

# The High School Gateway Writing Assessments in Science and Social Studies

Gwinnett County Public Schools' (GCPS) High School Gateway Assessments measure students' ability to write effectively about Gwinnett's Academic Knowledge and Skills curriculum in the areas of Biology, Chemistry, and U.S. History.

The Gateway is administered in two assessments. For science, students typically take the assessment in 10th grade. New this year, the social studies assessment will be administered in 11th grade.

Students write an essay for each assessment. In writing the essays, students use their own prior knowledge about the topic and pull information from documents provided.

During the school year, science and social studies teachers give students many opportunities to practice their writing skills so they will be ready for the Gateway.

**Students must pass High School Gateway Writing Assessments in both science and social studies to graduate with a GCPS diploma.**

## The 2019–20 Assessment Schedule

In the spring of 2020, 10th graders enrolled in Biology or Chemistry will have two opportunities to meet the graduation requirement for the Science Gateway. And, the focus for the Social Studies Gateway will shift to U.S. History.

### Science Gateway



10th graders\* will take a field test using new questions.



10th graders\* will take the main administration for the Science Gateway.

\*9th graders currently enrolled in Chemistry who successfully completed Biology in 8th grade also may take these tests.

**Students can use their score from either assessment to meet graduation requirements.**

### Social Studies Gateway

The Gateway Writing Assessment in social studies changes focus this year, transitioning from World History (10th grade) to U.S. History (11th grade). **Beginning this year, 10th graders will no longer take a Social Studies Gateway. Those 11th graders who previously passed the 10th grade Social Studies Gateway will not be required to take a Social Studies Gateway this year.**



11th graders who have not yet passed the Social Studies Gateway will take this year's test in U.S. History.

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