

TEST SCORE SUMMARY

SCORE	DESCRIPTION	STRENGTHS	CAUTIONS
Raw	Number of questions answered correctly or number of points earned. The range goes from zero to the total possible.	Provides the basis of all other scores	Difficult to interpret by themselves. Can't be used to compare across tests.
Percent Correct	Total points earned divided by the total possible. The range goes from 0 to 100%.	Easy to understand. Can communicate level of mastery of specific learning targets.	Small numbers of test questions don't provide very good estimates of mastery.
Percentile	The percent of students in a norm group that score below any particular raw score. The range goes from 0 to 99.	Permits clear comparison to other similar students. Can compare scores across tests in a battery.	Often confused with percent correct. Cannot be averaged. Provides no information about the actual content learned.
Stanine	Divides scores into 9 broad categories based on percentiles. The range goes from 1 to 9.	Provides a broad take on the relative performance of a student compared to others. Can be averaged.	Too broad to detect small differences in achievement.
Grade Equivalent	Compares performance on the test to that of various other grade levels who took the same test. The range goes from K.0 to 12.9.	Provides a general picture of how well a student did compared to others.	Not a criterion-referenced score. Does not indicate the level of work a student is capable of doing.
Competency Level	The level of mastery of content. Levels are set by panels of experts.	Allows statements of what students know and can do. Can be compared across learning targets to come up with a profile of strengths and weaknesses.	Sometimes based on very few questions. Sometimes not fine grained enough to identify specific strengths and weaknesses.