

# Test Template



## Setting Students Up for Success

The recommended test template divides a unit test into three sections. The first section emphasizes math concepts and skills students need to know to be successful in the unit. These are labeled as 3-star problems. The second section of the template are problems “like” the problems that were done in class; 2-star problems. The third section of the template reflects performance based problems that would be found on consortium tests, problems that students might encounter on college entrance exams or conceptually based problems. These are labeled 1-star questions.

Three types of questions:

- 1) 3-star questions reflect math concepts and skills students need to know to be successful in math. These are the first 4, 5, 6 questions on a test that do not have computation or manipulation and should constitute between 20 and 30% of the test. These questions include definitions, identifications, theorems, formulas, and algorithms that should help the students on other sections of the test - memorization. If students cannot verbalize their knowledge, they probably don't own it. These first questions also act as a study guide for that test and reviews for semester exams.

If a 1-star question appears in the 3-star section, that means that there are different methodologies to solve a particular type equation. By labeling it as a 1-star, students should understand that the question on the real test could be any one of the methodologies. Ex. Solving quadratics by the Zero Product Property,  $x^2 = n$  Method, Completing the Square or the Quadratic Formula.

- 2) 2-star questions are questions that reflect example exercises and word problems that were identified in the instruction as “these are just like the problems you will see on the test” with minor differences.
- 3) 1-star questions are questions that reflect conceptual development and questions that look like performance based questions on consortium tests or college entrance exams. The questions represent 10-20% of the test.