

TRA – 2000: California Researcher &

Katy I.S.D. AP Teacher Evaluates TAAS EOC Algebra

AP Classroom Teacher Evaluation: EOC Algebra
1998-1999 and 1999-2000 (80 Questions Over Both Years)

Evaluation of Academic Rigor	Number of ????	% By Category	?? Easier By Calc.
Prior Pre-Algebra	6	7.5%	1
Pre-Algebra	31	38.8%	16
Low Difficulty	32	40.0%	9
Moderate Difficulty	11	13.8%	3
High Difficulty	0	0.0%	0
TOTAL	80	100.0%	36.3%

Prior TRA Study Summarized: 1995-1998

Prior Pre-Algebra	14	8.8%
Pre-Algebra	64	40.0%
Low Difficulty	77	48.1%
Moderate Difficulty	5	3.1%
High Difficulty	0	0.0%
TOTAL	160	100.0%

Combined Over 6 Years

Prior Pre-Algebra	20	8.3%
Pre-Algebra	95	39.6%
Low Difficulty	109	45.4%
Moderate Difficulty	16	6.7%
High Difficulty	0	0.0%
TOTAL	240	100.0%

Prior Pre-Algebra	<i>Roughly 4th or 5th Grade Equivalence</i>
Pre-Algebra	<i>Standard Pre-Algebra</i>
Low Difficulty	<i>Easy Algebra</i>
Moderate Difficulty	<i>More Sophisticated Analysis</i>
High Difficulty	<i>Rigorous But EOC Appropriate</i>

California Researchers Considered Multiple Choice As Factor While Teacher Noted Impact of Calculator Use

Prior to Pre-Algebra or Pre-Algebra

California Researchers
48.8%
Katy I.S.D. AP Teacher
46.3%

High Difficulty

California Researchers
0%
Katy I.S.D. AP Teacher
0%

Low or Moderate

California Researchers
53.8%
Katy I.S.D. AP Teacher
51.2%

Moderate

California Researchers
3.1%
Katy I.S.D. AP Teacher
13.8%

2 Notes From Separate Studies

The **classroom teacher** did not DEVALUE the problems' rigor because of external factors but noted the impact of calculator on the rigor of specific questions. The teacher noted that the use of a calculator in 28% of the low & moderate rated questions made each much easier to solve. In other words, rigor impact noted but not discounted.

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The California Researchers DID DEVALUE 14% of the questions' rigor due to external factors including multi-choice format and embedded solution strategies.

Absent these differences, the overall conclusions are virtually 'dead-on.'

TRA – 2000: Katy I.S.D. AP Teacher
Evaluates TAAS EOC Biology

EOC Biology Exams Evaluted: 2000 & 2001

Katy I.S.D. AP Biology Teacher Findings

Evaluation of Academic Rigor	Number of ????	% of ????
Difficult	0	0%
Moderate Difficulty	22	26%
Low Difficulty	41	49%
Not Testing Biology	21	25%
TOTAL	84	100%
Considered Junior High Appropriate		
Junior High Level	29	35%