Where can I find sample or practice test questions?
The practice tests provide parents and students examples of how students are assessed in ELA and mathematics on the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Practice tests are available in ELA and mathematics for Grades 3-8.

Practice tests are available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/Smarter/sampleitems

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The Badger Exam 3-8:

A Wisconsin Smarter Balanced Assessment

Information for Families 2014-15

For more information contact
the Office of Student Assessment at
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What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium?
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is a group of states working together to develop next-generation assessments that accurately measure student progress towards college and career readiness. The group involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community members.

What is the Badger Exam 3-8?
Students will take the *Badger Exam 3-8: A Wisconsin Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment* in grades 3-8 during the last eight weeks of the school year. This new assessment will be used to gauge how well students are mastering the Wisconsin College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Students will take the Badger Exam 3-8 online. The Badger Exam 3-8 includes:

- **multiple-choice questions**: the student selects the correct answers from answer options,
- **short answer questions**: the student provides a brief description in their response to the question, and
- **performance tasks**: students must take part in separate group mathematics classroom activities. They then must answer a series of short questions on the computer.

Accommodations and supports for students with disabilities and/or English language learners are built into the system so that the progress of students can be accurately measured.

What does this mean for my child?
The Badger Exam 3-8 is a summative measure which gauges your child's achievement compared to other students in the state and against other students in states who use similar Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Along with local measures such as report cards, school wide assessments, and other information about your child's progress in school, the results from the Badger Exam 3-8 provide insight into how well your child is doing on a broad measure of achievement.

What are the test times?
The estimated time for test administration is around 1 ½ hours for ELA assessments in each grade, and around 3½-4 hours for the mathematics assessment. The Smarter tests are not timed.

How are the test results used?
Timely and meaningful assessment information about student performance allows:

- **teachers** to target instruction to individual student needs,
- **students** to better target their own efforts,
- **administrators** to more fully understand what students know and can do to guide curriculum and professional development decisions, and
- **parents** to understand what their child knows and is able to do in ELA and mathematics.

Will the Smarter Balanced Assessment result in a common curriculum for all Wisconsin public schools?
No. Decisions about the curriculum are best made by educators in each school district. The Smarter Balanced Assessment will gauge how well students reach the academic standards, while allowing local decisions about how to teach.

When does the Badger Exam take place?
The Badger Exam 3-8 will be given online in schools between March 30 - May 22, 2015.

What type of scores will be provided?
The Summative Assessment provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Standards. Students receive a score based on their performance. Each score will fall in one of four levels:

- Advanced – Student demonstrates **thorough** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.
- Proficient – Student demonstrates **adequate** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.
- Basic – Student demonstrates **partial** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.
- Below Basic – Student demonstrates **minimal** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.