



TABE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMINISTERING TABE

Q. Who is eligible to administer TABE?

Adult educators who have a general knowledge of measurement principles and are willing to abide by the assessment standards of the American Psychological Association may administer TABE. These professional standards require TABE administrators to follow specific guidelines, such as keeping tests in a secure place and administering them only as directed. For additional information, see the Purchaser's Qualification Statement or contact DRC's Customer Service Team.

Q. How will I know which level of TABE to administer?

For adult basic education or other programs that include students at various levels of ability, administer the TABE Locator Test first. The results will indicate which level of TABE to use by content area. If you are using TABE as a screening tool for a program that requires a certain level of ability, select the appropriate level of TABE commensurate with the content difficulty for the program. For example, if you were screening for a nursing program that requires a 10th-grade reading level for admission, you would select TABE Level A.

Q. How does the TABE Locator Test work?

The TABE Locator has one test—divided into three sections—one each for reading, mathematics, and language. Each locator sub-test will determine the appropriate level of test that the student should take. NOTE: One should not assume that each student arrives to be tested with the same level of performance in each content area.

Q. For what target audiences was TABE designed?

TABE can be used with a wide range of audiences: high school equivalency or Adult Basic Education programs; vocational programs; certain community college programs; welfare-to-work programs; occupational or military advancement programs; and alternative educational programs.

Q. How can I improve test security?

Always keep tests, manuals, and answer sheets secure. Never allow examinees to leave the test site with answer sheets or test books. Do not show test items (other than those designated as Sample Items) to students or discuss their answers. Make sure your staff understands the procedures necessary to maintain test security when they administer and score TABE. If you would like to schedule a training session for your staff members, contact your DRC Assessment Solutions Consultant, or call Customer Service at (800) 538-9547.

Q. What types of programs can use TABE?

TABE is useful for any program that needs to assess basic educational skills in an adult population. TABE has been used successfully by adult basic education, correctional education, vocational-technical programs, corporate training, one-stop career centers, military, college, non-profit, and union programs.

Q. Can TABE be used with non-native English speakers?

Programs that wish to assess the language proficiency of adult English language learners should consider using TABE Complete Language Assessment System—English (TABE CLAS-E). More information on TABE CLAS-E is available at www.TABEtest.com or by calling 800-538-9547.

Q. Can TABE be used for high school students?

Yes. TABE was field tested on a population aged 16 years and above. However, TABE items were specifically designed for adults.

Q. How soon can I retest examinees with the same form?

We recommend allowing 60-80 hours of instruction between testing with the same form to avoid the “practice effect” in which a student scores artificially high because of familiarity with test items. Also, we recommend that you do not review TABE with students to show them the questions they answered correctly or incorrectly if you plan to retest with the same form at the same level. We suggest these guidelines as best practice recommendations based upon practitioner feedback.

Q. Can I administer different levels of TABE as a pre-test and post-test?

Yes. TABE scales are calibrated across levels so scores from various levels of TABE may be compared to show progress. For example, if a student's initial Locator Test scores placed them at Level E, then they should be pre-tested with TABE Level E.

After a program of study, it should be determined if a student has advanced to a new level before they are re-tested. Advancement may be indicated by a very high score on the original pre-test, extraordinary progress in class, or a higher score upon re-administration of the Locator. If the teacher judges that the student has advanced from Level E to Level M, a Level M post-test should be administered. Because all levels of TABE are calibrated on the same scale, results may be compared across levels.

Q. If I only need information about certain subject areas, can I just administer certain sections of TABE?

Yes. Any of the sub-tests can be administered as a stand-alone assessment. If you want to “quick screen” a student for basic reading and mathematics application skills, for example, you can administer just the Reading and Mathematics sub-tests from TABE.



QUESTIONS ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS

Q. When administering TABE, can we offer accommodations for students with special needs?

A testing accommodation is a change made to the test administration procedure to provide equal access for students with disabilities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. If an accommodation is employed, it is important that the selected accommodation minimize any advantage or disadvantage of completing the test. In particular, if the accommodation under consideration is not used in instruction, then it should not be used in the testing situation.

Q. May I administer TABE as an untimed test?

If you use different time limits than were used in the standardization process, it compromises the interpretation of the norms. However, DRC recognizes that time extensions may be warranted to accommodate persons with certain disabilities, or when TABE is being used exclusively to diagnose the learning objectives an individual still needs to master.

Q. Are there special editions of TABE for people with visual disabilities?

Yes. Large-print and audio editions of TABE are available from DRC and may be ordered by calling Customer Service toll-free at (800) 538-9547.

Q. How should we interpret scores when we administer TABE under non-standard conditions?

Whenever non-standard directions and time limits are utilized, norm-referenced comparisons should be treated with great caution, since the only norms available are those based on test administrations using standard directions and time limits. Nonetheless, DRC believes that information about instructional strengths and student needs can be obtained from a non-standard test administration. This is best done by focusing on the curriculum-referenced or objective mastery information the test can provide.

CORRELATIONS AND USES OF TABE SCORES

Q. Can TABE be used as both a pre-test and a post-test?

Yes. TABE was designed to serve as a pre-test and post-test for the same group of students. Generally, educators administer different forms of TABE at the same level when pre-testing and post-testing. However, if a student pre-tested near the top of the range, has made extraordinary progress in class, or re-takes the Locator and scores at a higher level, you may elect to use the next higher level of TABE as a post-test. This type of multi-level testing will yield valid results because all levels of TABE are on the same scale.

Q. Can I use TABE for entrance screening or to make employment decisions?

TABE is an excellent tool to assist in making decisions regarding academic programs and employment. However, we don't recommend TABE be used as the sole measure for such decisions. DRC strongly recommends that our customers use multiple measures of assessment for high-stakes decisions such as hiring or acceptance into a training program. TABE works very well as a screening tool when used in conjunction with other information gained from such sources as interviews, transcripts, and references. Note: DRC does not set or recommend cut-point scores for screening candidates into programs. Such standards must be determined by the user.

Q. Can I obtain diagnostic information from TABE?

Yes. TABE results indicate which learning objectives a student has mastered and which still need more work.

Q. Are TABE scores correlated to HSE scores?

Yes. DRC conducted a study to determine the relationship between TABE and the GED and HiSET tests. Information on examinees' performance on both tests was collected from institutions, including schools, testing centers, and correctional institutions. Participants took both TABE and an HSE test within a 12-week period. In most cases, the results show that TABE scores are good predictors of performance on both HSE tests. Correlation tables showing the linkage between TABE and HSE scores are available on TABEtest.com.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PURCHASING TABE OR CONTACTING DRC

Q. How can I get some more printed information about TABE to share with my colleagues?

If you need additional information, visit www.TABEtest.com or contact us at 800-538-9547 or ShelfCustomerService@datarecognitioncorp.com.

Q. I'd like to talk with someone about TABE before I place an order. Whom should I call?

You may contact us at 800-538-9547 or ShelfCustomerService@datarecognitioncorp.com.

