

This High-Level Blueprint describes the structure and content of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) Social Studies 8 Assessment. Although not indicated in the blueprint, field test items (that do not impact a student’s score) are placed throughout the assessment and vary in type and position from year to year.

MCAP SOCIAL STUDIES 8 ASSESSMENT

The MCAP SS8 assessment will measure both students’ understanding of the core content and the skills and processes outlined in the assessment limits.

The assessment will measure this understanding through selected response items, constructed response items, technology-enhanced items, and an Evidence Based Argument Set (EBAS). The EBAS has been designed to comply with the parameters set forth by the Maryland General Assembly. In 2017, the Maryland General Assembly amended Md. Ed. Art §7-203 Education Accountability Program. The amendment called for the creation of a middle school grade band assessment in social studies. The law defines the assessment by stating that it should “Consist, to the greatest extent possible, of criterion-referenced, performance-based tasks that require students to utilize critical and historical thinking skills and analyze primary sources.”

Standard	Description of Standard
1.0: Civics	Students shall inquire about the historical development of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence with particular emphasis on civic reasoning in order to become informed, responsible citizens, engage in the political process, and contribute to society.
2.0: Peoples of the Nations and World	Students shall inquire about the people of the United States and the world using a historically grounded, multidisciplinary approach in order to recognize multiple narratives and acknowledge the diversity and commonality of the human experience.
3.0: Geography	Students shall inquire about the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location, distribution, and impact of human activities using geographic tools and spatial thinking in order to demonstrate a significance of place.
4.0: Economics	Students will inquire about decisions made by individuals and groups using economic reasoning in order to understand the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world.
5.0: History	Students will inquire about significant events, ideas, beliefs, and themes to identify patterns, trends, and to analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time to make connections to the present in their communities, Maryland, the United States, and the world.

Standard	Description of Standard
<p>6.0: Skills and Processes</p>	<p>Students will inquire about civics, geography, economics, history, and people and nations of the world using disciplinary literacy skills and processes to critically evaluate content through a variety of source materials across disciplines and use reading, writing, and other forms of communication to develop, defend, and critique arguments in order to take informed action.</p>

Section & Time	Item Types	Standards Assessed
<p>1 (40 minutes)</p>	<p>Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced</p>	<p>1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 5.0</p>
<p>2 (40 minutes)</p>	<p>Selected Response Technology Enhanced Evidence Based Argument Set</p>	<p>1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 5.0 6.0</p>
<p>3 (40 minutes)</p>	<p>Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced</p>	<p>1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 5.0</p>
<p>4 (40 minutes)</p>	<p>Selected Response Technology Enhanced Evidence Based Argument Set</p>	<p>1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 5.0 6.0</p>

BLUEPRINT BY STANDARD

This table indicates the breakdown of items on the MCAP SS8 by Maryland Social Studies Standard reporting category.

Standard	Percentage
Standard 1.0: Civics	16-22%
Standard 2.0: Peoples of the Nations and World	15-21%
Standard 3.0: Geography	15-21%
Standard 4.0: Economics	13-19%
Standard 5.0: History	16-22%
Standard 6.0: Skills and Processes	18%

BLUEPRINT BY UNIT

This table indicates the breakdown of items on the MCAP SS8 by the Unit reporting category.

Chronological Unit	Percentage
Colonization (1607 – 1754)	Not assessed
The American Revolution (1754 – 1783)	20%
Founding of the New Government (1776 – 1791)	20%
A New Nation (1787 – 1825)	20%
Geographic Expansion and Political Division (1820 – 1860)	20%
Civil War and Reunion (1860 – 1896)	20%
Growth of Industrial America (1877 – 1890)	Not assessed