

Barnwell High School
474 Jackson Street
Barnwell, South Carolina 29812

To: Students, Parents, and Guardians
From: Dr. Jessica Brabham-James, School Testing Coordinator
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024
RE: End of Course Examination
CC: Mr. Franklin McCormack, Principal; Mr. Jared Thrasher, Assistant Principal; and
Mrs. Daphne Still, District Test Coordinator

Barnwell High School will administer the End of Course Examination Program (EOCEP) to students enrolled in English 2, Algebra 1, Biology 1, and United States History and Constitution. The End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) is a statewide assessment program of end-of-course tests for gateway courses awarded units of credit in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The EOCEP encourages instruction in the specific standards for the courses, encourages student achievement, and documents the level of students' mastery of the academic standards. Our goal is to ensure student preparation for End of Course Examinations by teaching content standards utilizing effective instructional strategies to address all learning modalities. The EOCEP is not timed; however, the tests are designed for a 90-minute period.

The EOCEP for the spring 2024 administration will be conducted on the dates listed below:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>End of Course Testing</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, April 30 th	English 2 (Writing) Field Test	8 a.m.
Tuesday, May 14 th	English 2 (Writing)	8 a.m.
Wednesday, May 15 th	Biology 1	8 a.m.
Thursday, May 16 th	English 2 (Reading) and United States History and Constitution	8 a.m.
Friday, May 17 th	Algebra 1	8 a.m.

Below are descriptions of the format and content of the examinations.

Algebra 1: End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) Algebra 1 Test Description:

- The EOCEP Algebra 1 test consists of fifty operational items.
- Additionally, there may be five to ten field-test items annually in the spring.
- The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Mathematical Process Standards are integrated as part of the overall student expectations.
- The EOCEP Algebra 1 test will have 2 to 6 technology enhanced (TE) items.

English 2: End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) English 2 Test Description:

- The EOCEP English 2 test consists of fifty-five operational items.
- Additionally, there may be embedded field-test items in the spring.
- The test is administered in two sessions: Writing and Reading.
- The Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) is an essay scored with a holistic rubric with a point range of 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest). To reflect the importance of student-produced writing, the score on the writing is then weighted by a factor of 4 for a maximum of 16 points.
- There are three Reporting Categories: Reading Literacy Text (RL), Reading Informational Text (RI), and Writing. Communication indicators will be included in the Writing Reporting Category.
- Inquiry items are included in the total English 2 score.

Biology 1: End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) Biology 1 Test Description:

- The End-of-Course Biology assessment has 60 test questions (10 field test items may be embedded).
- The blueprint will have a range of items (8 to 18) aligned to each reporting category.
- The Science and Engineering Practice items are embedded throughout the test.
- The items cover a range of difficulty levels.
- The End-of-Course Biology assessment includes two scenario sets. Each scenario consists of a scenario (scientific text, graph, and/ or data) with three test items related to the scenario.
- The End-of-Course Biology assessment has 2 to 6 technology enhanced (TE) items.

United States History and Constitution: End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) United States History and Constitution Test Description:

- The USHC EOCEP has 55 test questions.
- There may be 8-10 embedded field test items on the assessment.
- The items cover a range of difficulty levels.
- The end-of-course examination will consist of approximately 10 to 12 assessment items per standard.
- Possible item types that may appear include selected-response, evidence-based selected response (EBSR), multi-select, or technology-enhanced (TE).
- Test items cover a range of depth of knowledge (DOK) levels (1-3).

Attendance and Appointments:

Students are directed to report to Barnwell High no later than 7:45 a.m. on their test day. End of Course Testing will be administered on the 100 hall. Test rosters will be posted in the hall. Testing will begin at 8 a.m. Please be advised that students will not be permitted to enter the testing rooms once the test has started.

We kindly ask that you refrain from scheduling doctor's appointments and other out-of-school functions during the testing.

Students should bring the following item on test day:

- Student issued chrome book (Please ensure that chrome books are fully charged for the administration of the End of Course Examination)

Permitted Calculators:

Students will utilize the Desmos calculator, which is an online calculator tool built into the EOCEP test engine. The Desmos calculator tool is recommended when taking the EOCEP Algebra 1 and Biology assessments to reduce security risks.

Electronic Devices:

Students are advised to leave all electronic devices at home, in vehicles, or in lockers. During testing, students may not be in possession of any electronic or other device that can be used for communicating, recording, timing, creating images, or storing images. These devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, media players, electronic readers, headphones, smartwatches, stop watches, electronic translators, handheld devices, or any electronic imaging, or photographic devices. All electronic devices must be collected before students begin taking the test and returned only after all students in the test session have completed testing. The State Department of Education has advised us that in recent years the number of Test Security Violations due to student use of cell phones during testing has increased substantially.

Student Responsibilities to Maintain Test Security

As an examinee, you are responsible for adhering to the policies and procedures associated with the End of Course Examination. Please review and adhere to the student / examinee responsibilities listed below.

- The examinee is obligated to respect the confidentiality and / or copyrights of South Carolina test materials.
- All test materials are the property of the State Department of Education or the contractor, and theft of test materials or compromising the security or confidentiality of test materials through any means, such as copying, videoing, and sharing content in any way, is unacceptable.
- No one may reproduce, copy, record, distribute, broadcast, or share any part of the material presented to them during a test session.
- No one may disseminate, in any form, material that is similar in nature to the test.
- Students, as well as test administrators, have the responsibility to protect test security by refusing to share any details of the test content to others.
- Improper test-taking behavior, such as cheating or producing any type of recording or documentation of the test items, will result in consequences.

Please note, failure to honor these responsibilities may compromise the validity of the test score interpretation for the examinee and for others. Consequences for the theft of items or test materials could include receiving a zero on the test, not receiving a test score, suspension or expulsion from school, criminal investigation and possible criminal charges, and other civil or legal sanctions. The analyses of score patterns may be conducted to detect breaches of security, cheating, or other improper behavior.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the End of Course Examination Program, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 541-1390.