Questions and Answers (Q + A)  
Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 Diploma Exams with Written Response  
November 2018 Update

1. When is the first diploma exam with a written-response component for Math 30-1 and Math 30-2?

The first exam in Math 30-1 with a written-response component was November 2018. The first exam in Math 30-2 with a written-response component will be January 2019.

2. What is the format of the written-response questions?

Sample questions and scoring guides are posted on Alberta Education’s website. Information about the design of the written-response questions was also shared at information sessions through the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC).

3. Will students be able to use calculators on the Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 diploma exams that contain written response?

Yes. However, students will be required to demonstrate their algebraic skills, their conceptual understanding, and their mathematical communication skills in the written-response questions. Students will not be able to obtain full credit for a response without supporting work.

4. Will the Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 Diploma Exams with a written-response component be equated?

Yes. A baseline for each exam was set in 2017. More information about equating is posted on Alberta Education’s website.

5. The Part As (written-response questions) of the Humanities Diploma Exams are released after each major administration (January and June). Will the Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 written-response components be released after each January and June administration as well?

No. The written-response component and the machine-scored portion of all Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 Diploma Exams are written at the same time using a single exam booklet. The Part As of the Humanities Diploma Exams are written on a different day than the machine-scored portion (Part Bs), so there are two separate booklets for the Humanities Diploma Exams. All Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 Diploma Exams with a written-response component will remain secured after every administration for equating purposes.

6. What information will students have on their Results Statements in PASI?

The total exam mark will be reported, as well as the mark of the written-response component. This will help students decide whether or not they want to request a rescore.
A more detailed breakdown of a student's score is provided on the detailed reports that are available to teachers, schools, and school authorities for major administrations. Students may wish to discuss this detailed breakdown with their teacher.

7. Can a student rewrite only the written-response component of the Math 30-1 or the Math 30-2 Diploma Exam?

No. All questions for the Math 30-1 and the Math 30-2 Diploma Exam are contained in a single booklet. Students must rewrite the entire diploma exam.

8. How can teachers get involved with marking the written response component for Math 30-1 and Math 30-2?

The call for nominations to mark all written response questions, including the field tested items for Math 30-1 and Math 30-2, is sent by email to assessment contacts in each school authority in early September (for January and April marking sessions) and in early February (for June, August & November marking sessions). The qualifications for nominating qualified teachers and the procedures to submit nominations is included in the email that is sent out. Further information about the marking process can be found on Alberta Education's website. Please note the nominations for marking are done separately from the nominations for other working groups such as item writing, field test validation, etc.

9. If I have further questions about the written response for Math 30-1 or Math 30-2, who can I contact?

For further information about the written response for Math 30-1, please contact Delcy Rolheiser, Exam Manager, Math 30-1, at Delcy.Rolheiser@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-415-6181. For further information about the written response for Math 30-2, please contact Jenny Kim, Exam Manager, Math 30-2, at Jenny.Kim@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-415-6127. For toll-free access in Alberta, first dial 310-0000.

For further information about diploma exams, please contact Deanna Shostak, Director of Diploma Programs, at Deanna.Shostak@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-422-5160. For toll-free access in Alberta, first dial 310-0000.