Machine Scoring Questions and Answers

WHEN DID OHIO BEGIN MACHINE SCORING STATE TESTS?

Ohio has been using machine-scored innovative test questions since 2015. This spring (2018), we will complete the transition to all tests being machine scored.

There are many advantages to a machine scoring system for Ohio's State Tests for districts and students, including:

- An increase in accessibility and accommodations for all students;
- Availability of multiple innovative item types;
- Consistency of scoring tests by using technology; and a
- Quicker return of test results to districts.

Visit our website for additional information on Ohio's use of machine scoring.

HOW DOES THE COMPUTER KNOW HOW TO SCORE WRITTEN STUDENT RESPONSES?

The scoring engine is programmed based on student responses to field-test questions that have been scored by humans. We explain this process fully here.

WHAT IF A STUDENT PROVIDES A WRITTEN RESPONSE THAT THE COMPUTER DOESN'T RECOGNIZE BUT IS STILL CORRECT?

If the scoring engine does not recognize aspects of a student response, those responses are pulled to be reviewed by a human scorer.

I HAVE A STUDENT WHO RECEIVED A ZERO ON THE WRITING PROMPT. WHAT DOES A ZERO MEAN?

Students earn between zero and 10 points on questions that require a written response. Understanding the reasons why a student could earn a zero can help educators support students in providing responses that will earn them points. A score of zero does not necessarily indicate that a student failed to provide a response to a question. See a full explanation of why students may earn zero points on a writing prompt here.

I TEACH MY STUDENTS TO COPY THE PROMPT IN THEIR RESPONSE SO THEY MAKE SURE TO ANSWER ALL PARTS OF A QUESTION. WILL THEY GET A ZERO FOR "PROMPT COPY" IF THEY DO THAT?

A score of zero can be earned when there is a significant amount of text copied directly from the prompt and/or reading passages, with little to no original writing from the student. Copying limited text from the prompt or passage is allowable but, as a rule, at least 30 percent of a response needs to be original student writing to demonstrate understanding and earn points.

DOES "PROMPT COPY" OCCUR MORE FREQUENTLY IN EARLY GRADE ASSESSMENTS?

We see prompt copy at all grade levels. National trends indicate that students should be less inclined to copy text directly from the prompt or passages as they advance in grade level and skill attainment.

WHAT IF MY STUDENTS DON'T HAVE STRONG KEYBOARDING SKILLS? ARE THEY STILL ABLE TO PERFORM WELL ON THIS TEST?

Keyboarding skills are not part of the scoring. However, good writing skills (punctuation, spelling and grammar) are considered part of the **conventions** sub-score of writing. This could count for up to two points on a written response question.