

TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TAKS)
BLUEPRINT FOR GRADE 10 SOCIAL STUDIES

Objectives	Number of Items
Objective 1—History	7
Objective 2—Geography	12
Objective 3—Economics and Social Influences	7
Objective 4—Political Influences	12
Objective 5—Social Studies Skills	12
Total number of items	50

Curriculum Rationale

Objectives 1 and 4 are comprised of Grade 8 TEKS only, which is the grade at which early American history is taught, and focus on issues and events in early American history as well as the development of representative government in the United States. Twelve of the twenty-eight student expectations eligible for the Grade 10 TAKS social studies test are included under Objectives 1 and 4. To fully measure these student expectations while maintaining a balance with the world studies content, the total number of test items for these two objectives is 19.

Objective 2 is the geography objective and consists of six TEKS student expectations. These student expectations cover broad concepts, such as the impact of geographic factors on major issues and events in world history, as well as important geography-related skills. Therefore, a relatively large number of items is required to measure these student expectations fully.

Objective 3 contains three TEKS student expectations pertaining to economic and social influences on major issues and events in world history. Seven items per test will sufficiently measure this small number of student expectations.

Objective 5 measures critical-thinking skills, which are included in the social studies curriculum beginning in kindergarten. If students are able to think critically, they will develop a greater capacity to understand the broad spectrum of social studies concepts and information necessary to become informed citizens. As a result, the number of items included under this objective is comparatively large.