p> |

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| <p>What preparations should Coordinators take before adaptive testing? What about Proctors?</p> | <p>Setup tasks in PearsonAccess^{next} remains unchanged for Coordinators. The steps to review/verify student information, add accommodations for students, and assign students to test sessions are the same.</p> <p>Coordinators and Proctors should access the Reading and Science online practice tests to see the new adaptive design, read the updated verbal directions for Reading and Science online tests in the Test Administrator Manual, and check this FAQ bulletin for any adaptive-related questions. For questions not answered in this FAQ bulletin, please email iowa-testing-programs@uiowa.edu with your inquiry.</p> |
| <p>What updates were made to the Reading and Science online test directions?</p> | <p>The verbal directions read aloud by the Proctor will mention the stages and alert students that each question will need to be answered to move on to the next question. The Reading directions update is on page 27 and the Science directions update is on page 38 in the Test Administrator Manual.</p> <p>The directions on the Reading and Science online practice tests have also been updated with this new information.</p> |
| <p>How should we schedule ISASP adaptive tests?</p> | <p>As in past years, the recommended testing time for both Reading and Science is 60 minutes.</p> |

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| <p>What preparations should technology staff take for adaptive testing?</p> | <p>Technology readiness tasks remains unchanged for technology staff. Steps for preparing the network for TestNav traffic, installing TestNav on testing devices, and conducting local infrastructure trials are the same.</p> <p>There is one change with adaptive testing, which is ProctorCache will not be available for the Reading and Science online tests. ProctorCache is an optional application that works with TestNav to precache test content, usually due to a low bandwidth environment.</p> |
| <p>During Testing</p> | |
| <p>What new features of adaptive testing should students expect on test day?</p> | <p>It is strongly recommended students access the Reading and Science online practice tests on the ISASP Portal prior to test day.</p> <p>For both Reading and Science online tests, students will see the new navigation landing pages in each stage to indicate the start of the stage and end of the stage.</p> <div data-bbox="1087 902 1320 993" data-label="Image">  </div> <p>Students will see the Next → button grayed out when first presented with a question. Students will need to enter a response (multiple-choice, short answer, or technology-enhanced item response) for the Next → button to turn blue and allow the student to move to the next question.</p> <p>The End of a Stage navigation page will remind students they can go back and review any previous questions on that stage. Selecting the Next → button one more time will submit the stage and these questions cannot be returned to.</p> |

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| <p>The student is unable to advance to the next question on the adaptive test.</p> | <p>For adaptive testing, the student must enter must answer each question when it is first presented to advance to the next question.</p> <p>Check to see if the student has entered a response for the question he or she is on.</p> |
| <p>Can the student exit/resume the test during adaptive testing?</p> | <p>Yes, the student can sign out of TestNav as normal and the Proctor can resume the test in PearsonAccess^{next}.</p> <p>When the student signs back in to TestNav, the test will resume on the question he or she was on.</p> |
| <p>The student bookmarked questions on the adaptive test but cannot go back to review them.</p> | <p>Questions can be bookmarked and reviewed prior to submitting a stage. Once students move on to a new stage, they cannot return to the questions from previous stages.</p> |
| <p>The student feels the questions on the stage are too easy/too difficult; can the current stage be changed?</p> | <p>The adaptive design reviews all responses that the student has submitted on previous stage(s) and determines the appropriate next stage. A stage cannot be changed manually by testing staff or Pearson.</p> |
| <p>Can stages be manually assigned?</p> | <p>No, stages cannot be assigned manually before or during testing.</p> |
| <p>Can adaptive testing be completed over multiple days?</p> | <p>Due to test security considerations, every effort must be made to ensure students finish the Reading and Science online tests on the day they begin.</p> |
| <p>A group of students will need accommodations for testing; are accommodations available for adaptive testing?</p> | <p>Yes, steps for adding accommodations for students in PearsonAccess^{next} remains unchanged for Coordinators.</p> <p>TestNav-embedded accommodations, such as text-to-speech, were updated to work with the adaptive tests.</p> |

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| <p>The student encountered technical errors during adaptive testing.</p> | <p>Troubleshooting technical issues remains unchanged. Three (3) resources are available to help:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Common technical issues and the action needed are available on the Troubleshooting for Online Testing support page. 2. If the student's TestNav provides an error code, check the TestNav Error Codes support page for the action needed. 3. Call Pearson Customer Support at 833-878-7041. |
| <p>After Testing</p> | |
| <p>Is there anything that is done differently after testing for the adaptive tests?</p> | <p>No, Proctors and Coordinators will take the same steps after testing. Actions such as checking all student tests for <i>Complete</i> status, stopping the test session, and removing absent students from the test session and scheduling a makeup remains unchanged.</p> |