



Illinois  
State Board of  
Education



# ILLINOIS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT 2023

## Illinois Science Assessment Tutorial Teacher Information

January 31, 2023

## Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) Tutorial Teacher Information

This year there will be a tutorial for the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) available for students and educators. The tutorial can be accessed from the ISBE website at: <https://www.isbe.net/isa> starting a few weeks prior to the beginning of the test window through the end of the test window.

Taking the tutorial will acquaint students with the operation of the software and the structure of the assessment. They will see screenshots of the login process, available accessibility tools, and the proper way to submit their tests. The tutorial includes a sample of each item type students could see within the ISA: multiple choice, multiple select, inline choice, matching, extended text entry and passage-based items. The student tools available in the ISA, Text to Speech, Calculator, Line Reader, Highlighter, Magnifier, and Item bookmark & Review, are also available for students to explore during the tutorial. Note: The ISA Tutorial will not acquaint students with the device-specific secure exam browsers that are required to complete the assessment.

On the following pages, you will find screenshots of the tutorial so that you can acquaint yourself with the content and purpose.

From the ISA website (<https://www.isbe.net/isa>), students will be taken to the ISA platform in ISBE Teach where they will choose to take the tutorial by selecting the **Start Tutorial** button, as shown below. At the end of the tutorial, they will return to this page. They can return to ISBE.net or close their browser to exit.

The ISA Practice Test provides students with access to grade-specific, ISA sample content. These tests may also be accessed from the ISA website: <https://www.isbe.net/isa>.

ISBE | ISBE TEACH [User Icon]

? Help

## Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) Tutorial

Welcome to the ISA Tutorial site. This tutorial provides students with the opportunity to:

- View the ISA log in screens, move between questions and learn how to submit their test
- Practice using the accessibility tools that are available to all students: **Line Reader, Text-to-Speech, Calculator, Answer Eliminator, Magnifier, and Highlighter**

*Please note the following:*

- *This tutorial uses example items; **To practice grade-specific, ISA content, check out the ISA Practice Tests here: [Go to the ISA Practice Tests](#).***
- *To ensure that your responses are saved during the actual test, it is important to follow the on-screen prompts to submit and exit the test.*

**Click the green button to start the tutorial**

For additional instructions and test taking tips, check out the Test Taking section of the [User Guide on the ISBE.net/ISA page](#).

**Start Tutorial**

Return to ISBE.net/ISA

This is the first screen the students see after starting the tutorial. Students should read the instructions and then press the **Start Test** button.

ISA Student Exit

## ISA Platform Tutorial

1 TOTAL SECTIONS	4 TOTAL QUESTIONS
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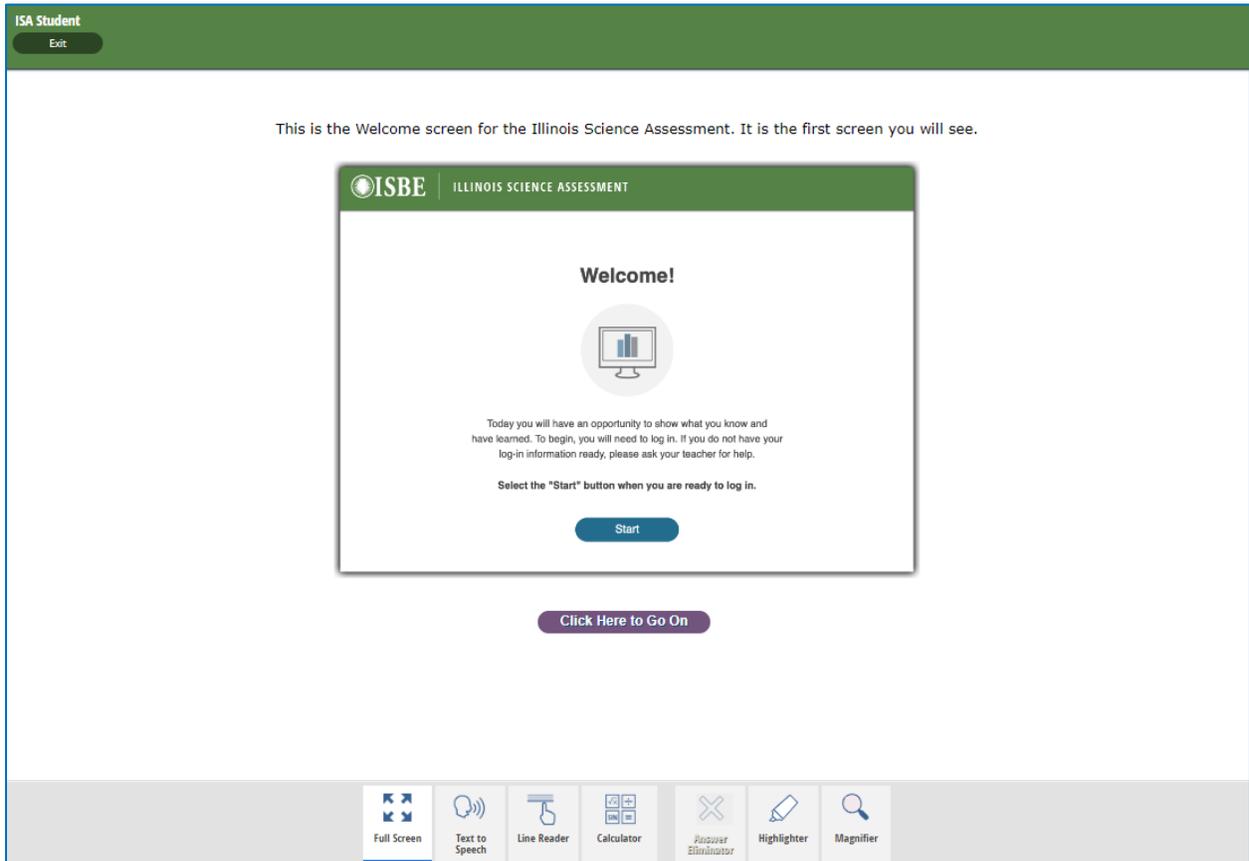
### Instructions

Welcome to the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) platform tutorial. You can practice answering the different types of test questions, moving from one screen to the next, using the different tools, and using the Bookmark and Review features. The tutorial questions are not scored, and do not contain released items nor sample content.

**Start Test**

After starting the tutorial, the students will see a series of informational screens that explain the start-up screens on the ISA. Students should be encouraged to read these pages, or the teacher may read them aloud to students, so students are familiar with the text prior to taking the ISA.

The second screen of the tutorial is an example of the ISA Welcome screen. The students will need to select the **Click Here to Go On** button to advance to the next screen.



The third screen of the tutorial is an example of the ISA login process. This screen explains that an Access Code is required to take the ISA. Access Codes are generated in the ISBE Teach platform by an educator and are supplied to the person proctoring the exam. This may be the students' teacher or another test administrator. For the ISA, the test administrator will provide the access code to each student, who will enter the Access Code into the Login screen and click **Submit**.

The tutorial does not require an access code.

ISA Student  
Exit

After the Welcome screen on the real test, you must enter an access code from your teacher and then select **Submit** after you enter the access code.

ISBE | ILLINOIS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

**Login**

Access Code

Submit

**You do not need an access code for this Tutorial.**

[Click Here to Go On](#)

Full Screen Text to Speech Line Reader Calculator Answer Eliminator Highlighter Magnifier

The fourth screen of the tutorial is an example of the rest of the ISA login process. In the ISA, the students will need to confirm their name and grade. The grade is confirmed as part of the test name, for instance, *Illinois Science Assessment – Grade 5*. The student must inform the test administrator if any information is NOT correct. The test administrator then contacts the test coordinator – who may resolve the problem or contact ISBE to resolve the issue.

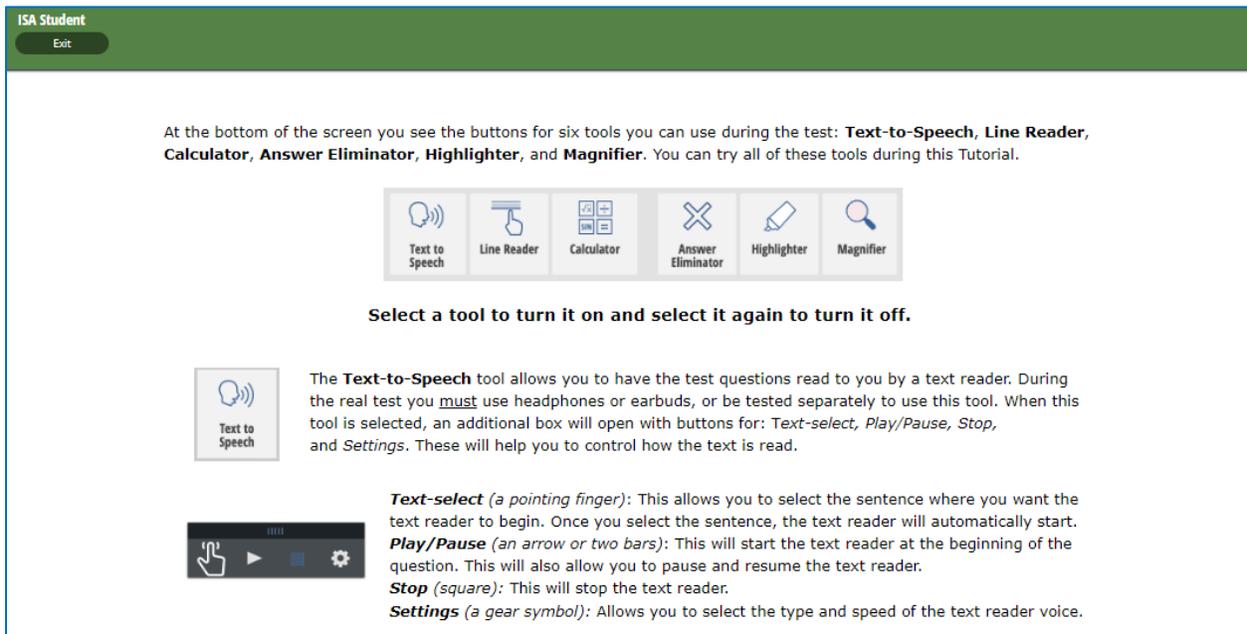
The tutorial does not require name and grade verifications.

The screenshot displays the 'ISA Student' interface. At the top left, there is a green header with the text 'ISA Student' and an 'Exit' button. Below the header, two columns of text provide instructions: 'Next, you will check that your name is in the box. Select **Yes** if your name is correct. Ask your teacher for help if it is not.' and 'Finally, you will make sure your grade is correct. Select **Yes** if your grade is correct. Ask your teacher for help if it is not.' Below these instructions are two preview windows of the verification screens. The first window, titled 'Is this you?', shows a user profile with a person icon, the text 'your name', and '8th Grade at School A', with 'No' and 'Yes' buttons. The second window, titled 'Is this your test?', shows a test icon, the text 'Illinois Science Assessment - Grade 8', and 'No' and 'Yes' buttons. At the bottom center, there is a 'Click Here to Go On' button.

The fifth screen of the tutorial describes the student tools that may be used and offers opportunities to practice. Currently available student tools include: **Text-to-Speech, Line Reader, Calculator, Answer Eliminator, Highlighter, and Magnifier.**

This screen also explains that the Text to Speech screen reader requires headphones or a special room to use. Students must adjust the volume on the test device prior to launching the assessment. The secure exam browsers will not allow the volume to be adjusted after the test is launched.

Students who might take advantage of these tools during the ISA should be encouraged to try the tools during the tutorial.



The screenshot shows the 'ISA Student' interface with an 'Exit' button. Below the header, a text box explains that six tools are available at the bottom of the screen: **Text-to-Speech, Line Reader, Calculator, Answer Eliminator, Highlighter, and Magnifier.** Below this text is a row of six icons representing these tools. Below the icons, a bold instruction reads: **Select a tool to turn it on and select it again to turn it off.**

The 'Text to Speech' tool is highlighted. To its left is a small icon of a head with sound waves. To its right is a detailed description: 'The **Text-to-Speech** tool allows you to have the test questions read to you by a text reader. During the real test you must use headphones or earbuds, or be tested separately to use this tool. When this tool is selected, an additional box will open with buttons for: *Text-select, Play/Pause, Stop,* and *Settings.* These will help you to control how the text is read.'

Below the description is a screenshot of the control interface for the text reader, which includes a pointing finger icon, a play button, a square stop button, and a gear settings icon. To the right of this screenshot are three detailed instructions:

- Text-select** (*a pointing finger*): This allows you to select the sentence where you want the text reader to begin. Once you select the sentence, the text reader will automatically start.
- Play/Pause** (*an arrow or two bars*): This will start the text reader at the beginning of the question. This will also allow you to pause and resume the text reader.
- Stop** (*square*): This will stop the text reader.
- Settings** (*a gear symbol*): Allows you to select the type and speed of the text reader voice.

The sixth screen of the tutorial provides information on how to use the **Line Reader** and **Calculator**.

ISA Student  
Exit

Select a tool to turn it on and select it again to turn it off.

 The **Line Reader** tool allows you to highlight text to follow along as you read. You can use your mouse or finger to move the Line Reader up and down.

Example:

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States of America. He was born in a log cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky. His family lived in Kentucky and Indiana before moving to Illinois. He did not like living on a farm or the work that was required. He preferred to read books.

When he was in his twenties, he moved by himself to New Salem, Illinois where he ran a store, was the postmaster and ran for the Illinois General Assembly. He studied law and became a lawyer when he was admitted to the bar in 1836. He moved to Springfield, Illinois where he practiced law. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives four times. He was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln ran to become President of the United States of America and won the election.

 The **Calculator** tool functions as a regular calculator. You can use the calculator to assist with any calculations you wish. You can use your mouse or finger to move the Calculator to different locations on the screen. Remember, you must still select your answer to the question since any calculation showing in the calculator will not be scored.

Practice using the Line Reader and Calculator tools now.

The eighth page describes how to use the **Answer Eliminator** tool and provides an opportunity to practice using it.

ISA Student  
Exit

**Select a tool to turn it on and select it again to turn it off.**



When completing a multiple choice question, the **Answer Eliminator** tool allows you to hide answer choices that you know are incorrect to more easily focus on the remaining answer choices. Each answer choice will include a button with an 'X' located on the far right of the answer. To hide the answer, select the 'X' button. To undo, reselect the button. When the tool is turned off, all hidden answers will no longer be hidden.

Example:

What is the tallest building in the United States?

<input type="radio"/> A	John Hancock Center, Chicago	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/> B	Willis Tower, Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/> C	One World Trade Center, New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/> D	U.S. Bank Center, Los Angeles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Practice using the Answer Eliminator tool now on the question below.**

What planet is located closest to the Sun?

<input type="radio"/> A	Earth
<input type="radio"/> B	Mars
<input type="radio"/> C	Mercury
<input type="radio"/> D	Venus

[Click Here To Go On](#)

The ninth page describes how to use the **Highlighter** tool and provides an opportunity to practice using it.

ISA Student  
Exit

**Select a tool to turn it on and select it again to turn it off.**

 Highlighter

When you select the Highlighter Tool, it will display a bar on the right side of the screen which contains 5 color options. This tool can be used to emphasize important facts, organize what you are reading, and categorize ideas.

To highlight words, select and hold as you drag the highlighter icon  over the words you wish to highlight. You can change highlighter color by hovering over the highlighted text and selecting a new color. When needed, you can remove any highlight by hovering over the highlighted text and selecting the 'X' icon. When the tool is turned off, all highlights will disappear.

**Practice using the Highlighter tool now on the text below. Try adding and removing highlights.**

*When Abraham Lincoln was in his twenties, he moved by himself to New Salem, Illinois where he ran a store, was the postmaster and ran for the Illinois General Assembly. He studied law and became a lawyer when he was admitted to the bar in 1836. He moved to Springfield, Illinois where he practiced law. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives four times. He was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln ran to become President of the United States of America and won the election.*

[Click Here To Go On](#)

The tenth page describes how to use the **Magnifier** tool and provides an opportunity to practice using it.

ISA Student  
Exit

**Select a tool to turn it on and select it again to turn it off.**

 **Magnifier**

When you select the Magnifier Tool, it will display a circle. In the circle, the words and images will appear larger.

To magnify parts of the question, select and hold anywhere within the circle and drag it over the parts you wish to see magnified. If needed, you may unselect the tool and then reselect it to reset the magnifier tool.

**Practice using the Magnifier tool now on any part of this screen.**  
**Try to use the tool to read the words in the picture from the Lincoln Memorial.**



IN THIS TEMPLE  
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

The eleventh screen of the tutorial shows the buttons for the Bookmark and item Review. The bookmark allows students to mark a question to go back and review it later. The review button allows students to see a list showing how many questions have been answered and how many are unanswered. Students can also see which questions are bookmarked. From this review list, students can navigate to any question to which they have already seen. In the actual tests, students will also be presented with the review list before they are prompted to submit their tests.

ISA Student  
Exit

There are two other features you can use during the test: **Bookmark** and **Review**. They will be located in the upper right corner of the screen. Select a tool to turn it on and select it again to turn it off.



**Bookmark** allows you to mark a question to go back and review later. By selecting the bookmark at the top of the screen, it will turn solid dark green  to show that the question has been marked.

**Review** will show you a list of all the questions. This list allows you to see how many questions you have answered and how many are unanswered. You can also see which questions you have bookmarked. From this Review list, you can return to any previous question you wish by selecting the question in the list.



Question 1	Answered
 Question 2	NOT ANSWERED
Question 3	Answered
 Question 4	Answered

**Practice using both of these features when you are on the sample questions in this Tutorial.**

Click Here To Go On

The twelfth screen of the tutorial explains the **Pause & Logout** button that will be in the ISA but which does not appear in the tutorial. Students cannot pause and resume the tutorial. They can exit the tutorial or let the tutorial stay open on their computer to take a break and return to later if needed.

During the ISA, the Pause & Logout button should only be used in those circumstances where a student has a legitimate need to take a break. This screen explains that teacher permission is required to pause the ISA. Sometimes students use this button in error after they complete their test. Rather, students must use the **Submit** button at the end of the test to allow results to be scored. While the **Pause & Logout** button does save the student responses, it does not move the test to submitted status, thus requiring ISBE to suppress the score. Students should be instructed to use the **Submit** button on the last screen when they have finished their test.

Students should not be concerned about scores on the tutorial. The tutorial is for instructional purposes only and is not scored.

The screenshot shows a green header bar with the text "ISA Tutorial" and an "Exit" button. The main content area contains the following text:

During the real ISA test, if your teacher directs you to pause your test, select the "Pause & Logout" button which is found in the upper left corner of the screen. Selecting this button will save your answers on the test and will log you out of the test. The "Pause & Logout" button does **NOT** submit your test for scoring. To finish your test, you must log in again.

Next you will begin the Tutorial questions.  
These tutorial questions are for practice only. These questions will not be scored.

Click Here to Go On

At the bottom of the screen, there is a grey bar with four icons: Full Screen, Text to Speech, Line Reader, and Calculator.

The thirteenth screen of the tutorial starts the section with the sample items. Students must use their mouse or computer trackpad, or tap on an iPad to select their answer(s). They may click or tap anywhere in the text of the response to select an answer.

The first sample item is a single-select multiple-choice item. Single-select multiple-choice items are found on all ISA Tests. Single-select answer choices are indicated by a **circle** selector (red rectangle).

Note that the navigation buttons are different on the screens with items. Instead of the **Click Here to Go On** button as seen on the informational screens, item screens use arrows to navigate forward and back. There is an instruction to use the **Right Arrow** to go to the next question in the tutorial.

The screenshot shows a digital interface for a multiple-choice question. At the top, a green header bar contains the text "ISA Tutorial" on the left and "Question 1 of 4 in Tutorial Questions" on the right, along with "Bookmark" and "Review" icons. Below the header, the question text reads: "This is an example of a Multiple Choice question. Circles mean you can select only one answer. What is the tallest building in the United States?". The question is followed by four radio button options: A. John Hancock Center, Chicago; B. Willis Tower, Chicago; C. One World Trade Center, New York; D. U.S. Bank Center, Los Angeles. A red rectangle highlights the radio button for option A. Below the options, a text instruction says "Click the Right Arrow to go to the next question." The interface includes left and right navigation arrows and a bottom toolbar with icons for "Full Screen", "Text to Speech", "Line Reader", and "Calculator".

The second sample item is an Extended Text item. Students are asked to demonstrate their understanding of the information provided in the item by typing their response. There is a limit of 1,500 characters, or approximately 250 words, for each response. The platform will prohibit students from entering more than 1,500 characters, but they are able to delete words or phrases by using the delete key on their device to edit the response. The student's typed response is saved when they navigate to the next item. Multiple Extended Text items are found on all ISA tests.

The screenshot displays a digital interface for an ISA Tutorial. At the top, a green header bar contains the text "ISA Tutorial" on the left and "Question 2 of 4 in Tutorial Questions" on the right, along with "Bookmark" and "Review" icons. Below the header, the main content area is white and contains the following text:

*This is an example of an Extended Text question in which you type your answer into a box.*

*Below the box, it tells you how many characters you are allowed to type. The word 'characters' is abbreviated as 'chars.' In this example, the limit is 75 chars but there will be a higher limit in the real test. A character is a letter, a number, a space, or punctuation like a period or a comma. As you type, the number of characters counts up so you know when you are close to the limit.*

Do you like science? Explain what you like or don't like about science.

Below the question is a large, empty rectangular text input box. To the right of the box, the text "0 of 75 chars maximum." is displayed. On either side of the text input area are circular navigation arrows (left and right). At the bottom of the interface is a grey bar containing four utility icons: "Full Screen", "Text to Speech", "Line Reader", and "Calculator".

The third sample item contains an image. Several ISA items contain images. There is sometimes a delay while loading the images. The delay is related to the bandwidth of the internet connection in your school and the number of students taking the ISA or otherwise using the internet simultaneously. The purpose of this tutorial item is to explain that there is sometimes a slight delay, which should not be interpreted as a broader system problem.

ISA Tutorial Question: 3 of 4  
in Tutorial Questions

*This is an example of a question with an image.  
You might notice a slight delay while the image loads.*



What state is shown in the picture?

<input type="radio"/> A Idaho
<input type="radio"/> B Illinois
<input type="radio"/> C Indiana
<input type="radio"/> D Mississippi

Full Screen Text to Speech Line Reader Calculator

The final sample item contains a passage. There are several passage-based items in the ISA, spanning all grades. In the ISA, there are also items with or without passages that require scrolling to see all the text and/or image. This tutorial item reinforces the need to scroll down when a scroll bar is present to see all the information in an item.

ISA Tutorial Question: 7 of 7  
in Tutorial Questions

Exit

*This is an example of a question with a Passage.*

*The passage or question may have a scroll bar if it is long. If you see a scroll bar, make sure to scroll down to read the entire passage and question.*

*After reading this passage, use the scroll bar on the right-hand side of the screen to see the question that follows.*

**Please use the scenario below to answer the following question.**

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States of America. He was born in a log cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky. His family lived in Kentucky and Indiana before moving to Illinois. He did not like living on a farm or the work that was required. He preferred to read books.

When he was in his twenties, he moved by himself to New Salem, Illinois where he ran a store, was the postmaster and ran for the Illinois General Assembly. He studied law and became a lawyer when he was admitted to the bar in 1836. He moved to Springfield, Illinois where he practiced law. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives four times. He was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln ran to become President of the United States of America and won the election.

Abraham Lincoln was 6 feet and 4 inches tall. He was married to Mary Todd and had four children named Robert, Edward, Willie, and Tad.



Full Screen Text to Speech Line Reader

The last two screens of the tutorial show the process for submitting a test for scoring.

When students have reached the end of the ISA questions, they will have the opportunity to go back and review their answers. This functionality is included in the tutorial so that students and educators can see how it works. Students should review the Item Review list to verify they have provided a response to all questions. They can click on a question number to navigate back to the item in question.

**It is important for students who reach this screen to eventually proceed to the final screen to submit their test.** Even students who have *not finished* the test questions **must** go to the final screen to properly submit their responses. Teachers or test proctors must reinforce this information and ensure students submit their responses for scoring.

ISA Tutorial  
Exit

You have finished the tutorial questions.  
– IMPORTANT TO KNOW–

When you finish answering all the questions on the real ISA test, you will see a review screen like this screen. Here, a list of questions will automatically appear such as you see now on the right side of this screen. You will be asked to review your answers.

Select anywhere on the screen to make the question list close. Select the **REVIEW** button to show the question list again.

**REVIEW**

When you are ready to submit your test, you must select the **SUBMIT TEST AND EXIT** button to submit your test for scoring. You will see this button on the next screen.

**Click Here to Go On**

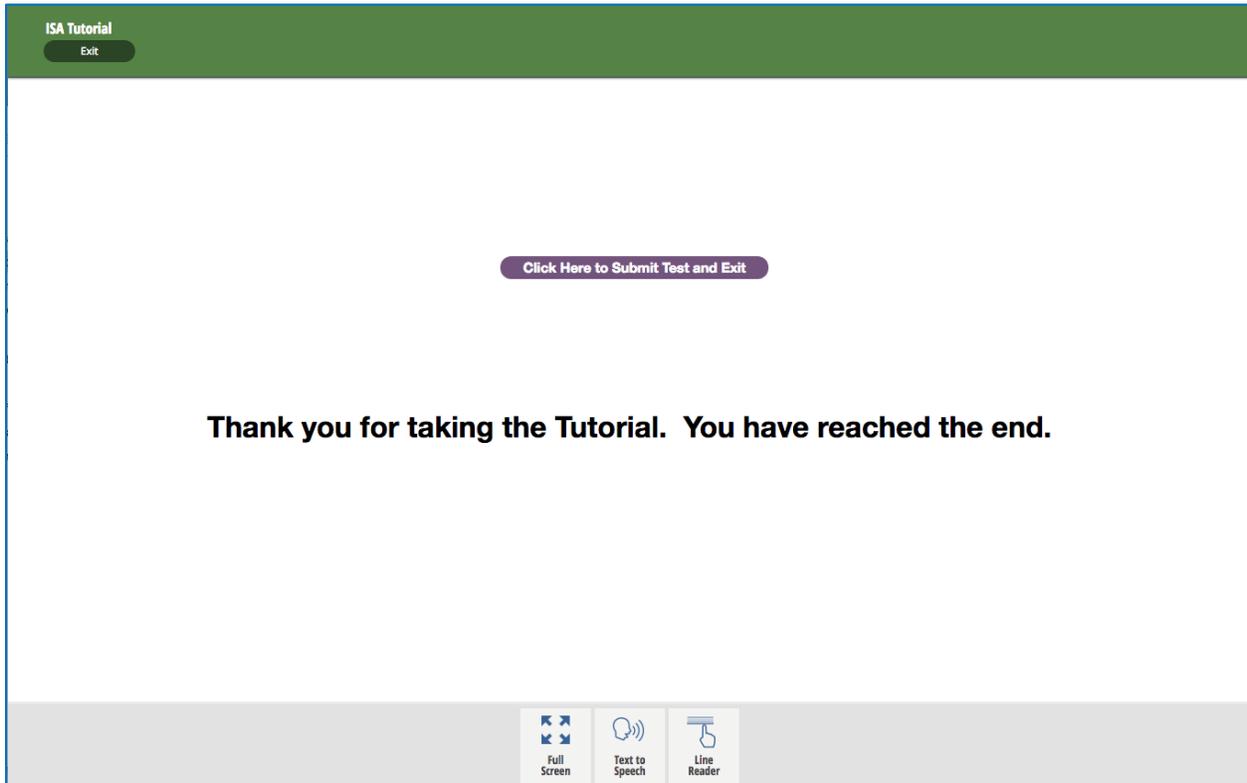
3 of 4 questions answered

Question 1	Answered
Question 2	NOT ANSWERED
Question 3	Answered
Question 4	Answered

Full Screen   Text to Speech   Line Reader   Calculator

The final screen of the tutorial shows the final submit test button.

The final screen contains the instruction to click the button to submit the test. Students must NOT use the **Pause & Logout** button on the ISA. Again, teachers or proctors must reinforce that students need to select the “Click Here to Submit Test and Exit” button located in the middle of the screen to properly submit their answers.



**If you have any questions about this tutorial, please contact your District Test Coordinator (DTC). Your DTC may contact ISBE if questions are unresolved.**