



Your Guide to the New Jersey Biology Competency Test, May 2016

New Jersey Department of Education

This pamphlet answers the most frequently asked questions about the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT). It explains its importance to your child's education. The information describes what the test measures, why the assessment is given, how the results are reported, and why it is important for your child to do well on the assessment.

Questions and Answers

1. What is the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT)?

The NJBCT is a state test given to students to measure whether they have gained the knowledge and skills identified in the Biology section of the Science Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS). The CCCS, adopted by the State Board of Education, identify what students should know and be able to do at the end of various benchmark years. The NJBCT will help determine whether your child is making satisfactory progress toward mastering Biology skills. All New Jersey public high school students, regardless of grade level, who are enrolled in a first-time Biology course or content equivalent during the 2015–2016 school year must take the test, regardless of prior testing exposure and experience.

2. In what other ways are the test results used?

Local school districts use the results to determine the appropriateness and strength of the local curriculum and to develop remedial programs to help students improve their knowledge and skills. The results are also used to satisfy federal requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

3. Are children classified as special education required to take the test?

The NJBCT is designed to measure how well all high school students have mastered the Biology content standards, including students with

learning disabilities. Special education students will be working to achieve the standards at levels appropriate for them and with accommodations or modifications they may need. These accommodations are defined in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). The accommodations or modifications should be the same as those used by these students in other classroom testing, and may include Braille, extended testing time, or a different testing site.

While most special education students will take the test, there will be a small percentage of students with the most severe disabilities for whom some of the content standards are not appropriate. The New Jersey Department of Education has identified those standards that are appropriate for students with severe disabilities. The department developed a different kind of tool to measure the achievements of special education students who are exempt from taking the NJBCT. The Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) was taken by students for the first time in November 2001. The portfolio assessment documents student performance in Mathematics, Language Arts Literacy, and Biology. Every student with a learning disability must take the NJBCT unless the IEP team determines that your child will participate in the APA. Parents and guardians of children with disabilities should discuss participation in the test, and any necessary accommodations, at the child's IEP meeting.

4. Can accommodations or modifications be made to the testing environment to accommodate my special education child?

Yes. Accommodations and modifications might include such aids as a Braille or large-print version, a different testing site, an extended amount of time for testing, or similar types of accommodations. You should meet with the child study team in your district to discuss necessary accommodations or modifications for your child. All accommodations and modifications must be specified in your child's IEP.

Nj Biology Competency Test 2study Guide

J Dewey



Nj Biology Competency Test 2study Guide:

Decoding **Nj Biology Competency Test 2study Guide**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

In a period characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its capability to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "**Nj Biology Competency Test 2study Guide**," a mesmerizing literary creation penned with a celebrated wordsmith, readers set about an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring effect on our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book's central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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