A look into the PARCC sample items Webinar Q & A – Feb 18, 2014

1. With two part questions, if they get one part wrong, are both incorrect?
   a. Partial credit scoring is part of this model which allows a student to get one part correct and another part incorrect.
2. When going back and forth between two texts, can they use some sort of marker, highlighter, etc.?
   a. Computer-based testing tools will allow for highlighting. Paper-based testing will allow for the use of a highlighter for grades 4-11 in the test booklet. Grade 3 is a scan-able book and does not allow for highlighting in the test booklet.
3. We will be taking the pencil/paper test (PPT). Will the items look the same?
   a. The PBT will look the same with different items. Some of the technology enhanced items on the computer-based test (CBT) will not appear on the PBT and will have a substituted similar item.
4. Can the students use calculators?
   a. Yes, only in grades 6-11 and on calculator-based sections for PBT and CBT. See the calculator policy here: http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/pdfs/parcc/parcc-calc-policy0712.pdf
5. We were hoping to test the technology-based PARCC, but were assigned the written test. Were some people given the tech test in the field test? Why and how were they chose?
   a. PARCC used a randomized selection process based on the population of PARCC states. In addition, a randomized process was used within the population to choose the mode of paper or computer.
6. Are students able to go back to previous questions as they work through the test?
   a. Yes, a review function is available for computer-based tests. Paper-based tests allow for this as well.
7. Can students take notes on paper before writing their answers? Can students take notes on paper while reading?
   a. Yes, Yes. Students may take notes on scrap paper provided during the administration. All scrap paper must be taken up after each administration and securely destroyed.
8. How are the written answers scored?
   a. All constructed and long responses are scored against a rubric by trained scorers.
9. Are videos included for the younger grade levels as well, or only in middle level and above?
   a. All grades will use video in ELA for computer-based testing.
10. What if students choose the wrong answer, but their evidence is correct?
    a. Partial credit scoring is part of this model which allows a student to get one part correct and another part incorrect.
11. What about students who can't read off of the computer screen?
    a. Documented IEPs would allow for paper-based tests for students unable to access the test by computer.
12. We have sometimes have troubled when we administer the MAP test online. How will an entire nation be able to handle so many students being online at the same time?

a. PARCC is designed for both low and high bandwidth needs. The safest test environment and the lowest bandwidth requirement is met by "proctor caching" at the school or lab level where student tests are downloaded to a secure computer prior to testing.

13. Do students get credit even if it isn't in chronological order or they don't have all the correct events?

a. Students receive credit by answering the question in the way it is asked. If chronological order is required, then the answer would require the student to list in chronological order all parts of the answer to earn credit. If correct events are required, then the answer would require the student to list the correct events for all parts to earn credit.

14. Is this a timed test? How does this work with students with IEPs?

a. PARCC Field Test forms were designed to a time specification. Additionally, the students will receive a generous amount of time to complete the session. Additional time is available to all students if they are constructively engaged in the session. Extended time above the regular and additional time is available to students with an IEP that reflects this need.

15. What if a student can't read?

a. Reading to a student who has the read aloud accommodation listed in his or her IEP or 504 Plan is permitted on the English Language Arts/Literacy assessments or as an accessibility feature for the Mathematics assessment.

16. What if they have poor typing skills?

a. Students will have ample time to type their answers on the computer-based test. Standardized typing skills would not be required. However, PARCC will be researching the Field Test computer-based test items that require typing. The findings of this study will influence the policy decisions for the first operational assessment.

17. Are these exact samples of the technology skills that students will need?

a. Yes. The sample items do reflect the type of technology skills that would be needed. Additionally, PARCC will be releasing practice tests and tutorials designed specifically to assist students with the technology skills needed for the assessment. These additional pieces will be made available for student use prior to the Field Test.

18. With the video files, it appears that all students would need to have headsets for sound. Is that correct?

a. Yes. Headphones or earbuds are needed. For math, text-to-speech is an accessibility feature available to all students. For ELA, video files will require listening by the students. The sound must be checked prior to the start of the test on each computer making sure the sound is on.

19. With the written responses, are students still expected to write complete essays (say, 4 to 5 paragraphs in length)?

a. Yes, some questions will require longer responses.

20. How many written constructed responses are there in each section of the test?

a. Test maps are available here: http://www.parcconline.org/assessment-blueprints-test-specs. Each form will have a different amount of short and extended response items for the Field Test with the total scoring being the same for all students.

21. What does EBSR stand for?

   a. Evidence-Based Selected Response – Combines a traditional selected-response question with a second selected-response question that asks students to show evidence from the text that supports the answer they provided to the first question. Underscores the importance of Reading Anchor Standard 1 for implementation of the CCSS.

22. What does TECR stand for?

   a. Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response – Uses technology to capture student comprehension of texts in authentic ways that have been difficult to score by machine for large scale assessments (e.g., drag and drop, cut and paste, shade text, move items to show relationships).

23. How will the writing portion work? Is there a time limit? Do you recommend keyboards for tablets?

   a. There are short and long constructed response formats for writing including the following. Range of Prose Constructed Responses (PCR)—Elicits evidence that students have understood a text or texts they have read and can communicate that understanding well both in terms of written expression and knowledge of language and conventions. There are four of these items of varying types on each annual performance-based assessment. PARCC requires keyboards for all tablets.

24. Is it possible to format this graph so that the entire x and y axes are visible without having to scroll?

   a. For some item types, the x and y axes would not require scrolling. For others, scrolling would be required.

25. Will there be a way for the essay/PCR boxes to actually be more like 'essay' length than students only seeing 3-4 sentences of their text @ a time?

   a. No, the format for all writing boxes will be the same and will require scrolling.

26. Can you speak with us about why a TI-84 calculator is the one built into this platform? Our HS students use Casios and this will be a huge disadvantage for them.

   a. PARCC policy required the TI-84 style. However, PARCC allows students to use their own calculator as long as it falls within the calculator limitations of the calculator policy. See parcconline.org calculator policy.

27. In the calculator sections, may we use our own class sets vs the TI-84 with which are students are not familiar?

   a. PARCC allows students to use their own calculator as long as it falls within the calculator limitiations of the calculator policy. See parcconline.org calculator policy.

28. Can you give us insight on scoring for kids who use alternate strategies for problem-solving that might not appear in the scoring rubric -- assuming the strategy used by the kid is logical and leads to a correct response?

   a. PARCC has developed scoring rubrics that take in consideration alternate problem-solving methods and partial credit scoring. See parcconline.org sample items and rubrics.

29. What is the total amount of time per test students will have to take the ELA and/or Math assessments?

a. PARCC is field testing the items to determine the exact time. PARCC is using a two hour administration block for the field test for each session. ELA PBA has three sessions and Math PBA has two sessions. ELA EOY and math has two sessions. This time includes regular time and additional time for the Field Test. The first operational assessment will use the Field Test time to create the final test administration time protocol.

30. Will the scoring rubric for essays be shared with teachers prior to test and scores broken down for students afterwards.
    a. Rubrics are currently available for the sample items. Additionally, PARCC will release items that include rubrics and student responses. Final student reports are in design and will include some level of student responses included in the score reports.

31. Are 3-5 grade students going to be given the same tests or test questions?
    a. Each grade will have a set of items that will be unique to that grades based on the PARCC curriculum frameworks. See parcconline.org for the frameworks for each grade and subject.

32. How do we see what type of answers PARCC is looking for? Particularly in the HS math portion.
    a. The sample items have that available now on parcconline.org in .pdf files where the questions, answers, scoring rubrics, and content relationship is shared.

33. Are the various calculators, equation editors, etc... going to be posted on-line well before the PARCC assessments so that students can get used to manipulating the technology features of the test?
    a. Yes, see parcconline.org for current samples. Additional practice tests and tutorials will be available just prior to the Field Test.

34. Will PARCC be providing the headphones needed for the test or is that an expense the district will have to incur?
    a. Technology infrastructure including computers, tablets, and headphones are provided at the school level.

35. What additional on-line practice problems is PARCC going to create so that STUDENTS can get used to manipulating the various types of questions (drag and drop, equation editor, typing responses, etc...) as this is EXTREMELY CONFUSSING and I can see students just giving up?
    a. Yes, see parcconline.org for current samples. Additional practice tests and tutorials will be available just prior to the Field Test.

36. After you field pilot the tests, if you determine that TOO MUCH time is being devoted to testing is PARCC prepared to make adjustments to their test. 2 hours per session for the various components appears to be way too long and will take ALOT of instructional time away from students.
    a. PARCC is field testing items to make sure that an appropriately timed test will be available for the operational years of the assessment. PARCC is assessing the full range of the standards and will require different type of questions than has typically been available on current tests. PARCC has committed to annually review the assessment system to include any design tweaks as needed

37. Could you please clarify the calculator response- on the calculator portion of the test can a student use their own calculator or can they only use the calculator that is available on-line?
    a. PARCC is providing a computer based calculator for ease of student use. However, students may use a handheld calculator if it meets the calculator requirements in the PARCC calculator policy. See parcconline.org calculator policy.

38. To be honest with you, this information was surreal. Moving from selecting from a-d to reading two passages while scrolling and tabbing, dragging evidence to support answers, and synthesizing information in a narrative format...all starting at age 8...and I just was commenting about observations made about ELA. Can we opt for paper pencil since we may require more time to have our students master typing, learn equation editor, learning toolbars to access rulers, protractors, etc.

   a. ISBE will be announcing an opt out of computer based testing policy.
39. Are there any practice test for the IAA students?
   a. PARCC will not be providing an IAA test. However, ISBE is part of the DLM consortium and practice options are part of that work.
40. Will headphones be needed for the ELA portion?
   a. Yes, multimedia is found in all grades
41. Can grades 9 and 11 take their math test together at the same time in the same room or should be they be split apart?
   a. PARCC suggests that they be completed in seperate locations since the timing for each session is not the same
42. Will the constructed responses be scored by artificial intelligence, or by human readers?
   a. For the Field Test, all constucted response items will be scored by human readers. PARCC has a research study using Field Test data to test machine scoring options.
43. Will all grades be tested on the same day at the same time in a school?
   a. This is not required and the window would allow for differences in start times for grades. Students in one grade and one content area should test at the same time for paper. Computer based testing offers additional options for different grades and different times.
44. Is that two hours for ELA and then another two hours for math for each of three sessions? How many total hours of testing would that be per student for a complete cycle?
   a. PARCC is field testing the items to determine the exact time. PARCC is using a two hour administration block for the field test for each session. ELA PBA has three sessions and Math PBA has two sessions. ELA EOY and math has two sessions. This time includes regular time and additional time for the Field Test. The first operational assessment will use the Field Test time to create the final test administration time protocol.
45. Is this 2 hours per session? or in total?
   a. Two hours per session.
46. Is spelling and vocabulary graded in general?
   a. Spelling and vocabulary are considered ELA skills and will be graded based on the individual item rubric.
47. Is the test adaptive?
   a. No
48. Does the order of ELA answers matter?
   a. Yes for questions that require order of events.
49. Is spelling and vocabulary graded in in general?
   a. Yes
50. Will there be a test tutorial to prepare students for using test tools and answering test questions?
   a. Yes, practice tests and technology tutorials will be released for the Field Test. Sample items should be used for current student awareness.
51. Is scratch paper allowed?
   a. Yes
52. Is there a chance that the PARCC test be k-8 only and we go back to administering the EPAS at the high school level?
   a. PARCC is the designated assessment for 3-high school. ACT is dropping the EPAS system per their announcement. ISBE is verifying all potential options for high school and will announce the total assessment system once budget decisions are complete.
53. How is ISBE informing the public about the change in state testing? Specifically are they using the media to get their message out to a wide range of the communities?

    a. Yes, media and multiple internal formats are being used including the Superintendent's Message, listserves, face to face meetings, and regional conferences.

54. I know that there was a TI calculator available early on for the sample problems and I know it was recently removed. Is it true that it eventually will be available again and is it true that students will be able to bring their own calculators for the calculator parts of the exam (high school.)?
    a. A computer based calculator tool will be available by grade for 6-high school. Students will be allowed to bring their own calculators based on the PARCC calculator policy. See parcconline.org calculator policy.

55. If a student is in two different math classes, which assessment or assessments will the student take?
    a. For high school, students will take the assessment in the course(s) that they are enrolled in at the time of the assessment.

56. If a freshman student is in an accelerated class like geometry and trig, what exam will they take? What about a junior that is beyond algebra 2? Which assessment will they take?
    a. PARCC offers end of course assessments in math for Algebra 1, 2 and geometry and Integrated Math 1,2,3. Students take the assessment they are enrolled in at the time of the assessment. Assessments are not available for math above Algebra 2.

57. Can a student who is deaf use their own personal human interpreter to read the test to them?
    a. Yes for paper based tests, the interpreter must be trained in test administration protocols.

58. Will the appendix for accommodations need to be completed for each student and how will these be monitored? Will it be as simple and keeping them in the students' permanent file or will they need to be sent to ISBE
    a. IEPs will be maintained in the same way they are currently held. Additionally, a Personal Needs Profile will be used for students allowing a digital accommodations format be used for computer based testing to turn on accommodations by item in the full administration. A format is being developed that would allow these accommodations to be loaded to ISBE for uploading into the test platform.

59. How will the field test be evaluated? Will there be a committee to discuss concerns with technology and analyze test scores? How will students and educators participate in providing feed back to the field test?
    a. Standard data validations will take place at the item level. Test administrators and students will be surveyed for feedback on the experience.

60. What tools will be available to us to teach the technology components to the test?
    a. Sample items, practice tests, and tutorials will be available for student use for the Field Test.

61. For 2014-2015 we will for sure give a 75% of school year completed test AND a summative test with PARCC??? Or do we know for sure
    a. The PARCC summative assessment system has two parts. The Performance Based assessment will be given at approximately 75% of instruction and the End of Year assessment will be given at approximately 90% of instruction. Both parts are required.

62. Do we know when the PARCC field test with accessibility will be available?
    a. The PARCC Field Test with accessibility features will be available during the testing window of March 24 - April 11 for PBA and May 5 - June 6 for EOY.

63. If a calculator is marked on the IEP as an accommodation we assume that it will still be allowed in all session??

a. For students with a disability that severely limits or prevents their ability to perform basic calculations (i.e., addition, subtraction, multiplication or division), this accommodation allows a calculation device to be used on non-calculator Mathematics assessment sessions. The accommodation would be permitted on test sessions for which calculators are not allowed for other students, with the exception of mathematics fluency items/tasks in grades 3-6 for which no calculation device may be used.

64. For the ELA portion of the test, are there 3rd and 6th grade sample items? I noticed the first test started with 4th grade work and the second example started with 7th grade work.
   a. All grades were not part of the first release. Additional items will be released that includes all grades including practice tests and tutorials.

65. Do the students have the ability to annotate - highlight, underline, etc.?
   a. Yes, computer based tools are provided.

66. With the computer based test work on a Chromebook?
   a. Yes, the Field Test does have some limits on accessability options for the Chromebook . Please see the technology guidance at parcconline.org

67. Are you encouraging teachers and admins to give feedback on the samples? If so, how can we do that?
   a. Yes, parcconline.org allows for feedback.

68. Is there a place on the math test to do scratch work?
   a. Scratch paper must be made available for all students.

69. From the previous PARCC samples that I looked at it said you could only get credit for part B if Part A is correct? Is this correct?
   a. For some items, yes. However, PARCC is using a partial credit scoring rubric for most items which would allow for with less than the total points for an item.

70. What are the essay standards? length? What is enough evidence.
   a. Please see the scoring rubrics at parcconline.org that includes additional information on the sample items.

71. We also heard that there would be portions that require student to record themselves reading, is that true?
   a. No, speaking and listening are not part of the format for the summative assessment components of PBA and EOY. Speaking and listening components are being developed under a separate format and will not be included as part of either of the summative components.

72. We passed the technology readiness test, but we use thin client terminals that do not support video or audio streaming. How has this been addressed?
   a. Please see the parcconline.org technology page for thin client specifications.

73. At the high school level will this include the ACT?
   a. ISBE will be announcing the high school testing requirements after the budget process is complete.

74. How are the prose items scored?
   a. Items will scored based on item specific rubrics. Field test scoring will be completed by vendor employed human readers.

75. When our students tried to take the practice test and tutorial they were unable to see any graphics. I was on the phone with Pearson for an hour this morning and we could not figure it out. Has anyone else had this issue?

    a.   The PARCC practice tests require the same technology specifications as the PARCC assessments. Please see the technology requirements at parcconline.org Additionally, the sample items must be viewed with the correct browser, browser settings, and display settings. Otherwise, some graphics will not be displayed correctly.

76. Where do we go to get to these math examples?
    a.   http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes

77. Is there a method to access the math sample items without completing the ELA prompts first?
    a.   Yes, this requires the user to scroll through and not answer the items.

78. Can the Math and ELA test samples links be separated so that classroom teachers can work on content specific samples?
    a.   Not at this time.

79. What accommodations in testing procedures will be made in relationship to availability of technology to complete the test?
    a.   See http://www.parcconline.org/accessibility-accommodations-and-fairness

80. When are more samples going to be available for students to practice the procedure of the test? We currently do not have students using the type of drop down boxes format that will be utilized in this assessment.
    a.   Practice tests and tutorials will be available prior to the Field Test. Release is scheduled at the end of February and in March.

81. Will students be given a technology lesson prior to taking the test?
    a.   A tutorial will be available prior to the Field Test providing students with this practice opportunity.

82. Approximately how many questions are being administered in the time frame?
    a.   Please see the the test blueprints at parcconline.org as this differs per subject and grade.

83. How will the PARCC Test be normed? What normative data will be used?
    a.   After the first operational year (2014-15), panels of educators will be assembled from across PARCC states to set the college and career ready assessment standards. Data from NAEP, international assessments, and ACT/SAT will be used as part of the process.

84. Are there plans to allow for those trying the practice problems to get correct/incorrect feedback?
    a.   The Sample Items were not intended to be scored by the platform. The score information is available at http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes

85. Maybe this is something that will come out in a later seminar, but as I am watching these, I can already begin anticipating accommodations students will need. i.e. calculator, text to speech, speech to text, etc. Where are we in the process as it relates to accommodations? We have looked at the manual, but have not really heard much in the way of how those will be rolled out and how staff will be trained. When will the PNPs need to be completed?
    a.   The Field Test will not use PNPs. This will be used in 2014-15 and will be trained prior to their use. The parcconline.org technology page provides additional information on what will be available for field testing and for 2014-15.

86. Can students take ISAT this year if they are taking PARCC if the school chooses to do so.
    a.   Yes, unless a school will be testing both the PBA and EOY components in one grade and subject, students must take the ISAT. The double testing flexibility is very specific and allows for no double testing. However, it does not require that schools take advantage of this flexibility.

87. How much time will students be provided to complete the writing portion of the ELA test?

    a. There are three sessions of the ELA PBA. Each session allows for two hours of administration time with extended time available for IEP students.

88. Will there be a linking study between 2014 ISAT and 2014 field study PARCC? In other words, will we have a way to get a baseline based on this year's ISAT before taking the 2015 PARCC?
    a. Field Test data may not be the most appropriate data for a linking study since there will not be student scores or performance levels set at that time. However, options are being considered that may allow for a concurring of ISAT and PARCC in 2015 much like we have for ACT and SAT now.

89. Will we be able to use iPads for pilot tests and/or PARCC?
    a. Yes, please see the tablet technology specs at parcconline.org. First generation iPads do not meet those specifications.

90. Will you be able to tell if students are just marking random answers to get through the test with no desire to be successful?
    a. Item timing will be a part of the field test for CBT only.

91. Will students with special needs (IEP, 504) be included in the Field Test?
    a. Yes as part of the randomized selection.

92. When completing the sample PARCC questions, does the person taking the sample receive a score or just a completion notification?
    a. Sample items are not scored. Scoring information can be found at parcconline.org

93. How will you be able to determine format/technical knowledge errors from content knowledge errors?
    a. Each item will be scored based on content knowledge and the correct or incorrect answer.

94. Will students be able to understand what the ? means in the drop down box math selection.
    a. Tutorials will be available prior to the Field Test that provides the student practice and discovery opportunities.

95. Are there specific samples for 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade or are they lumped together
    a. Additional samples, practice tests, and tutorials will be released prior to the Field Test that will include grade specific questions.

96. Is there somewhere to report errors received on computers when attempting to connect to the PARCC sample items? The computer meets all requirements and still receives error.
    a. Yes, The PARCC practice tests require the same technology specifications as the PARCC assessments. Please see the technology requirements at parcconline.org Additionally, the sample items must be viewed with the correct browser, browser settings, and display settings.

97. Should we expect any of these items to be in the ISAT test next month?
    a. No

98. Will they be able to go back and check answers?
    a. Yes, Computer based tests have a review function.

99. Will PARCC force students to answer questions or will it allow them to skip questions or sections?
    a. Students may skip questions and review and answer later. Students will not be allowed to skip sessions.

100.   Where can we locate the evidence on the PARCC website?
    a. http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes

101.   When will educator's see the scoring rubic?
    a. They are available now at http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes

102.   Will fluency be assessed based on speed of answer?
    a. Yes, it is a timed section as well as for correct responses.

103.   Will an 8th Grade algebra student take the 8th grade test or the Algebra test?
   a. ISBE has a task force working on this requirement. NCLB requires all students in the same grade take the same test in the same subject. However, ISBE is working with USED to resolve this issue.
104.   With multinedia content how is the Paper test comparable to the online test?
   a. Paper tests will comparable based on a substituted item format that requires a similar set of content based skills.
105.   What grade level or levels will be tested at the high school?
   a. PARCC End of Course tests in Algebra I, 2 and Geometry, Integrated Math 1, 2, 3, and ELA 9, 10, and 11
106.   Is there an undo button if they clear everything on the math testing?
   a. The test platform does not have a clear all function. Each radial button must be clicked and then unclicked. Each typed key stroke response must be deleted individually.
107.   Is the time truly unlimited?
   a. No, this is a timed but not speeded test. A two hour block is set aside for administration with Extended Time available for IEP students.
108.   What is the flag button used for?
   a. Students can flag an item and return to it at a later time.
109.   What is the review button?
   a. Students can review all items including those that were flagged.
110.   Slightly off-topic . . can we please confirm that schools WILL HAVE NO ACCESS to student assessment results after the field test.
   a. Correct, the Field Test is to assess the items and not student performance.
111.   Can test proctors practice sample items with the test groups prior to the field test?
   a. Yes, this practice is a must for a successful student experience.

112.   How will students know if a drag and drop answer has space for multiple answers?
   a. The drop box is set to allow for a certain number of answers and the instructions share the expectation.
113.   How will the students know how to use all of the math tools? Are formulas being provided on the question, or are they supposed to already know those math formulas?
   a. A tutorial and additional practice tests will be available prior to the Field Test. Please see the formula sheets available on parcconline.org
114.   Will clear directions be placed on the test on how to complete certain tasks? For example how will students know how to deselect a point on the graph.
   a. The sample items and tutorial provides the opportunity for students to practice these skills. Directions are available for each item with item specific tasks explained and not tools explanations.
115.   What test format will be available for sped and ELL students?
   a. Both Computer Based and Paper Based tests will be available. An accommodated form(s) will be avilable for all future assessments as well.
116.   My 3rd grade is scheduled to take the math portions on paper. How different is the paper test?
   a. The only difference will be that the paper based test will have comparable items substituted for technology enhanced items.
117.   How quickly will it be scored for students to get feedback?

     a. We do not have final estimates on this timeframe. However, the Performance Based Assessment is being given earlier in the the school year (75% of instruction) so that scoring can occur and feedback retruned prior to the end of the year. End of Year assessments are at 90% of instruction and will be machine scored and returned quickly.

118. How much training on accessibility tools and the math tools will be needed so these don't get in the way of showing what students know and can do?
     a. It is advised that students should be given practice time on sample items, practice tests, and tutorials prior to the Field Test. Students should feel comfortable with exploring the platform and schools should provide time for this exploration prior to the Field Test.

119. Will all students need headphones and microphones to take the PARCC assessment?
     a. Headphones or ear buds, Yes. Microphones, No.

120. Will 3rd through 6th grade students who have a calculator accommodation on their IEP be allowed to use a calculator on the fluency items (sub-claim E)?
     a. For students with a disability that severely limits or prevents their ability to perform basic calculations (i.e., addition, subtraction, multiplication or division), this accommodation allows a calculation device to be used on non-calculator Mathematics assessment sessions. The accommodation would be permitted on test sessions for which calculators are not allowed for other students, with the exception of mathematics fluency items/tasks in grades 3-6 for which no calculation device may be used.

121. Can a school district go ahead and have all students take the ISAT test, even though there will be students taking both EOY and the PBA PARCC test?
     a. Yes, please notifiy the ISBE assessment group.

122. Is there a place for students to plan prior to answering the prose questions?
     a. Scratch paper must be available for all students.

123. How long is the assessment window for administering the exam at a school?
     a. The PBA and EOY CBT assessment windows are four weeks each. The PBA and EOY PBT assessment windows are two weeks each. All grades and subjects would be completed during these administration windows.

124. On the sample test directions you showed today, it indicated there is unlimited time for testing. What are the estimated timeframes for the high school ELA, PBA pilot?
     a. The practice test does have unlimited time. The PBA and EOY assessments each have a two hour administration block. Students with IEPs may have Extended Time.

125. Will there be a closed captioned version of the AV questions for deaf students?
     a. No, All sessions will have the ability for internal human signed video.

126. Where can a school get software or a system to create evaluations for local use that we can create local evaluations so students can become comfortable with this testing methodology?
     a. Practice test, samples, and tutorials will be available. PARCC is currently working to create a separate platform for additional resources.

127. What is the procedure if there is a technical issue while taking a test?
     a. Pearson has set up a PARCC help desk. Additionally, manuals are available on the PearsonAccess webpage.

128. Some of our students have testing accommodations such as having questions read to them. Will this require an aide or teacher to read to the students or will some of the most common accommodations be met through technology?
     a. Both will be available.

129. Will test proctors be able to help students with technology features?

    a.   Yes, prior to the testing session at startup and if there is a problem with technology. No, to assisting students with answering technology enhanced items. Practice tests, samples, and the tutorial must be used to assist students gain comfort with the technology prior to the assessment.

130.   When will a list of all of these accommodations going to be available to ensure we have appropriately written IEP's to meet our students' needs?

    a.   Accommodations are ready now and should be accessed by visiting http://www.parcconline.org/accessibility-accommodations-and-fairness

131.   If a student takes Algebra 1 in 8th Grade, Geometry in 9th Grade and Algebra 2 in 10th Grade, what test will this student take in 11th grade? or, will this student take a test in 11th grade?

    a.   Math courses are end of course assessments and are not grade dependent.

132.   When will the Test Administrator Manual for PARCC be released?

    a.   The Field Test Administrator Manual is available now at http://www.parcconline.org/field-test-administration

133.   If a student clicks on the "Next" arrow before answering all questions on a page, will s/he receive an alert message indicating that they haven't answered something?

    a.   No, the student will be able to go back by clicking the Review Button.

134.   Are students required to provide an answer before moving to next question?

    a.   No, the student may click the Next button and then review later.

135.   Are answers scored either right or wrong, or is it a sliding scale?

    a.   Some are scored in this manner. However, some are scored by a partial credit model allowing partial credit if the rubric allows for this option.

136.   How often is the test taken (annually)?

    a.   The PBA is offered at approximately 75% of instruction and the EOY at approximately 90% of instruction.

137.   Will students be able to type in annotations/notes on the text as they read?

    a.   Yes, a notepad and scratch paper are available.

138.   Will directions inform students which math response can be written and which require mathematical responses?

    a.   Yes, the math items have instuctions that assist students with the respone requirement.

139.   We are preparing our students for the ISAT we do not want to confuse them with PARCC Sample sets. What are your suggestions?

    a.   Place more emphasis on the use of the technology helping students level of comfort on the test platform.

140.   Will sessions time out if students take too long to respond? Can they go back to a section if they need to complete it?

    a.   Sessions do not time out with the exception of the Fluency sections on the math test. Students would not be able to return on the Fluency sections.

141.   What grade levels will be taking PARCC next year?

    a.   PARCC is planned for grades 3-11.

142.   When will a school know if they are going to take the assessments on-line or paper-pencil?

    a.   PARCC is designed as a computer based test with paper tests available as approved.

143.   If we take it paper/pencil, how will students see the videos?

    a.   Multimedia will not be available for paper based tests.

144. Are students penalized for guessing? Or should they be encouraged to leave questions blank?
    a. Students should answer all questions to the best of their ability. Scoring is item based and students should attempt all items.
145. For the field test, is it required that the accommodations for IEP or 504 students are written into their IEP. With additional accommodations for the taking the test on the computer many are not in the student's IEP or 504 plan. If they are required for the field test can we make an amendment to the IEP outside of the team? If so is there a specific form to use? How soon would this need to be done?
    a. Accommodations must be approved for students prior to being used on the PARCC assessment. Please see the crosswalk between the ISAT and PARCC sent out by ISBE PARCC listserve.
146. Will a student be required to complete all parts of multistep questions before they are allowed to move on to the next question?
    a. No, the student may move on and come back for review later.
147. Is there any discussion about providing the assessment in different languages for all of the students in bilingual/ELL programs?
    a. Yes, the math test may be translated into Spanish. Additionally, directions for all tests may be translated.
    ISBE is currently working with the consortium states on this option.
148. Will someone from PARCC do the "human" scoring?
    a. The Field Test vendor (Pearson) will be scoring the assessment.
149. Will test items be read to the student by the computer or will a person need to read the test to students?
    a. The computer based test uses text-to-speech.