

BEST Literacy Product FAQs

What are the BEST Literacy products?

- BEST Literacy Test Manual, BL-3100TM, 2006
- Examinee Test Booklet , Form B
- Examinee Test Booklet , Form C
- Examinee Test Booklet, Form D
- BEST Literacy Examinee Score Sheets for each test form (B, C, D)

What were the changes made in September 2006?

- A new parallel Form D was introduced, which has never before been available.
- Forms B and C were refreshed to include contemporary information, graphics, and photos relevant to today's ESL students.
- There are new graded writing samples in the BEST Literacy Test Manual.
- There is a new one-page pre-literacy screening tool to determine quickly if BEST Literacy is appropriate for an examinee.

Why was there a change?

The BEST Literacy was originally created in the early 1980s. In response to feedback from users, the BEST Literacy Skills Section was updated to include contemporary information, graphics, and language, while still providing a measure of adult ESL reading and writing proficiency.

Can we still use BEST Literacy B and C for NRS?

Yes. The original literacy skills section of the BEST has been on the list of approved assessments since the NRS began in 1998. Each year all test publishers (TABE, BEST and CASAS) must petition OVAE for permission to remain on the NRS list of approved assessments. The updated BEST Literacy test is approved by OVAE for this year.

Can a program pretest with the original BEST Literacy Skills Section and posttest with the updated BEST Literacy test?

Yes, the original BEST Literacy Skills Section and updated BEST Literacy assessments have undergone comparability, reliability, and validity studies and have been determined to be parallel forms. Thus you may pretest with the BEST Literacy Skills Section and posttest with the updated BEST Literacy. New reference charts will be available in the BEST Literacy Test Manual that convert raw test scores to scaled test scores. Of course, whether testing with the original or updated versions, you would have to use a different form for the pretest and posttest (e.g., pretest with form C and posttest with form D).

Do we need to attend a BEST Literacy training prior to administering the test? Not at this time. You can purchase the materials directly from the vendor without pre-certification. Be sure to carefully follow the test administrator directions when administering the test.

How do I get the new materials?

Contact the:

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)
4646 40th Street NW
Washington DC 20016-1859
Main number 202-362-0700
Fax number 202-362-3740