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To the Student

Introduction to the California High School Exit Examination in Mathematics

The California High School Exit Examination in Mathematics tests the following 6 strands taken from the California State Board of Education:

Number Sense

Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability

Algebra and Functions

Measurement and Geometry

Mathematical Reasoning

Algebra 1

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The Diagnostic Pretest

The book contains a pretest, lessons based on the Massachusetts objectives, and a posttest. The first thing you should do is take the pretest. Cut the Pretest Answer Booklet (page 235) out of the back of your book and use it to record all of your answers.

Lesson and Reviews

The lessons cover 15 of the standards that appear on the exit level MCAS English Language Arts exam. Before the lesson begins, the standard is stated and briefly explained. The question type, such as multiple-choice or short-answer response is also given.

Each lesson is divided into three steps:

Step One: Sample Passage and Questions

Read a short passage and the sample questions to follow. For the sample questions, explanations are given for each answer choice.

Step Two: Side Bar Instruction

Read a slightly longer passage and answer questions with the help of hints, called sidebars, in the margins.

Step Three: On Your Own

Read a full-length passage and answer the questions on your own.

With each step, the length and reading level of the passage increases. By step three, the passage is full-length and written at the 11th grade level. The lessons are designed to increase your endurance for reading longer passages and to slowly increase the level of difficulty.

Review

At the end of every three lessons is a review. The selections in the review are written at the 11th grade level and have questions based on the objectives covered in the previous lessons.

The Diagnostic Posttest

After you have completed all of the lessons and review, remove the Posttest Answer Booklet (pg 245) from the back of your book and take the posttest. After your teacher has scored the posttest, he or she can tell you if there are standards you need to review. Go back to re-work lessons related to those objectives that need to be reviewed.