# Psychometric Analyses of the 2006 MCAS High School Biology Test ${ }^{1,2}$ 

## Zachary R. Smith and Ronald K. Hambleton <br> University of Massachusetts Amherst

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## 1. Goal of the Psychometric Analyses

The primary goal of our work has been to provide readers with a number of worthwhile psychometric analyses of the 2006 MCAS High School Biology Test. These analyses provide more detail on the Biology Test than it was possible to provide in the summary report prepared by Hambleton, Zhao, Smith, Lam, and Deng (2008). These analyses include (1) an item analysis, (2) descriptive statistics on the test scores including break-outs for several subgroups of students, (3) classical reliability analyses for the test scores organized by item format, and for the total test, (4) two investigations of test dimensionality, (5) item response theory (IRT) item calibrations obtained from fitting the three-parameter logistic model to binary-scored items and the graded response model to polytomously-scored items, (6) various item and test level model fit findings, (7) test information and conditional standard errors, and (8) the identification of differentially functioning test items.

## 2. Brief Test Description

The 2006 MCAS Biology Assessment included 45 items, 40 of which were multiple-choice items (dichotomously scored) and five that were open-response items (polytomously scored). The maximum score for the multiple-choice items was 1 point and the maximum for the open-response items was 4 points, for a maximum raw score of 60 points.

Table 2.1 Test Information

| Item Type | Number <br> of Items | Number <br> of Points |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Multiple-Choice | 40 | 40 |
| Open-Response | 5 | 20 |
| Total | 45 | 60 |

The open-response items included numbers $11,25,26,32$, and 39 . The test was broken up into two sessions. Session 1 included items $1-26$ and session 2 included items 27-45.

Table 2.2 shows the six learning standards for Biology: The Chemistry of Life, Structure and Function of Cells, Genetics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Evolution and Biodiversity, and Ecology. The topic of Human Anatomy and Physiology was not covered on this assessment, but the split of items was fairly even among the remaining five learning standards.

Table 2.2 Descriptive Statistics of the MCAS Biology Learning Standards

| Standards | \# of Items | \# of Points |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 1. The Chemistry of Life | 6 | 9 |
| 2. Structure and Function of Cells | 12 | 15 |


| 3. Genetics | 9 | 12 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 4. Human Anatomy and Physiology | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Evolution and Biodiversity | 9 | 12 |
| 6. Ecology | 9 | 12 |

## 3. Item Analyses

For all analyses, examinees were excluded if their raw score was equal to zero or left blank. This reduced the original sample of $\mathrm{N}=58,441$ examinees down to the adjusted sample of $\mathrm{N}=55,673$. For analyses following the item analysis, a random sample of $\mathrm{N}=5,517$ was drawn from the sample of 55,673 examinees. The full sample was not needed.

We carried out an item analysis on the adjusted Biology sample ( $\mathrm{N}=55,673$ ). The results are shown in Tables 3.1 to 3.6. The $p$ - and $r$ values were calculated and can be seen in Table 3.1. The $p$-values (or item means) ranged from 0.24 to 0.93 for the multiple-choice items and from 0.81 to 2.00 for the open-response items. The $p$-values for the polytomous items are on a 0 to 4 point scale, hence the reason for means above 1 in many cases. The large span of $p$-values for the multiple choice items highlights the fact that items ranging from very easy to very hard were included in the assessment. This is important so that information will be available across the scale for confidently assigning students to performance categories. Figure 3.1 shows the distribution of the $p$-values for the multiple-choice items.

The item $r$ values were good to excellent. The $r$ values for the multiple-choice items ranged from 0.23 to 0.53 . The polytomous items consistently had the highest $r$ values overall, ranging from 0.67 to 0.73 . Figure 3.2 shows the distribution of the $r$ values.

A distractor analysis was also carried out using the computer software known as the Test Analysis Program (TAP; Brooks \& Johanson, 2003). The purpose of this software is to determine the merits of each distractor for the multiple choice items on a particular assessment, as well as recording the percentage of students receiving particular scores on the polytomously scored items. For the Biology Test, we chose to look at the top and bottom 25 percent of examinees to determine how they were answering the items. The full distractor analysis can be found in Appendix A. The first number presented in each column represents the number of students making that answer choice for dichotomously scored items or the number of students receiving that score on the polytomously scored items. The second number in each column, the one in parentheses, represents the percentage of students out of the sample for that answer choice. Consider item 35 , for example. The majority of students did not answer this item correctly. In fact, examinees chose two of the other options more often than the correct answer. Still, we were able to see that the highest scoring students chose the correct answer $43.3 \%$ of the time while the lowest scoring students were more drawn to the other options, only answering correctly $16.9 \%$ of the time. Clearly the discriminating power of the test item is evident.

Table 3.1 Summary of Descriptive Item Statistics

|  |  | Item Difficulty | Item Discrimination |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Multiple-Choice | $\bar{p}$ | 0.53 | 0.41 |
|  | SD | 0.14 | 0.07 |
| Open Response | $\bar{p}$ | 1.61 | 0.69 |
|  | SD | 0.48 | 0.03 |

Table 3.2 Descriptive Item Statistics

| Item | $p$ | $R$ | Min | Max |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0.93 | 0.29 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 0.65 | 0.35 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 0.46 | 0.30 | 0 | 1 |
| 4 | 0.24 | 0.40 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 | 0.64 | 0.40 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 | 0.66 | 0.42 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 | 0.55 | 0.44 | 0 | 1 |
| 8 | 0.54 | 0.38 | 0 | 1 |
| 9 | 0.65 | 0.39 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 | 0.52 | 0.28 | 0 | 1 |
| 11 | 2.00 | 0.72 | 0 | 4 |
| 12 | 0.49 | 0.39 | 0 | 1 |
| 13 | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0 | 1 |
| 14 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0 | 1 |
| 15 | 0.57 | 0.46 | 0 | 1 |
| 16 | 0.40 | 0.32 | 0 | 1 |
| 17 | 0.56 | 0.51 | 0 | 1 |
| 18 | 0.61 | 0.51 | 0 | 1 |
| 19 | 0.44 | 0.37 | 0 | 1 |
| 20 | 0.44 | 0.31 | 0 | 1 |
| 21 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0 | 1 |
| 22 | 0.50 | 0.47 | 0 | 1 |
| 23 | 0.50 | 0.23 | 0 | 1 |
| 24 | 0.51 | 0.42 | 0 | 1 |
| 25 | 1.92 | 0.67 | 0 | 4 |
| 26 | 1.75 | 0.73 | 0 | 4 |
| 27 | 0.64 | 0.44 | 0 | 1 |
| 28 | 0.70 | 0.43 | 0 | 1 |
| 29 | 0.36 | 0.41 | 0 | 1 |
| 30 | 0.79 | 0.48 | 0 | 1 |
| 31 | 0.60 | 0.42 | 0 | 1 |
| 32 | 0.81 | 0.67 | 0 | 4 |
| 33 | 0.42 | 0.35 | 0 | 1 |
| 34 | 0.42 | 0.43 | 0 | 1 |
| 35 | 0.25 | 0.29 | 0 | 1 |
| 36 | 0.71 | 0.53 | 0 | 1 |
| 37 | 0.63 | 0.47 | 0 | 1 |


| 38 | 0.44 | 0.39 | 0 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 39 | 1.56 | 0.69 | 0 | 4 |
| 40 | 0.68 | 0.52 | 0 | 1 |
| 41 | 0.64 | 0.52 | 0 | 1 |
| 42 | 0.47 | 0.45 | 0 | 1 |
| 43 | 0.43 | 0.49 | 0 | 1 |
| 44 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0 | 1 |
| 45 | 0.57 | 0.47 | 0 | 1 |

Figure 3.1 Histogram Showing the Distribution of Classical Item Difficulty Indices


Note: Only multiple-choice items were included in this histogram.
Students were excluded from the analysis if their raw score was equal to zero or left blank. The new sample included 55,673 students.

Figure 3.2 Histogram Showing the Distribution of Classical Item Discrimination Indices


Note: Only multiple-choice items were included in this histogram.

## 4. Basic Test Statistics and Reliability

The raw score distribution for the adjusted sample of students had a mean score of 29.3 with a standard deviation of 12.5 . Figure 4.1 shows that the distribution of the raw scores is skewed positively (skewness $=0.183$ )—not a surprising result with new tests.

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 display the descriptive statistics for gender and ethnicity, respectively. Females performed on average one test score point higher than males on the Biology Test. For ethnicity, Asians performed higher than any other demographic group with a mean score over 34. The mean score for whites was over 31, and then came Native Americans, Blacks, and Hispanics, in that order.

Figure 4.1 Histogram Showing the Distribution of the Raw Scores


Table 4.1 Test Statistics for the Total Sample of Students

|  | N | Mean | SD | Min | Max | Skewness |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Overall | 55,673 | 29.33 | 12.46 | 1 | 60 | .18 |

Table 4.2 Descriptive Test Statistics by Gender

| Group | N | Mean | SD | Min | Max | Skewness | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No Response | 879 | 20.59 | 11.10 | 1 | 58 | 0.84 | 1.6 |
| Females | 27,233 | 29.95 | 11.92 | 1 | 60 | 0.17 | 48.9 |
| Males | 27,561 | 28.99 | 12.89 | 1 | 60 | 0.20 | 49.5 |
| Total | 55,673 |  |  |  |  |  | 100.0 |

Table 4.3 Descriptive Test Statistics by Ethnicity

| Ethnicity | N | Mean | SD | Min | Max | Skewness | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No Response | 901 | 20.74 | 11.14 | 1 | 58 | 0.82 | 1.6 |
| Asian | 2,155 | 34.16 | 13.05 | 1 | 60 | -0.03 | 3.9 |
| Black | 4,359 | 21.61 | 10.14 | 1 | 60 | 0.65 | 7.8 |
| Hispanic | 4,885 | 20.75 | 10.01 | 1 | 58 | 0.82 | 8.8 |
| Native American | 156 | 26.72 | 11.55 | 4 | 58 | 0.38 | .3 |
| White | 43,217 | 31.02 | 12.11 | 1 | 60 | 0.07 | 77.6 |
| Total | 55,673 |  |  |  |  |  | 100.0 |

Score reliability was calculated for the assessment as a whole using Cronbach's coefficient alpha, as well as for the multiple-choice and the open-response items separately. The results are displayed in Table 4.4. There was a high overall reliability ( $\alpha$ $=.91$ ), and the reliabilities for the different item types was also high too (MCQ: $\alpha=.88$; Open-Response: $\alpha=.81$ ), though these subtest scores are not reported to students.

Table 4.4 Reliability Analysis

| Variable | $\alpha$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Total | .91 |
| Multiple-Choice | .88 |
| Open-Response | .81 |

## 5. Test Dimensionality

An initial check of Biology Test dimensionality was run on the sample of $\mathrm{N}=5,517$ by examining the eigenvalues of the matrix of inter-item correlations using the program R version 2.4.1. (We are grateful to Yue Zhao for carrying out these analyses.) Table 5.1 displays the top ten eigenvalues found from this analysis along with the variance accounted for by each of the factors. Figure 5.1 also displays this result, showing a large first factor of 13.80 and a second factor of 1.65 and a third factor of 1.44.

Table 5.1 Eigenvalues and Corresponding Variance

| Item | Eigenvalue | Variance <br> Accounted <br> For |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 13.80 | 0.31 |
| 2 | 1.65 | 0.04 |
| 3 | 1.44 | 0.03 |
| 4 | 1.20 | 0.03 |
| 5 | 1.08 | 0.02 |
| 6 | 1.04 | 0.02 |


| 7 | 1.02 | 0.02 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8 | 0.98 | 0.02 |
| 9 | 0.93 | 0.02 |
| 10 | 0.91 | 0.02 |

Note: Eigenvalues were calculated using a random sample of $\mathrm{N}=5,517$ from the original sample of $\mathrm{N}=55,673$.

Figure 5.1 A Plot of the Eigenvalues (in order from highest to lowest) for the 2006 MCAS Biology Assessment


Component Number
Note: Eigenvalues were calculated using a random sample of $\mathrm{N}=5,517$ from the original sample of $\mathrm{N}=55,673$.

To determine a cut point for our evaluation of the number of dimensions, we ran a parallel analysis. We created a sample of random normal deviates with $R$ that was equal to the sample size used in the eigenvalue analysis $(\mathrm{N}=5,517)$. Using the probabilities from our earlier calculations, we were able to preserve the $p$-values for each item and create a more precise sample of deviates for our purposes. The percentages of students at each score level for the polytomous items were also preserved. Ten replications were run and then the eigenvalues were averaged for each item. In Figure 5.2, all of the values
were arranged from highest to lowest, with the top average score being 1.30 and represented in parentheses.

Figure 5.2 Parallel Analysis of the 45 Item 2006 MCAS Biology Assessment Using Random Normal Deviates (5,517 Generated Cases). (Ten sets of random normal deviates were used to generate 10 sets of eigenvalues. The average of the largest eigenvalue was 1.30 )


Component Number
The highest value became the cutoff point to which we compared the eigenvalues. The analysis showed that the first eigenvalue of 13.80 is still prominent at more than an 8:1 ratio with the second eigenvalue. This is enough to claim unidimensionality with the first factor with an eigenvalue of 13.80 . With the cutoff at 1.30 , it is possible that the second and third eigenvalues are still representing very small dimensions. We determined that the third eigenvalue was too close to the cutoff and this difference can be attributed to error. This leaves a minor second factor from the eigenvalue of 1.65 . But the main finding was clear: A very big first factor, and high enough to carry on with the unidimensional IRT analyses.

We also carried out a confirmatory factor analysis assuming a one-factor solution. The results are presented below, but this analysis too, reported in Table 5.2 and Figure 5.3, shows a very strong first factor with all of the loadings very high.

Table 5.2 Factor Loadings for Each Item

| Item | Factor Loadings |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0.61 |
| 2 | 0.49 |
| 3 | 0.40 |
| 4 | 0.55 |
| 5 | 0.56 |
| 6 | 0.54 |
| 7 | 0.60 |
| 8 | 0.52 |
| 9 | 0.56 |
| 10 | 0.39 |
| 11 | 0.78 |
| 12 | 0.54 |
| 13 | 0.60 |
| 14 | 0.52 |
| 15 | 0.61 |
| 16 | 0.44 |
| 17 | 0.67 |
| 18 | 0.71 |
| 19 | 0.52 |
| 20 | 0.40 |
| 21 | 0.59 |
| 22 | 0.63 |
| 23 | 0.28 |
| 24 | 0.56 |
| 25 | 0.73 |
| 26 | 0.79 |
| 27 | 0.60 |
| 28 | 0.60 |
| 29 | 0.54 |
| 30 | 0.71 |
| 31 | 0.53 |
| 32 | 0.78 |
| 33 | 0.48 |
| 34 | 0.56 |
| 35 | 0.39 |
| 36 | 0.73 |
| 37 | 0.64 |
| 38 | 0.52 |
| 39 | 0.72 |
| 40 | 0.80 |
| 41 | 0.80 |
| 42 | 0.61 |
| 43 | 0.66 |
| 44 | 0.55 |
| 45 | 0.69 |

Figure 5.3. Graphical Display of the One Factor Model Fit to the Data


Chi-Square $=3733.57, \mathrm{df}=945, \mathrm{P}$-value=0.00000, RMSEA $=0.023$

## 6. Item Calibration and Model Fit

Table 6.1 gives the mean and standard deviation for all of the standardized residual points combined ( 1950 total). The percentage of standardized residuals that do not fit is also provided in the table. This means that out of the 1950 standardized residual points, only $6 \%$ fell outside two standard deviations which is just about what would be expected under the null hypothesis that the model fit the test data.

Table 6.2 displays the parameter estimates from PARSCALE along with the corresponding standard errors (SEs). In Table 6.3, the chi-square statistics and the corresponding probabilities are provided. These probabilities are a good starting point for examining model fit, but the statistic is too stringent to be used to make a final judgment. Therefore, we must look at the fit plots.

The residuals and item characteristic curves (ICCs) can be found in Appendix BD. Appendix B and C display the residuals and ICCs for the dichotomously scored items, respectively. After examining these plots, the majority of the multiple-choice items fit the model very well. Item 35 seemed to be the only one that was problematic at the low end of the proficiency scale. The first nine points are above zero for the residual and above the ICC line while the next eight are below. This is indicative of a problem at the low end of the scale. The lower achievers were generally scoring higher on this item than those with proficiency scores closer to zero.

The fit plots provide data for the polytomous items at each of the score categories, which can be seen in Appendix D. These items tended to fit the model more poorly than the dichotomous items. Score category 2 is problematic at the low end of the proficiency scale for item 11 . For item 25, score category 2 is problematic at the low end, while score categories 3,4 , and 5 are problematic at the high end. There could also be some issues with item 26 at the high end for score categories 4 and 5 . Item 32 seems to fit well for the most part, but item 39 exhibited problems at all score categories.

Figure 6.1 shows the test score distribution, which is a comparison of the predicted scores and the observed scores. The fit is excellent. The match in Figure 6.2 of the cumulative observed and predicted score distributions assuming the model to be true is just about perfect. Often Figure 6.2 is more useful to review than Figure 6.1 because of the smoothing that is reflected in the cumulative distributions.

Table 6.1 Descriptive Information for the Standardized Residuals from PARSCALE

| Mean | SD | Percentage Not <br> Fit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -0.06 | 1.05 | 0.06 |

Table 6.2 Item Parameter Estimates

| Item | Slope (a) | SE | Location (b) | SE | Guessing (c) | SE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0.993 | 0.061 | -1.923 | 0.140 | 0.290 | 0.078 |
| 2 | 0.749 | 0.057 | 0.027 | 0.100 | 0.327 | 0.032 |
| 3 | 0.625 | 0.059 | 0.946 | 0.084 | 0.237 | 0.026 |
| 4 | 1.261 | 0.079 | 1.325 | 0.033 | 0.104 | 0.008 |
| 5 | 0.941 | 0.062 | 0.161 | 0.063 | 0.312 | 0.023 |
| 6 | 0.649 | 0.037 | -0.502 | 0.099 | 0.129 | 0.038 |
| 7 | 1.139 | 0.068 | 0.417 | 0.041 | 0.262 | 0.016 |
| 8 | 0.731 | 0.054 | 0.405 | 0.076 | 0.231 | 0.026 |
| 9 | 0.871 | 0.059 | 0.025 | 0.076 | 0.318 | 0.027 |
| 10 | 0.818 | 0.077 | 1.025 | 0.066 | 0.344 | 0.019 |
| 11 | 1.080 | 0.016 | 0.021 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 12 | 1.403 | 0.091 | 0.776 | 0.033 | 0.296 | 0.012 |
| 13 | 0.815 | 0.047 | 0.329 | 0.052 | 0.134 | 0.021 |
| 14 | 1.014 | 0.066 | 0.842 | 0.040 | 0.200 | 0.014 |
| 15 | 0.848 | 0.047 | -0.007 | 0.059 | 0.153 | 0.024 |
| 16 | 1.345 | 0.101 | 1.164 | 0.036 | 0.267 | 0.011 |
| 17 | 1.264 | 0.067 | 0.268 | 0.035 | 0.234 | 0.016 |
| 18 | 1.131 | 0.056 | -0.104 | 0.043 | 0.194 | 0.020 |
| 19 | 0.924 | 0.065 | 0.842 | 0.047 | 0.229 | 0.016 |
| 20 | 1.092 | 0.095 | 1.238 | 0.048 | 0.315 | 0.013 |
| 21 | 1.342 | 0.080 | 0.784 | 0.031 | 0.224 | 0.012 |
| 22 | 0.910 | 0.051 | 0.335 | 0.046 | 0.152 | 0.019 |
| 23 | 0.677 | 0.085 | 1.391 | 0.091 | 0.381 | 0.021 |
| 24 | 0.952 | 0.064 | 0.577 | 0.050 | 0.265 | 0.018 |
| 25 | 0.920 | 0.013 | 0.130 | 0.016 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 26 | 1.097 | 0.016 | 0.312 | 0.014 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 27 | 0.767 | 0.040 | -0.371 | 0.073 | 0.126 | 0.031 |
| 28 | 0.766 | 0.042 | -0.613 | 0.090 | 0.162 | 0.038 |
| 29 | 1.236 | 0.077 | 1.002 | 0.032 | 0.180 | 0.011 |
| 30 | 1.202 | 0.056 | -0.872 | 0.055 | 0.175 | 0.031 |
| 31 | 0.788 | 0.053 | 0.130 | 0.076 | 0.248 | 0.028 |
| 32 | 1.126 | 0.020 | 1.382 | 0.016 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 33 | 0.549 | 0.034 | 0.633 | 0.064 | 0.060 | 0.020 |
| 34 | 0.821 | 0.051 | 0.718 | 0.046 | 0.132 | 0.017 |
| 35 | 1.338 | 0.108 | 1.600 | 0.042 | 0.160 | 0.008 |
| 36 | 1.136 | 0.050 | -0.600 | 0.046 | 0.131 | 0.025 |
| 37 | 0.816 | 0.040 | -0.339 | 0.061 | 0.105 | 0.026 |
| 38 | 0.968 | 0.065 | 0.833 | 0.043 | 0.213 | 0.015 |
| 39 | 0.907 | 0.015 | 0.412 | 0.017 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 40 | 1.113 | 0.049 | -0.488 | 0.045 | 0.130 | 0.023 |
| 41 | 1.161 | 0.054 | -0.248 | 0.041 | 0.160 | 0.021 |
| 42 | 0.863 | 0.050 | 0.466 | 0.046 | 0.134 | 0.018 |
| 43 | 1.145 | 0.059 | 0.550 | 0.031 | 0.135 | 0.013 |
| 44 | 0.910 | 0.061 | 0.926 | 0.042 | 0.164 | 0.015 |
| 45 | 0.841 | 0.043 | -0.029 | 0.054 | 0.119 | 0.023 |

Table 6.3 Item Chi-Square Model Fit Statistics and the Corresponding Probabilities

| Item | Chi-Square | $d f$ | Probability |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 23.621 | 17 | 0.130 |
| 2 | 22.293 | 28 | 0.768 |
| 3 | 33.989 | 30 | 0.281 |
| 4 | 54.060 | 30 | 0.005 |
| 5 | 24.378 | 27 | 0.610 |
| 6 | 36.668 | 28 | 0.126 |
| 7 | 36.546 | 27 | 0.104 |
| 8 | 25.959 | 30 | 0.678 |
| 9 | 17.562 | 27 | 0.916 |
| 10 | 32.468 | 30 | 0.346 |
| 11 | 181.999 | 99 | 0.000 |
| 12 | 38.786 | 27 | 0.066 |
| 13 | 28.392 | 29 | 0.497 |
| 14 | 25.847 | 30 | 0.683 |
| 15 | 21.344 | 27 | 0.770 |
| 16 | 34.709 | 30 | 0.253 |
| 17 | 20.164 | 26 | 0.784 |
| 18 | 27.021 | 25 | 0.355 |
| 19 | 43.686 | 30 | 0.051 |
| 20 | 66.127 | 30 | 0.000 |
| 21 | 20.349 | 28 | 0.852 |
| 22 | 27.784 | 29 | 0.530 |
| 23 | 45.079 | 30 | 0.038 |
| 24 | 24.796 | 29 | 0.689 |
| 25 | 236.530 | 103 | 0.000 |
| 26 | 166.049 | 99 | 0.000 |
| 27 | 20.286 | 27 | 0.819 |
| 28 | 22.928 | 26 | 0.637 |
| 29 | 48.751 | 30 | 0.017 |
| 30 | 33.961 | 21 | 0.037 |
| 31 | 29.129 | 29 | 0.458 |
| 32 | 136.973 | 92 | 0.002 |
| 33 | 57.207 | 30 | 0.002 |
| 34 | 33.380 | 30 | 0.306 |
| 35 | 38.153 | 30 | 0.146 |
| 36 | 24.852 | 23 | 0.358 |
| 37 | 27.561 | 27 | 0.434 |
| 38 | 36.321 | 30 | 0.197 |
| 39 | 397.447 | 106 | 0.000 |
| 40 | 29.667 | 24 | 0.196 |
| 41 | 31.589 | 25 | 0.170 |
| 42 | 36.525 | 30 | 0.191 |
| 43 | 31.171 | 28 | 0.309 |
| 44 | 23.421 | 30 | 0.798 |
| 45 | 17.291 | 27 | 0.924 |
| Total | 2392.817 | 610 | 0.000 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |

Figure 6.1 Observed and Predicted Test Score Distributions


Figure 6.2 Observed and Predicted Cumulative Frequency Distributions

## Predicted Cumulative Frequency Distribution



## 7. Test Information and Conditional Standard Errors

The test characteristic curve, test information function, and standard error of measurement are displayed in the following three figures, 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3. They were produced from the parameter file created in PARSCALE and plotted in a software package called IRT Painter.

Figure 7.1 Test Characteristic Curve for the Biology Test
Test Characteristic Curve


Figure 7.2 Test Information Function for the Biology Test


Figure 7.3 Conditional Standard Errors for the Biology Test
Standard Error of Measurement


## 8. Identification of Differentially Functioning Test Items

The test was examined for differentially functioning items using the computer program STDIF (Zenisky \& Hambleton, 2007). The program calculates both the SDIF and UDIF statistics. For the purposes of this study, the UDIF statistic was used. This analysis is done in two stages. First, the program is run including all of the items when calculating the statistics. Then, for the second stage, the items that showed DIF from the first stage are excluded from the matching (conditioning) variable, and then the analysis is repeated for all of the test items.

Four group comparisons were completed using the sample of $\mathrm{N}=55,673$, which included Male/Female, White/Asian, White/Black, and White/Hispanic. The comparison results are reported in Table 8.1.

For the Male/Female comparison, males were the reference group. This analysis showed three DIF items $(4,29,38)$ at Stage 1, which dropped to zero items at Stage 2 using the .10 criterion for DIF detection. Four items $(4,13,29,38)$ had statistics between .075 and .10 at Stage 2. Figures $8.1-8.4$ displays the comparison for the four items under the gender category. Males outperformed females consistently for all of the flagged items.

For the ethnicity comparisons, the White sample formed the reference group. When the White sample was compared to the Asian sample, there were two DIF items at

Stage 1 and none using the .10 criterion at Stage 2. The White sample had much more stable curves, while the Asian sample jumped around between score points. This is attributed to the considerably smaller sample size of the Asian group. There were many fewer examinees at each test score point, causing the erratic line. In Figure 8.5, we have shown the most problematic of the items, item 8, in the White-Asian comparisons--the White sample outperformed the Asian sample for item 8. But this item did not reach the .10 criterion for being labeled as a DIF item. The White/Black and White/Hispanic comparison showed no DIF at Stage 2 either.

Figure 8.6 displays the gender DIF indices for all items on the assessment. The top of the figure shows which items tend to favor males and the bottom of the graph shows the items that tend to favor females. Most indices hover around zero, but it is noticeable that there are a couple items that are favoring males and these were the four items we displayed in the figures.

Table 8.1 Flagged Items Using the UDIF Statistic

|  | Stage 1 |  | Stage 2 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Comparison | \# Flagged | Item \#'s | \# Flagged | Item \#'s |
| M/F | 3 | $4,29,38$ | 0 | N/A |
| W/A | 2 | 8,45 | 0 | N/A |
| W/B | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A |
| W/H | 1 | 10 | 0 | N/A |

Gender
Figure 8.1 Conditional p-Value Plot for Item 4


Figure 8.2 Conditional p-Value Plot for Item 13


Figure 8.3 Conditional p-Value Plot for Item 29


Figure 8.4 Conditional p-Value Plot for Item 38


## Ethnicity

Figure 8.5 Conditional p-Value Plot for Item 8


Figure 8.6 Summary of the Gender DIF Indices

Gender DIF Indices for High School Biology Test
MC (1-10, 12-24, 27-31, 33-38, 40-45) OR (11, 25, 26, 32, 39)


## 9. Conclusions

The goal of this report was to give readers several meaningful psychometric analyses of the 2006 MCAS High School Biology Test. Statistics were provided throughout the eight sections of the report and these statistics provided the basis for the summary provided in Hambleton, Zhao, Smith, Lam, and Deng (2008).

The item analysis indicated good to excellent $p$ - and $r$ values for the purpose of the test, and showed a wide range in item difficulty, excellent for enhancing the score precision along the proficiency score scale. Reliability was obtained using Cronbach's coefficient alpha and indicated that score reliability was high, as well as for each of the item types (dichotomously scored and polytomously scored). The Biology Test was strongly unidimensional, with a large first factor shown from the eigenvalue calculations, with only a slight possibility of a second or third factor. The confirmatory factor analysis work also showed a strong first factor. These findings strongly support the unidimensionality assumption underlying the IRT model analyses. The model fit was excellent, as shown by the residuals and ICCs in Appendices B, C, and D. The polytomous items fit more poorly than the dichotomous items. The reason was not clear and should be further investigated. Differential item functioning (DIF) analyses revealed no DIF items across four analyses of the 45 item test using the .10 criterion. This analysis showed too that a small number of test items were approaching DIF using a less stringent criterion of .075 using the UDIF statistic (Zenisky \& Hambleton, 2007). Of minor concern was the presence of four items that showed a tendency for males to outperform females, when comparisons were made for groups matched on Biology proficiency (using adjusted test scores). These four items might be followed up to identify possible causes, but clearly the level of DIF was very small.

The psychometric analyses that we carried out indicated that the technical aspects of the Biology Test are high. Fit of the polytomous items and the small level of DIF in the male-female comparisons could be further studied. On this latter point, something might be learned that could be passed on to the Biology Test development committee and might be helpful when constructing future Biology Tests.

## 10. References

Brooks, G. P., \& Johanson, G. A. (2003). Test analysis program. Applied Psychological Measurement, 27, 305-306.

Hambleton, R. K., Zhao, Y., Smith, Z. R., Lam, W., \& Deng, N. (2008). Psychometric analyses of the 2006 MCAS high school science tests (Center for Educational Assessment Research Report No. 649). Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts, Center for Educational Assessment.

Zenisky, A. L., \& Hambleton, R. K. (2007). Differential item functioning analyses with STDIF: User's guide (Unpublished report). Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts, Center for Educational Assessment.

## Appendix A

Table A. 1 Distractor Analysis: Number of examinees (Percentage of examinees)

| Item | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{MC} \\ & \text { Key } \end{aligned}$ |  | Answer Choice/Open-Response Score |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Group | A/1 | B/2 | C/3 | D/4 | /0 |
| 1 | B | TOTAL | 143 (0.026) | 5149*(0.933) | 150 (0.027) | 58 (0.011) |  |
|  |  | High | 3 (0.002) | 1489 (0.996) | 3 (0.002) | 0 (0.000) |  |
|  |  | Low | 114 (0.076) | 1199 (0.801) | 116 (0.077) | 51 (0.034) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -111(-0.074) | $290 \text { (0.195) }$ | -113(-0.075) | -51(-0.034) |  |
| 2 | C | TOTAL | 422 (0.076) | 1324 (0.240) | 3638*(0.659) | 114 (0.021) |  |
|  |  | High | 8 (0.005) | 171 (0.114) | 1311 (0.877) | 5 (0.003) |  |
|  |  | Low | 276 (0.184) | 487 (0.325) | 643 (0.430) | 74 (0.049) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -268(-0.179) | $-316(-0.211)$ | 668 (0.447) | -69(-0.046) |  |
| 3 | C | TOTAL | 833 (0.151) | 348 (0.063) | 2587*(0.469) | 1724 (0.312) |  |
|  |  | High | 39 (0.026) | 15 (0.010) | 1006 (0.673) | 435 (0.291) |  |
|  |  | Low | 411 (0.275) | 211 (0.141) | 427 (0.285) | 424 (0.283) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -372(-0.248) | -196(-0.131) | 579 (0.388) | 11 (0.008) |  |
| 4 | A | TOTAL | 1302*(0.236) | 1486 (0.269) | 987 (0.179) | 1715 (0.311) |  |
|  |  | High | 758 (0.507) | 337 (0.225) | 152 (0.102) | 247 (0.165) |  |
|  |  | Low | 163 (0.109) | 399 (0.267) | 379 (0.253) | 538 (0.359) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 595 (0.398) | -62(-0.041) | -227(-0.152) | -291(-0.194) |  |
| 5 | B | TOTAL | 551 (0.100) | 3457*(0.627) | 202 (0.037) | 1286 (0.233) |  |
|  |  | High | $24 \text { (0.016) }$ | 1325 (0.886) | $7 \text { (0.005) }$ | 139 (0.093) |  |
|  |  | Low | $303 \text { (0.202) }$ | $547 \text { (0.365) }$ | $150(0.100)$ | $479 \text { (0.320) }$ |  |
|  |  | Diff | -279(-0.186) | 778 (0.521) | -143(-0.096) | -340(-0.227) |  |
| 6 | C | TOTAL | 820 (0.149) | 408 (0.074) | 3636*(0.659) | 632 (0.115) |  |
|  |  | High | 98 (0.066) | 23 (0.015) | 1308 (0.875) | 65 (0.043) |  |
|  |  | Low | $334(0.223)$ | $223 \text { (0.149) }$ | $592 \text { (0.395) }$ | $332 \text { (0.222) }$ |  |
|  |  | Diff | -236(-0.158) | -200(-0.134) | 716 (0.479) | -267(-0.178) |  |
| 7 | A | TOTAL | 2986*(0.541) | 1007 (0.183) | 506 (0.092) | 992 (0.180) |  |
|  |  | High | 1264 (0.845) | 86 (0.058) | 60 (0.040) | 85 (0.057) |  |
|  |  | Low | $410(0.274)$ | $437 \text { (0.292) }$ | $237 \text { (0.158) }$ | $390(0.261)$ |  |
|  |  | Diff | 854 (0.572) | -351(-0.234) | -177(-0.118) | -305(-0.204) |  |
| 8 | D | TOTAL | 500 (0.091) | 558 (0.101) | 1452 (0.263) | 2990*(0.542) |  |
|  |  | High | 46 (0.031) | 38 (0.025) | 229 (0.153) | 1182 (0.791) |  |
|  |  | Low | 258 (0.172) | 296 (0.198) | 484 (0.323) | 442 (0.295) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -212(-0.142) | -258(-0.172) | -255(-0.170) | 740 (0.495) |  |


| 9 |  | TOTAL | 328 (0.059) | 307 (0.056) | 3617*(0.656) | 1241 (0.225) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | C | High | 34 (0.023) | 6 (0.004) | 1337 (0.894) | 118 (0.079) |  |
|  |  | Low | 188 (0.126) | 229 (0.153) | 598 (0.399) | 462 (0.309) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -154(-0.103) | -223(-0.149) | 739 (0.495) | -344(-0.230) |  |
| 10 | C | TOTAL | 392 (0.071) | 1760 (0.319) | 2826*(0.512) | 506 (0.092) |  |
|  |  | High | 28 (0.019) | 351 (0.235) | 1083 (0.724) | 31 (0.021) |  |
|  |  | Low | 214 (0.143) | 482 (0.322) | 510 (0.341) | 264 (0.176) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -186(-0.124) | -131(-0.087) | 573 (0.384) | -233(-0.156) |  |
| 11 |  | TOTAL | 702 (0.127) | 1455 (0.264) | 1164 (0.211) | 986*(0.179) | 1210 (0.219) |
|  |  | High | 58 (0.039) | 272 (0.182) | 440 (0.294) | 696 (0.466) | 29 (0.019) |
|  |  | Low | 239 (0.160) | 295 (0.197) | 126 (0.084) | 20 (0.013) | 817 (0.546) |
|  |  | Diff | -181(-0.121) | -23(-0.015) | 314 (0.210) | 676 (0.452) | -788(-0.526) |
|  | A | TOTAL | 2661*(0.482) | 629 (0.114) | 1167 (0.212) | 1034 (0.187) |  |
| 12 |  | High | 1162 (0.777) | 74 (0.049) | 123 (0.082) | 136 (0.091) |  |
| 12 |  | Low | 410 (0.274) | 261 (0.174) | 484 (0.323) | 318 (0.212) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 752 (0.503) | -187(-0.125) | -361(-0.241) | -182(-0.121) |  |
| 13 | A | TOTAL | 2731*(0.495) | 543 (0.098) | 696 (0.126) | 1515 (0.275) |  |
|  |  | High | 1196 (0.800) | 22 (0.015) | 67 (0.045) | 210 (0.140) |  |
|  |  | Low | 314 (0.210) | 321 (0.214) | 317 (0.212) | 515 (0.344) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 882 (0.590) | -299(-0.200) | -250(-0.167) | -305(-0.204) |  |
| 14 | B | TOTAL | 1025 (0.186) | 2311*(0.419) | 1651 (0.299) | 501 (0.091) |  |
|  |  | High | 102 (0.068) | 1062 (0.710) | 266 (0.178) | 63 (0.042) |  |
|  |  | Low | 409 (0.273) | 315 (0.210) | 519 (0.347) | $228 \text { (0.152) }$ |  |
|  |  | Diff | -307(-0.205) | 747 (0.500) | -253(-0.169) | -165(-0.110) |  |
| 15 | C | TOTAL | 635 (0.115) | 792 (0.144) | 3192*(0.579) | 868 (0.157) |  |
|  |  | High | 82 (0.055) | 39 (0.026) | 1291 (0.864) | 83 (0.056) |  |
|  |  | Low | 282 (0.188) | $380(0.254)$ | 410 (0.274) | 396 (0.265) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -200(-0.134) | -341(-0.228) | 881 (0.590) | -313(-0.209) |  |
| 16 | C | TOTAL | 1123 (0.204) | 1610 (0.292) | 2173*(0.394) | 569 (0.103) |  |
|  |  | High | 119 (0.080) | 307 (0.205) | 982 (0.657) | 85 (0.057) |  |
|  |  | Low | 394 (0.263) | 477 (0.319) | 376 (0.251) | 216 (0.144) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -275(-0.184) | -170(-0.113) | 606 (0.406) | -131(-0.087) |  |
| 17 | A | TOTAL | 3063*(0.555) | 889 (0.161) | 915 (0.166) | 605 (0.110) |  |
|  |  | High | 1318 (0.882) | 43 (0.029) | 93 (0.062) | 40 (0.027) |  |
|  |  | Low | 384 (0.257) | 441 (0.295) | 366 (0.244) | 270 (0.180) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 934 (0.625) | -398(-0.266) | -273(-0.182) | -230(-0.154) |  |
| 18 | D | TOTAL | 548 (0.099) | 845 (0.153) | 643 (0.117) | 3443*(0.624) |  |
|  |  | High | 27 (0.018) | 66 (0.044) | 21 (0.014) | 1380 (0.923) |  |
|  |  | Low | 314 (0.210) | 382 (0.255) | 347 (0.232) | 419 (0.280) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -287(-0.192) | -316(-0.211) | -326(-0.218) | 961 (0.643) |  |


| 19 | D | TOTAL | 1846 (0.335) | 782 (0.142) | 392 (0.071) | 2464*(0.447) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | High | 319 (0.213) | 70 (0.047) | 32 (0.021) | 1073 (0.718) |  |
|  |  | Low | 514 (0.343) | 354 (0.236) | 236 (0.158) | 363 (0.242) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -195(-0.130) | -284(-0.190) | -204(-0.136) | 710 (0.475) |  |
| 20 | A | TOTAL | 2418*(0.438) | 1050 (0.190) | 631 (0.114) | 1369 (0.248) |  |
|  |  | High | 960 (0.642) | 243 (0.163) | 67 (0.045) | 224 (0.150) |  |
|  |  | Low | 409 (0.273) | 365 (0.244) | 297 (0.198) | 385 (0.257) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 551 (0.369) | -122(-0.081) | -230(-0.154) | -161(-0.107) |  |
| 21 | B | TOTAL | 1567 (0.284) | 2369*(0.429) | 796 (0.144) | 723 (0.131) |  |
|  |  | High | 214 (0.143) | 1122 (0.751) | 69 (0.046) | 85 (0.057) |  |
|  |  | Low | 482 (0.322) | 327 (0.218) | 351 (0.234) | 293 (0.196) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -268(-0.179) | 795 (0.532) | -282(-0.188) | -208(-0.139) |  |
| 22 | D | TOTAL | 706 (0.128) | 977 (0.177) | 1002 (0.182) | 2758*(0.500) |  |
|  |  | High | 50 (0.033) | 51 (0.034) | 189 (0.126) | 1203 (0.805) |  |
|  |  | Low | 326 (0.218) | 454 (0.303) | 348 (0.232) | 312 (0.208) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -276(-0.184) | -403(-0.269) | -159(-0.106) | 891 (0.596) |  |
| 23 | C | TOTAL | 718 (0.130) | 1262 (0.229) | 2836*(0.514) | 634 (0.115) |  |
|  |  | High | 141 (0.094) | 301 (0.201) | 988 (0.661) | 64 (0.043) |  |
|  |  | Low | 258 (0.172) | 351 (0.234) | 551 (0.368) | 283 (0.189) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -117(-0.078) | -50(-0.033) | 437 (0.293) | -219(-0.146) |  |
| 24 | A | TOTAL | 2861*(0.519) | 828 (0.150) | 1240 (0.225) | 504 (0.091) |  |
|  |  | High | 1187 (0.794) | 88 (0.059) | 169 (0.113) | 47 (0.031) |  |
|  |  | Low | 417 (0.279) | 364 (0.243) | 418 (0.279) | 241 (0.161) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 770 (0.515) | -276(-0.184) | -249(-0.166) | -194(-0.130) |  |
| 25 |  | TOTAL | 1156 (0.210) | 1562 (0.283) | 1348 (0.244) | 564*(0.102) | 887 (0.161) |
|  |  | High | 128 (0.086) | 391 (0.262) | 575 (0.385) | 375 (0.251) | 26 (0.017) |
|  |  | Low | 457 (0.305) | 293 (0.196) | 109 (0.073) | 10 (0.007) | 628 (0.420) |
|  |  | Diff | -329(-0.220) | 98 (0.066) | 466\#(0.312) | 365 (0.244) | -602(-0.402) |
| 26 |  | TOTAL | 947 (0.172) | 1045 (0.189) | 1661 (0.301) | 426*(0.077) | 1438 (0.261) |
|  |  | High | 81 (0.054) | 240 (0.161) | 792 (0.530) | 323 (0.216) | 59 (0.039) |
|  |  | Low | 333 (0.222) | 190 (0.127) | 99 (0.066) | 8 (0.005) | 867 (0.579) |
|  |  | Diff | -252(-0.168) | 50 (0.034) | 693\#(0.464) | 315 (0.211) | -808(-0.540) |
|  | B | TOTAL | 500 (0.091) | 3541*(0.642) | 401 (0.073) | 970 (0.176) |  |
| 27 |  | High | 34 (0.023) | 1340 (0.896) | 20 (0.013) | 101 (0.068) |  |
| 27 |  | Low | 267 (0.178) | 513 (0.343) | 236 (0.158) | 383 (0.256) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -233(-0.156) | 827 (0.554) | -216(-0.144) | -282(-0.188) |  |
| 28 | C | TOTAL | 590 (0.107) | 570 (0.103) | 3882*(0.704) | 358 (0.065) |  |
|  |  | High | 60 (0.040) | 37 (0.025) | 1373 (0.918) | 23 (0.015) |  |
|  |  | Low | 230 (0.154) | 338 (0.226) | 621 (0.415) | 204 (0.136) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -170(-0.114) | -301(-0.201) | 752 (0.504) | -181(-0.121) |  |


| 29 | B | TOTAL | 748 (0.136) | 1974*(0.358) | 1092 (0.198) | 1588 (0.288) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | High | 79 (0.053) | 993 (0.664) | 157 (0.105) | 262 (0.175) |  |
|  |  | Low | 327 (0.218) | 262 (0.175) | 394 (0.263) | 414 (0.277) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -248(-0.166) | 731 (0.489) | -237(-0.158) | -152(-0.101) |  |
| 30 | B | TOTAL | 342 (0.062) | 4366*(0.791) | 368 (0.067) | 330 (0.060) |  |
|  |  | High | 13 (0.009) | 1460 (0.977) | 13 (0.009) | 9 (0.006) |  |
|  |  | Low | 227 (0.152) | 696 (0.465) | 260 (0.174) | 211 (0.141) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -214(-0.143) | 764 (0.512) | -247(-0.165) | -202(-0.135) |  |
| 31 | C | TOTAL | 1026 (0.186) | 470 (0.085) | 3309*(0.600) | 597 (0.108) |  |
|  |  | High | 135 (0.090) | 42 (0.028) | 1275 (0.853) | 42 (0.028) |  |
|  |  | Low | 337 (0.225) | 279 (0.186) | 525 (0.351) | 251 (0.168) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -202(-0.135) | -237(-0.158) | 750 (0.502) | -209(-0.140) |  |
| 32 |  | TOTAL | 869 (0.158) | 946 (0.171) | 421 (0.076) | 115*(0.021) | 3166 (0.574) |
|  |  | High | 252 (0.169) | 467 (0.312) | 334 (0.223) | 112 (0.075) | 330 (0.221) |
|  |  | Low | 103 (0.069) | 54 (0.036) | 3 (0.002) | 0 (0.000) | 1337 (0.893) |
|  |  | Diff | 149\#(0.100) | 413\#(0.276) | 331\#(0.221) | 112 (0.075) | -1007(-0.672) |
|  | D | TOTAL | 814 (0.148) | 722 (0.131) | 1547 (0.280) | 2282* (0.414) |  |
| 33 |  | High | 118 (0.079) | 70 (0.047) | 344 (0.230) | 960 (0.642) |  |
|  |  | Low | 325 (0.217) | 364 (0.243) | 414 (0.277) | 262 (0.175) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -207(-0.138) | -294(-0.196) | -70(-0.046) | 698 (0.467) |  |
| 34 | A | TOTAL | 2270*(0.411) | 1646 (0.298) | 617 (0.112) | 827 (0.150) |  |
|  |  | High | 1052 (0.704) | 329 (0.220) | 53 (0.035) | 59 (0.039) |  |
|  |  | Low | 249 (0.166) | 440 (0.294) | 315 (0.210) | 358 (0.239) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 803 (0.537) | -111(-0.074) | -262(-0.175) | -299(-0.200) |  |
| 35 | A | TOTAL | 1334*(0.242) | 981 (0.178) | 1442 (0.261) | 1582 (0.287) |  |
|  |  | High | 647 (0.433) | 155 (0.104) | 294 (0.197) | 389 (0.260) |  |
|  |  | Low | 253 (0.169) | 360 (0.240) | 412 (0.275) | 329 (0.220) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 394 (0.264) | -205(-0.137) | -118(-0.079) | 60 (0.040) |  |
| 36 | B | TOTAL | 626 (0.113) | 3955*(0.717) | 423 (0.077) | 345 (0.063) |  |
|  |  | High | 26 (0.017) | 1435 (0.960) | 22 (0.015) | 10 (0.007) |  |
|  |  | Low | 348 (0.232) | 546 (0.365) | 235 (0.157) | 223 (0.149) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -322(-0.215) | 889 (0.595) | -213(-0.142) | -213(-0.142) |  |
| 37 | B | TOTAL | 386 (0.070) | 3471*(0.629) | 579 (0.105) | 916 (0.166) |  |
|  |  | High | 21 (0.014) | 1351 (0.904) | 21 (0.014) | 102 (0.068) |  |
|  |  | Low | 221 (0.148) | 462 (0.309) | 315 (0.210) | 353 (0.236) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -200(-0.134) | 889 (0.595) | -294(-0.196) | -251(-0.168) |  |
| 38 | C | TOTAL | 1468 (0.266) | 474 (0.086) | 2390*(0.433) | 1010 (0.183) |  |
|  |  | High | 227 (0.152) | 57 (0.038) | 1074 (0.718) | 135 (0.090) |  |
|  |  | Low | 386 (0.258) | 243 (0.162) | 329 (0.220) | 393 (0.263) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -159(-0.106) | -186(-0.124) | 745 (0.499) | -258(-0.172) |  |


| 39 |  | TOTAL | 815 (0.148) | 676 (0.123) | 869 (0.158) | 959*(0.174) | 2198 (0.398) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | High | 97 (0.065) | 133 (0.089) | 354 (0.237) | 705 (0.472) | 206 (0.138) |
|  |  | Low | 306 (0.204) | 138 (0.092) | 55 (0.037) | 17 (0.011) | 981 (0.655) |
|  |  | Diff | -209(-0.140) | -5(-0.003) | 299 (0.200) | 688 (0.460) | -775(-0.518) |
| 40 | D | TOTAL | 299 (0.054) | 515 (0.093) | 396 (0.072) | 3801*(0.689) |  |
|  |  | High | 9 (0.006) | 19 (0.013) | 6 (0.004) | 1428 (0.955) |  |
|  |  | Low | 186 (0.124) | 279 (0.186) | 254 (0.170) | 474 (0.317) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -177(-0.118) | -260(-0.174) | -248(-0.166) | 954 (0.639) |  |
| 41 | A | TOTAL | 3555*(0.644) | 566 (0.103) | 584 (0.106) | 320 (0.058) |  |
|  |  | High | 1408 (0.942) | 26 (0.017) | 18 (0.012) | 10 (0.007) |  |
|  |  | Low | 408 (0.273) | 285 (0.190) | 314 (0.210) | 197 (0.132) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 1000 (0.669) | -259(-0.173) | -296(-0.198) | -187(-0.125) |  |
| 42 | D | TOTAL | 734 (0.133) | 1070 (0.194) | 652 (0.118) | 2552* (0.463) |  |
|  |  | High | 152 (0.102) | 121 (0.081) | 44 (0.029) | 1144 (0.765) |  |
|  |  | Low | 247 (0.165) | 359 (0.240) | 298 (0.199) | 286 (0.191) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -95(-0.063) | -238(-0.159) | -254(-0.170) | 858 (0.574) |  |
| 43 | D | TOTAL | 1158 (0.210) | 868 (0.157) | 631 (0.114) | 2366*(0.429) |  |
|  |  | High | 146 (0.098) | 127 (0.085) | 30 (0.020) | 1158 (0.775) |  |
|  |  | Low | 371 (0.248) | 282 (0.188) | 322 (0.215) | 233 (0.156) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -225(-0.150) | -155(-0.103) | -292(-0.195) | 925 (0.619) |  |
| 44 | B | TOTAL | 1037 (0.188) | 2127*(0.386) | 921 (0.167) | 906 (0.164) |  |
|  |  | High | 157 (0.105) | 999 (0.668) | 136 (0.091) | 164 (0.110) |  |
|  |  | Low | 334 (0.223) | 270 (0.180) | 311 (0.208) | 276 (0.184) |  |
|  |  | Diff | -177(-0.118) | 729 (0.488) | -175(-0.117) | -112(-0.075) |  |
| 45 | A | TOTAL | 3125*(0.566) | 466 (0.084) | 1000 (0.181) | 421 (0.076) |  |
|  |  | High | 1278 (0.855) | 21 (0.014) | 135 (0.090) | 28 (0.019) |  |
|  |  | Low | 374 (0.250) | 272 (0.182) | 348 (0.232) | 202 (0.135) |  |
|  |  | Diff | 904 (0.605) | -251(-0.168) | -213(-0.142) | -174(-0.116) |  |

Note: Distractor analysis carried out with a sample of $\mathrm{N}=5,517$. High includes the top $25 \%$ of examinees and low includes the bottom $25 \%$ of examinees.

## Appendix B

Residuals for Dichotomously Scored Items


Item 2



Item 4



Item 6





Item 10



Item 13



Item 15



Item 17



Item 19



Item 21



Item 23



Item 27



Item 29



Item 31



Item 34




Item 38



Item 41



Item 43


Item 44


Item 45


## Appendix C

## ICCs for Dichotomously Scored Items



Item 2



## Item 4




Item 6



## Item 8











Item 19





Item 27



Item 29





Item 34





Item 38



Item 41



Item 43



Appendix D
Residuals and ICCs for Polytomously Scored Items Item 11 Residuals





Score Category 4



Score Category 1


## Score Category 2



Score Category 3


Score Category 4


## Item 25 Residuals





Score Category 1


## Score Category 2



Score Category 3


Score Category 4


Item 26 Residuals




Score Category 1


## Score Category 2



Score Category 3


Score Category 4


Item 32 Residuals




Score Category 1


## Score Category 2



Score Category 3


Score Category 4


Item 39 Residuals




Score Category 1


## Score Category 2



Score Category 3


## Score Category 4




[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Financial support for completing this research came from Measured Progress and the Massachusetts Department of Education. The authors are responsible for the contents of the report and for any errors or misinterpretations of the data that may remain. .
    ${ }^{2}$ Center for Educational Assessment Research Report No. 645. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts, Center for Educational Assessment.

