

VDOE Update on Practice/Resources for SOL tests
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/

- Two sets of “tools” practice on VDOE web site provide opportunities for students to practice using online tools.
- Stand-alone items on reading and writing SOL tests may contain one or more boxed excerpts that are lengthier than those previously used on tests. Sample items with lengthier excerpts are posted on the practice item page.
- Technology-enhanced items (TEI) will be introduced into history SOL tests.
- Practice Items and Practice Item Guides on the VDOE web site are being updated for Reading, Writing, and Science. End-of-Course practice items, and grades 3, 5, 8 science will be updated by November 15. Grades 3 - 8 reading will be updated winter, 2014.
- EOC Reading Practice Items and guides will include approximately 8 to 10 new items with paired selections and an additional stand-alone item.
- An additional passage and items will be added to the existing reading practice items and accompanying guides for grades 3 through 8 in the spring. For grades 3 and 5, one or more new stand-alone items will also be added.
- Writing Practice Items (5W, 8W, EW) are being enhanced, along with the accompanying Practice Item Guides, to include approximately 10 additional items.
- EOC Biology, Chemistry, and Earth Science practice items and guides will be updated to include 9-10 new items. Ten new items will be added to the existing science practice items and guides for grades 3, 5, and 8 science.
- In March 2014 VDOE is planning to release the following tests: Grades 3 - 8 Math, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
- In March 2014, VDOE is planning to release a **set of test items** from 2013 history and social science SOL tests for all history tests. The history item bank cannot support a full release of each history test form at this time.
- End-of-Course Writing Prompts posted to the VDOE webpage will be updated after Fall 2013 testing is completed. Only the EOC will have new prompts added. The **Understand Scoring** application has been updated to include student papers that can be used to practice scoring.
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/2010/online_writing/index.shtml#understands_coring
- Professional development presentations are being prepared for science, reading, and mathematics to highlight portions of the SOL that were most problematic for students on the SOL tests in 2012-2013. Recorded presentations for End-of-Course subjects in these content areas will be available on the VDOE web site by mid-November, 2013. Similar presentations for grades 3 through 8 will be available in February 2014. The purpose of these presentations is **to provide teachers** with specific examples of content contained in the standards where students may benefit from additional instruction. The items contained in the presentations are not intended to be used independently by students nor are they formatted to be similar to SOL test items.