



Preparing for Testing: Parent Guide

About CAE / CCRA+

As a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve student outcomes, CAE develops performance-based assessments that authentically measure students' essential college and career readiness skills and identify opportunities for student growth.

CAE's College and Career Readiness Assessment (CCRA+) for **grades 6 through 12** evaluates the skills educational institutions and employers demand most: critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective written communication. Our research shows that these skills are predictive of positive college and career outcomes.

CCRA+ authentically measures your student's:

- essential college and career readiness skills, providing valid and reliable insights into your student's preparedness for their next step
- ability to **analyze and synthesize** data and information, address important issues, propose solutions, and recommend courses of action to resolve conflicts

Your student will be challenged to:

- Analyze and understand data;
- Evaluate the credibility of various documents;
- Identify questionable or critical assumptions;
- Deal with inadequate, ambiguous, and conflicting information;
- Identify additional information that would help resolve issues;
- Construct an organized and logically cohesive argument by providing elaboration on facts or ideas (e.g., explaining how evidence bears on the problem, providing examples, and emphasizing especially convincing evidence);
- Organize and synthesize information from several sources; and
- Marshal evidence from different sources in a written response.

CCRA+ is designed to be grade appropriate. During the testing process, your student will be instructed to **support their responses** by utilizing information provided within the assessment, such as technical reports, data tables, newspaper articles, office memoranda, and emails. The assessment allows for **more than one single "correct" answer** with scores that reflect a range of plausible and effective response strategies. Your student will be then evaluated against CAE's **norm and criterion-referenced** standards.



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Test Logistics

The CCRA+ has two sections - a **sixty-minute** essay-based performance task, and a **thirty-minute** selected-response task.

CCRA+ is a proctored assessment, either in-person or remotely via a video call. If your student is testing remotely, the video call (Zoom, WebEx, Google Meet, etc.) will run in the background while the student works.

Your student will complete the assessment using a secure browser (unless otherwise instructed). If your student is completing the assessment on a personal device, we recommend downloading the software 48 hours prior to the assessment.

Below is an example of what the CCRA+ will look like:

Demonstration Exam 00:43 / 15:00

CCRA+

The CCRA+ is designed to be completed in a 90-minute block of time. There are optional tutorials before you begin each section. This assessment will include one 60-minute performance task and a 30-minute selected-response section. The testing sequence is outlined below.

Section	Time
Performance Task	60 Minutes
Selected-Response Questions	30 Minutes

Practice Session v1.0.595

Next

Important features:

- Your student will have a timer in the upper right corner, so they always know how much time they have left.
- When they first enter the assessment, they will have a brief tutorial to familiarize themselves with the layout.
- Your student have the option to flag a question if they need to return to it.