Scarsdale High School Common Final Assessments 2015 - 2016

Members of each department at Scarsdale High School work together to establish common course goals, approaches to teaching material, and final assessments. The following table identifies departmental assessments. All are administered in late May or June 2016 with the exception of those for Arts and for Physical Education.

**English**

Ninth grade
- Shakespeare Festival
- Essay of literary analysis

Tenth grade
- Essay of literary analysis
- Digital Argumentation (evolving)

Eleventh grade
- Literary research paper
- Essay of literary analysis
- New York State Regents Exam

Twelfth grade
- Research paper
- Essay of literary analysis

**Social Studies**

Ninth Grade World History: World Cities Project

Tenth Grade World History
- document-based question on globalization
- multi-step, process-oriented research paper project
- New York State Regents Exam in Global History

Eleventh grade
- multi-step, process-oriented research paper project
- New York State Regents Exam in United States History

Twelfth grade
- multi-step, process-oriented research paper project

Advanced Topics courses (AT U.S. History, AT Western Civilization, AT American Government, AT International Politics, AT Psychology, AT Economics): common final exam in each course


**Science**

All science courses other than Environmental Science have a common final exam. All ninth-graders take the New York State Living Environment Regents exam. Chemistry 513 students take the New York State Chemistry Regents exam. All other students take a local final exam that grows out of collaborations among teachers of each course. For the last two or three years, Environmental Science has concluded with presentations of research or culminating projects.

**Mathematics**

Grades 9-12: At monthly Course Meetings, teachers share lessons, unit tests and quarterly tests with each other, so the assessments are not exactly the same, but the formats and questions are similar. Each course culminates in a common final exam.

AT Statistics: Juniors in AT Statistics do a year-end project for which the requirements and grading rubric are common to all sections of the course. The students formulate and analyze a research question using the Adolescent Heath Database from the University of North Carolina Population Center. This project is funded by the National Science Foundation, and students use Google Hangouts to communicate with Wesleyan University students who help students to learn the software program “R” and develop techniques for analyzing their data. This project is in addition to a common final exam.

**World Languages**

Common assessments in World Languages are designed by the teachers within each team (eg. Spanish 323, French 344...). The only different format is Spanish AT Language & Culture with a portfolio. All common assessments evaluate the four skills of language.

**Arts**

Ninth grade art classes: Cooper Hewitt museum project and final art project. The museum assignment is handed out to all ninth grade art students. They go to the museum on their own time. The art project attached to it is to be handed in as part of the final. Our assessment is posted on Schoolwires for all ninth grade classes.

**Physical Education**

During each quarter students participate in a skill performance assessment in one, and sometimes both, of the two units covered. It can be a live action viewing or video playback self-assessment, peer-assessment, or teacher-assessment, each with its own rubric. In addition, a quarterly cognitive assessment piece, takes the form of either a formal written test or quiz, or an informal approach rooted in a variety of writing assignments developed by the department (i.e., a review of a fitness-based app, a self-designed workout plan for a specific fitness goal, etc.).