Information Bulletin

Mathematics 30–1

2015 – 2016 Diploma Examinations Program



This document was written primarily for:

Students	✓
Teachers	✓ of Mathematics 30–1
Administrators	✓
Parents	
General Audience	
Others	

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Please note that if you cannot access one of the direct website links referred to in this document, you can find diploma examination-related materials on the <u>Alberta Education website</u> at education.alberta.ca.

At the home page, under *For Administrators* click on the link *Provincial Testing*. Next click on *Diploma Examinations* and then on one of the specific links listed under the *Diploma Examinations* heading.

Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide students and teachers of Mathematics 30–1 with information about the diploma examinations scheduled for the 2015–2016 school year. This bulletin should be used in conjunction with the current <u>Mathematics 30–1 Program of Studies</u> and the <u>Mathematics 30–1 Assessment Standards and Exemplars</u> documents to ensure that the curriculum and standards are addressed.

This bulletin includes descriptions of the Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations that will be administered in November 2015 and in January, April, June, and August 2016; descriptions of the *acceptable standard* and the *standard of excellence*; and subject-specific information. The mark awarded to a student on the Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations in the 2015–2016 school year will account for 30% of the student's final blended mark. The school-awarded mark will account for the remaining 70%.

For students with mature-student status, the mark awarded on the Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examination will account for 100% of the final blended mark if the examination mark is higher than the school-awarded mark.

Teachers are encouraged to share the contents of this bulletin with students.

For further information about program implementation, refer to the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca.

*NEW Diploma Examination Weighting

As of September 1, 2015, the diploma examination weighting will shift from a 50/50 weighting to a 70/30 weighting, where the school-awarded grades will be worth 70 percent. For further information, please refer to http://education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/.

*NEW Time Limits on Diploma Examinations

The section of the diploma examination instructions pages describing the time students are allowed for writing has been simplified. Previously, this section mentioned the time within which the examination had been designed to be completed, and the additional half hour allowed for students who needed it. Now this section simply states the total allowed writing time, which includes the additional half hour. **No changes have been made to the design of any diploma examination**

As of the November 2015 session, all science diploma examinations (Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, and Science 30) will have a time limit of 3 hours. **The time limits of other diploma examinations have not changed**.

*NEW Online Field Testing

Field tests for Mathematics 30–1 in the 2015–2016 school year will be offered in digital format, and two tests in each term will be hybrids. One hybrid will be for 50 minutes and one for 65 minutes.

Semester 1

A 60-minute unit field test on relations and functions and year-end field tests 50 and 65 minutes in length will be offered. One 65-minute year-end field test will be offered exclusively in numerical-response format. One year-end field test each term will be translated into French. Also, a 40-question year-end field test three hours in length will be offered, in digital format only.

Semester 2

A 60-minute unit field test on trigonometry and year-end field tests 50 and 65 minutes in length will be offered. One 65-minute year-end field test will be offered exclusively in numerical-response format. One year-end field test each term will be translated into French. Also, a 40-question year-end field test three hours in length will be offered, in digital format only.

All Grade 12 science and mathematics field tests are offered exclusively through an enhanced Quest A+ online delivery system. In addition to digital field tests, hybrid field tests are also available this school year. With a hybrid field test, students receive a paper copy of the readings or sources. However, students must respond to the questions online.

Students should use paper data booklets, data pages, or formula sheets for all science and mathematics field tests. These resources will also appear in the online delivery system. Students should also have scrap paper, which may be accessed and downloaded from the "Teacher Resources" section on the home page of the Field Test Request System: http://public.education.alberta.ca/FieldTestScheduler. All paper data sheets or scrap paper with markings must be securely shredded at the end of the field test administration.

Enhanced digital and hybrid field tests offer many advantages over conventional paper field tests and earlier online field tests. Above all, the new tests are much more useful as a formative measurement of student progress and achievement.

Teachers have a 24-hour window to peruse the digital or hybrid field test and are provided with data on how their students performed. These data include the proportion of students who chose each alternative on multiple-choice items and the proportion who left a numerical-response item blank. Test items are blueprinted to program of studies outcomes. This allows teachers to use field test results to learn more about their students' strengths and weaknesses.

Once logged into the digital or hybrid field test, teachers have the same length of time to peruse the test as their students did to write it. Teachers might choose to log into the field test, submit the confidentiality form, and then log out of the test so that they can finish perusing the test after receiving their students' data.

In addition, teachers have greater flexibility in selecting the time and date when students write, rather than being bound to a pre-determined date.

Finally, online administration enables every school, large or small, to participate. Historically, it was impractical to send field test administrators to remotely located schools or schools with small classes. Now, all Alberta schools can participate in field tests.

It is important to note that the security of field test items remains vital to the administration of diploma examinations. Participating teachers must commit to maintaining the security of field-test items. In the case of hybrid field tests, paper copies are mailed to schools and the questions are accessed in the same format as digital-format field tests. Prior to the hybrid field test, the paper copies must be kept secure by the school principal. After the administration of a hybrid-format field test, teachers must mail all paper copies back to Alberta Education.

Further Information

Teachers requesting field tests must have a Public Authentication System (PAS) account. All requests are made through the Field Test Request System. Further information, including the closing dates to request a field test, may be obtained by contacting Field.Test@gov.ab.ca, or from the *General Information Bulletin* at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/diplomabulletin/. Practice items are available at https://questaplus.alberta.ca/.

For more information, contact

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or

Dan Karas Director, Examination Administration 780-415-0666 or Dan.Karas@gov.ab.ca

Diploma Examinations: Multiple Forms

As part of Alberta Education's commitment to fairness to students, and to expand flexibility in the writing of diploma examinations, the number of distinct examination forms (versions) has increased. There are now two forms of diploma examinations in some subjects during major administrations (January and June). The two forms are equated to baseline examinations to ensure that the same standard applies to both forms. Both forms adhere to the established blueprint specifications and are thoroughly reviewed by a technical review committee.

To facilitate the analysis of school-level results, each school receives only one examination form per subject. In subjects offering a translated French-language examination, both forms are administered in English and in French.

For more information, contact

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Special-format Practice Tests

To provide students an opportunity to practice diploma examination-style questions and content in Braille, audio, large print, or coloured print versions, Alberta Education is making special-format practice tests available. Tests are offered in all subjects with a corresponding diploma examination. Alberta schools with registered Alberta K-12 students may place orders for these tests. Braille tests are available in English and, by request, in French. All tests are provided free of charge, but limits may be placed on order volumes to ensure access for everyone.

For more information or to place an order, contact

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Course Objectives

The Mathematics 30–1 course contains topics and outcomes, as specified in the program of studies, that will provide students with the knowledge base, mathematical understandings, and critical-thinking skills identified for entry into post-secondary programs that require the study of calculus. In Mathematics 30–1, algebraic, numerical, and graphical approaches are used to solve problems. Technology is used to enable students to explore and create patterns, examine relationships, test conjectures, and solve problems.

Students are expected to communicate solutions clearly and effectively when solving both routine and non-routine problems. Students are also expected to develop both conceptual and procedural understandings of mathematics and apply them to real-life problems. It is important for students to realize that it is acceptable to solve problems in different ways, using a variety of strategies.

Teacher Involvement in the Diploma Examination **Process**

High-quality diploma examinations are the product of close collaboration between classroom teachers and Alberta Education. Classroom teachers from across Alberta are involved in many aspects of diploma examination development, including the development of raw items; the building, reviewing, and administering of field tests; and the reviewing of diploma examination drafts.

The development of test items from their initial construction to their appearance on an examination takes at least one year. The writers of all items on diploma examinations are Mathematics 30-1 teachers from across Alberta. After the first year of provincial implementation, items are field tested to ensure their reliability and validity. Diploma examinations are reviewed by editors; a technical advisory working group composed of mathematics experts from post-secondary institutions, teachers, and curriculum staff; translators; and a French validation working group.

Alberta Education values the involvement of teachers and annually asks school jurisdictions for the names of teachers who are interested in being involved in all of the diploma examination development processes. Teachers who are interested in developing raw items, building field tests, or reviewing examinations are encouraged to ask their principals to submit their names to the Provincial Assessment Sector through their district office. Although the submission of these names occurs in early fall, teachers are welcome to have their names submitted at any time throughout the year.

Other opportunities to be involved, such as field testing, have specific closing dates. General dates to be aware of include:

> September 2015 Registration for field tests to be administered

in December 2015 or January 2016

February 2016 Registration for field tests to be administered

in May or June 2016





Performance Expectations

Curriculum Standards

Provincial curriculum standards help to communicate how well students need to perform in order to be judged as having achieved the learning outcomes specified in the *Mathematics* 30–1 *Program of Studies*. The specific statements of standards are written primarily to inform Mathematics 30–1 teachers of the extent to which students must know the Mathematics 30–1 curriculum and demonstrate the required skills in order to pass the examination.

Performance Standards

Acceptable Standard

Students who attain the *acceptable standard* but not the *standard of excellence* will receive a final course mark between 50% and 79%, inclusive. Typically, these students have gained new skills and a basic knowledge of the concepts and procedures relative to the general and specific outcomes defined for Mathematics 30–1 in the program of studies. They demonstrate mathematical skills as well as conceptual understanding, and they can apply their knowledge to familiar problem contexts.

Standard of Excellence

Students who attain the *standard of excellence* will receive a final course mark of 80% or higher. Typically, these students have gained a breadth and depth of understanding regarding the concepts and procedures, as well as the ability to apply this knowledge and conceptual understanding to a broad range of familiar and unfamiliar problem contexts.

Assessment Standards and Exemplars

The <u>Assessment Standards and Exemplars</u> document that describes acceptable and standard of excellence performance standards for the <u>Mathematics 30–1 Program of Studies</u> can be found on the Alberta Education website. This document also contains notes and exemplars to assist teachers and students with the interpretation of curricular outcomes in the program of studies.

*NEW Commentary on the Third Year of Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations

Introduction

Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations were administered in November 2014, January 2015, June 2015, and August 2015. January and June 2015 were large-scale administrations of the examination for the *Mathematics 30–1 Program of Studies*, 2008. This section is intended to provide teachers with information concerning the third year of these diploma examinations. In general, feedback from teachers indicates a high degree of satisfaction with the new examinations in terms of fidelity to, and support of, the program of studies.

Overview of Diploma Examination Development Process and Standards Confirmation

Throughout the diploma examination development process, Alberta Education makes every effort to ensure examinations reflect the standards of the programs of study. Before implementing the current *Mathematics 30–1 Program of Studies*, seven province-wide consultations involving over 120 teachers were held to discuss the blueprint for the Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations. Teachers were also involved in developing items (exam questions) and performance standard descriptors.

The November 2014 and January, June, and August 2015 Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations were built to the published blueprint specifications, based on the program of studies outcomes. To help ensure this, teachers, post-secondary representatives, and Alberta Education staff were extensively involved during the validation processes. After the administration of the January 2015 diploma examination, a Standards Confirmation Working Group, consisting of 20 teachers from across the province, reaffirmed benchmarks of performance for the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence. Using two commonly accepted statistical procedures, it was established that the January 2015 Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examination reflected the standards and outcomes of the current program.

Fairness to students and student success will continue to be the focus of any changes to provincial assessments.

Students' Strengths and Areas for Improvement

Strengths

- Dealing with stretches, reflections, and translations of functions and relations
- Dealing with logarithmic and exponential equations and functions and their graphs
- Identifying correct statements about polynomial functions and their graphs
- Identifying the graph of $y = \sqrt{f(x)}$, given the graph of f(x)
- Identifying the equation of a rational function from its graph
- Determining the composition of 3 functions
- Determining the exact values of trigonometric ratios and expressions
- Finding specific and general solutions of first- and second-degree trigonometric equations
- Simplifying trigonometric rational expressions involving sum and double-angle identities

Areas for Improvement

- Identifying the domain and number of invariant points of $y = \sqrt{f(x)}$, given the graph of f(x)
- Determining the equation of a quadratic function that is reflected about the *x*-axis and translated up
- Given 3 points on the graphs of 3 functions, determining the coordinates of the corresponding point on the graph of the composition of the 3 functions
- Expanding a trigonometric equation involving the tangent of the difference of 2 angles and determining the exact value of a related trigonometric ratio
- Identifying the correct statements about the graph of a translated exponential function
- In a context with given information, determining values of parameters in the equation of the trigonometric function

Changes to the Assessment Standards and Exemplars Document

During standards setting in February 2015, after the January 2015 exam was administered and marked, standards setters and Alberta Education staff made adjustments to the standards document. There was very little change to the document. Teachers should view the revised standards document as posted.

Examination Specifications and Design

Each Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examination is designed to reflect the core content outlined in the *Mathematics 30–1 Program of Studies*. The examination is limited to those expectations that can be measured by a machine-scored test. Therefore, the percentage weightings will not necessarily match the percentage of class time devoted to each unit.

Specifications

The format and content of the Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations in the 2015–2016 school year are as follows:

Question Format	Number of Questions	Percentage Emphasis
Multiple Choice	28	70%
Numerical Response	12	30%

Mathematical Understanding	Percentage Emphasis
Conceptual	34%
Procedural	30%
Problem Solving	36%

Diploma Exam Content	Percentage Emphasis
Relations and Functions	55%
Trigonometry	29%
Permutations, Combinations, and Binomial Theorem	16%

Machine-Scored Questions

Information required to answer **multiple-choice** and/or **numerical-response questions** is often located in a box preceding the question. The number of questions that require the use of the information given in the box will be clearly stated above the box: e.g., "*Use the following information to answer the next two questions*."

For **multiple-choice questions**, students are to choose the correct or best possible answer from four alternatives.

The **numerical-response questions** are interspersed throughout the multiple-choice questions, according to content topic.

For some numerical-response questions, students are required to calculate a numerical answer and then record their answer in a separate area of the answer sheet. When the answer to be recorded cannot be a decimal value, students are asked to determine a whole-number value (e.g., the number of people is ______; the number of different routes is ______). If the answer can be a decimal value, then students are asked to record their answer to the nearest tenth or nearest hundredth, as specified in the question. Students should retain all decimals throughout the question and **rounding should occur only in the final answer**.

Other numerical-response questions require students to record their understanding of a concept. The following are examples of these types of questions.

Correct-Order Question and Solution

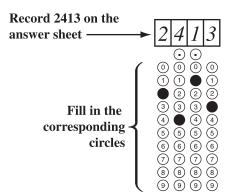
Four Expressions

- $1 \quad 5 \times 4 \times 3$
- 2 ${}_{5}C_{2}$
- **3** 5!
- 4 ${}_{5}P_{2}$

When the expressions above are arranged in ascending order, their order is ____, ___, and ____.

(Record the answer in the numerical-response section on the answer sheet.)

Value to be recorded: 2413



Calculation Question and Solution

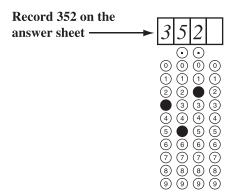
If $f(x) = 2x^2 + 3x + 5$ and $g(x) = x^2 + 2x - 3$, then f(x) + g(x) can be expressed in the form $ax^2 + bx + c$.

In the expression above, the value of

a is _____ (Record in the **first** column) **b** is _____ (Record in the **second** column) (Record in the **third** column)

(Record the answer in the numerical-response section on the answer sheet.)

Value to be recorded: 352

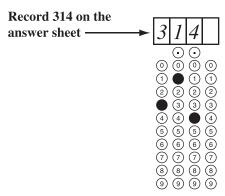


Any-Order Question and Solution

The zeros of the polynomial function $P(x) = x^3 - 8x^2 + 19x - 12$ are , , and .

(Record all three digits of your answer in any order in the numerical-response section on the answer sheet.)

Digits to be recorded: 314



Using Calculators

The Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examination requires the use of an approved graphing calculator. The calculator directives, expectations, criteria, and keystrokes required for clearing approved calculators can be found in the *General Information Bulletin* under <u>Using Calculators & Computers</u>.

Examination Security

All Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examinations will be held secure until released to the public by the Minister. No secure diploma examination is to be previewed, copied, or discussed. For the January and June 2016 examinations, teachers will be allowed access to a *Teacher Perusal Copy* for review purposes one hour after the examination has started.

For more information about teacher perusal copies and examination security, please refer to the *General Information Bulletin* on the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca under <u>Security & Examination Rules</u>.

Publications and Supporting Documents

The following documents are produced to provide teachers with information about the Mathematics 30–1 Diploma Examination:

Mathematics 30–1 Assessment Standards and Exemplars

School Reports and Instructional Group Reports



Maintaining Consistent Standards over Time on Diploma Examinations

A goal of Alberta Education is to make examinations directly comparable from session to session, thereby enhancing fairness to students across administrations.

To achieve this goal, a number of questions, called anchor items, remain the same from one examination to another. Anchor items are used to find out whether the student population writing in one administration differs in achievement from the student population writing in another administration. Anchor items are also used to find out whether the unique items (questions that are different on each examination) differ in difficulty from the unique items on the baseline examination (the first examination to use anchor items). A statistical process, called equating or linking, adjusts for the differences in examination-form difficulty. Examination marks may be adjusted slightly upward or downward, depending upon the difficulty of the examination written relative to the baseline examination. The resulting equated or linked examination scores have the same meaning regardless of when and to whom the examination was administered. Equated or linked diploma examination marks will be reported to students.

Because of the security required to enable fair and appropriate assessment of student achievement over time, Mathematics 30-1 Diploma Examinations will be fully secured and will not be released at the time of writing. For more information about equating or linking, please go to the Alberta Education website under *Maintaining Consistent Standards Over Time Initiative*.

* Please note that the process of examination equating or linking for Mathematics 30–1 will not be implemented until extensive standard-setting has been performed.



Explanation of Cognitive Levels

Procedural

The assessment of students' knowledge of mathematical procedures should involve recognition, execution, and verification of appropriate procedures and the steps contained within them. The use of technology can allow for conceptual understanding prior to specific skill development or vice versa. Students must appreciate that procedures are created or generated to meet specific needs in an efficient manner and thus can be modified or extended to fit new situations. Assessment of students' procedural knowledge will not be limited to an evaluation of their proficiency in performing procedures, but will be extended to reflect the skills presented above.

Conceptual

An understanding of mathematical concepts goes beyond a mere recall of definitions and recognition of common examples. Assessment of students' knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts should provide evidence that they can compare, contrast, label, verbalize, and define concepts; identify and generate examples and counter-examples as well as properties of a given concept; recognize the various meanings and interpretations of concepts; and defend procedures and personal strategies. Students who have developed a conceptual understanding of mathematics can also use models, symbols, and diagrams to represent concepts. Appropriate assessment provides evidence of the extent to which students have integrated their knowledge of various concepts.

Problem Solving

Appropriate assessment of problem-solving skills is achieved by allowing students to adapt and extend the mathematics they know and by encouraging the use of strategies to solve unique and unfamiliar problems. Assessment of problem solving involves measuring the extent to which students use these strategies and knowledge and their ability to verify and interpret results. Students' ability to solve problems develops over time as a result of their experiences with relevant situations that present opportunities to solve various types of problems. Evidence of problem-solving skills is often linked to clarity of communication. Students demonstrating strong problem-solving skills should be able to clearly explain the process they have chosen, using appropriate language and correct mathematical notation and conventions.

Mathematical Processes

The seven mathematical processes are critical aspects of learning, doing, and understanding mathematics. Students must encounter these processes regularly in a mathematics program in order to achieve the goals of mathematics education.

The Mathematics 30–1 Program of Studies incorporates the following interrelated mathematical processes. They are to permeate the teaching and learning of mathematics.

	Students are expected to:
Communication [C]	• use communication in order to learn and express their understanding
Connections [CN]	 make connections among mathematical ideas, other concepts in mathematics, everyday experiences, and other disciplines
Mental Mathematics and Estimation [ME]	• demonstrate fluency with mental mathematics and estimation
Problem Solving [PS]	• develop and apply new mathematical knowledge through <i>problem solving</i>
Reasoning [R]	• develop mathematical reasoning
Technology [T]	• select and use <i>technology</i> as a tool for learning and solving problems
Visualization [V]	• develop <i>visualization</i> skills to assist in processing information, making connections, and solving problems

For further details about each of these processes, please refer to the Conceptual Framework for Grades 10-12 Mathematics found in the Mathematics Grades 10-12 Program of Studies at education.alberta.ca.





Mathematics 30–1 Formula Sheet

For
$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$
,

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Relations and Functions

Graphing Calculator Window Format

$$x$$
: [x_{\min} , x_{\max} , x_{scl}]

$$y$$
: [y_{min} , y_{max} , y_{scl}]

Laws of Logarithms

$$\log_b(M \times N) = \log_b M + \log_b N$$

$$\log_b\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \log_b M - \log_b N$$

$$\log_b(M^n) = n \log_b M$$

$$\log_b c = \frac{\log_a c}{\log_a b}$$

Growth/Decay Formula

$$y = ab^{\frac{t}{p}}$$

General Form of a Transformed Function

$$y = af[b(x - h)] + k$$

Permutations, Combinations, and the Binomial Theorem

$$n! = n(n-1)(n-2)...3 \times 2 \times 1$$
,
where $n \in N$ and $0! = 1$

$$_{n}P_{r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

$$_{n}C_{r} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$$
 $_{n}C_{r} = \binom{n}{r}$

In the expansion of $(x + y)^n$, written in descending powers of x, the general term is $t_{k+1} = {}_{n}C_{k}x^{n-k}y^{k}$.

Trigonometry

$$\theta = \frac{a}{r}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \qquad \cot \theta = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$$

$$\cot \theta = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$$

$$\csc \theta = \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \qquad \sec \theta = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$$

$$\sec \theta = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$$

$$\cot \theta = \frac{1}{\tan \theta}$$

$$\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$$

$$1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta$$

$$1 + \cot^2 \theta = \csc^2 \theta$$

$$\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin\alpha \cos\beta + \cos\alpha \sin\beta$$

$$\sin(\alpha - \beta) = \sin\alpha \cos\beta - \cos\alpha \sin\beta$$

$$\cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos\alpha \cos\beta - \sin\alpha \sin\beta$$

$$\cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos\alpha \cos\beta + \sin\alpha \sin\beta$$

$$\tan(\alpha + \beta) = \frac{\tan \alpha + \tan \beta}{1 - \tan \alpha \tan \beta}$$

$$\tan(\alpha - \beta) = \frac{\tan \alpha - \tan \beta}{1 + \tan \alpha \tan \beta}$$

$$\sin(2\alpha) = 2\sin\alpha\cos\alpha$$

$$\cos(2\alpha) = \cos^2\alpha - \sin^2\alpha$$

$$\cos(2\alpha) = 2\cos^2\alpha - 1$$

$$\cos(2\alpha) = 1 - 2\sin^2\alpha$$

$$\tan(2\alpha) = \frac{2\tan\alpha}{1-\tan^2\alpha}$$

$$y = a\sin[b(x-c)] + d$$

$$y = a\cos[b(x-c)] + d$$

Website Links

Publication/Resource Mathematics 30–1 Program of Studies	
	Mathematics Grades 10-12 Program of Studies
	Mathematics 30-1 Information Bulletin
	<u>Using Calculators & Computers</u>
	General Information Bulletin
	QuestA+
	Mathematics and Science Directing Words
	FAQs for Educators
	Fact Sheets & Useful Links
	Released Items



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