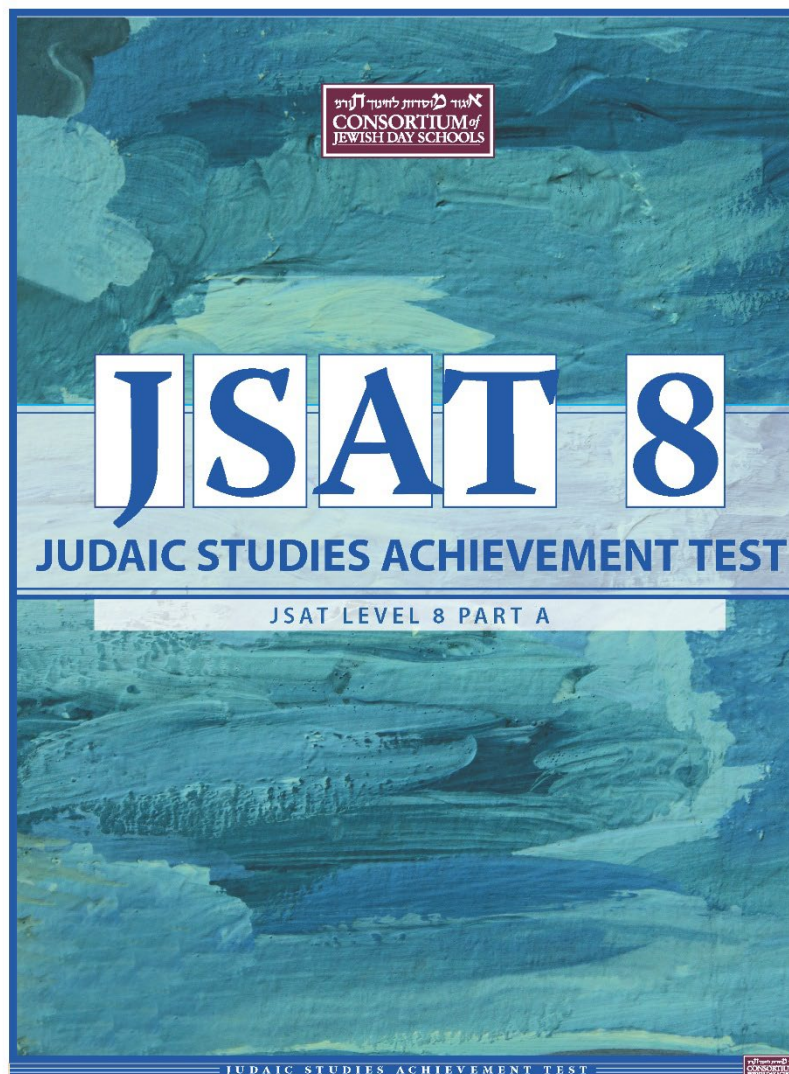# JSAT Level 8 2022-2023 Analysis of General Results

JSAT Level 8 2022-2023 Analysis of Results

CoJDS is once again proud to present a detailed analysis of our fourth JSAT Level 8 High School Placement Exam. Nearly 8,000 8th grade students have taken this exam to date, and we invite you to join us as we examine the most recent trends in Jewish education.

Section I – Demographics of Test Participants

Number of Participants and Schools

As of February 16, 2023, results were tabulated for 1,780 8th grade students who completed the 2022-2023 JSAT Level 8 exam in 52 schools across North America.

The following is a list of lower schools that offered the exam to their students:

	School	City	State
1.	Adolph Schreiber Hebrew Academy of Rockland	New City	NY
2.	Ahi Ezer Yeshiva	Brooklyn	NY
3.	Barkai Yeshivah Middle School	Brooklyn	NY
4.	Beit Rabban Day School	New York	NY
5.	Ben Porat Yosef	Paramus	NJ
6.	Bnos Malka Academy	Flushing	NY
7.	Bnot Yaakov Girls Elementary School	Great Neck	NY
8.	Emek Hebrew Academy	Sherman Oaks	CA
9.	Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy	Beverly Hills	CA
10.	Hebrew Academy of Five Towns and Rockaway Middle School	Lawrence	NY
11.	Hebrew Academy of Long Beach	Woodmere	NY
12.	Hebrew Academy of Nassau County	Uniondale	NY
13.	Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School	Skokie	IL
14.	Jewish Foundation School	Staten Island	NY
15.	Kinneret Day School	Riverdale	NY
16.	Lubavitch Hebrew Academy	Margate	FL
17.	Luria Academy of Brooklyn	Brooklyn	NY
18.	Manhattan Day School	New York	NY
19.	Mazel Day School	Brooklyn	NY
20.	Mill Basin Yeshiva Academy	Brooklyn	NY
21.	North Shore Hebrew Academy	Great Neck	NY
22.	Park East Day School	New York	NY
23.	Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva	Edison	NJ
24.	Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey	River Edge	NJ
25.	SAR Academy	Bronx	NY
26.	Schechter Manhattan	New York	NY
27.	Shulamith School for Girls of Brooklyn	Brooklyn	NY
28.	Shulamith School for Girls of Cedarhurst	Cedarhurst	NY

29.	Silverstein Hebrew Academy	Great Neck	NY
30.	Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County	New Milford	NJ
31.	Solomon Schechter School of Queens	Queens	NY
32.	Staten Island Hebrew Academy	Staten Island	NY
33.	Tenafly Chabad Academy	Tenafly	NJ
34.	The Leffell School	Hartsdale	NY
35.	The Moriah School	Englewood	NJ
36.	The Pathway Torah Center	Brooklyn	NY
37.	The Rabbi Haskell Lookstein Middle School of Ramaz	New York	NY
38.	The Shefa School	New York	NY
39.	The Windward School	White Plains	NY
40.	Westchester Day School	Mamaroneck	NY
41.	Westchester Torah Academy	New Rochelle	NY
42.	Yavneh Academy of NJ	Paramus	NJ
43.	Yeshiva Derech HaTorah	Brooklyn	NY
44.	Yeshiva Har Torah	Little Neck	NY
45.	Yeshiva Ketana of Long Island	Inwood	NY
46.	Yeshiva of Central Queens	Flushing	NY
47.	Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion Boys Elementary	Fresh Meadows	NY
48.	Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion Girls School	Piscataway	NJ
49.	Yeshivah of Flatbush	Brooklyn	NY
50.	Yeshivat He'atid	Teaneck	NJ
51.	Yeshivat Netivot Montessori	East Brunswick	NJ
52.	Yeshivat Noam	Paramus	NJ
53.	Yeshivat Yavneh	Los Angeles	CA

Demographics of Test Takers Grade 8

Grade Level	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percentage
All Test Takers	1,945	1,935	1,780	(2021-2022)
Male / Female	877/1,068	887 / 1,048	863 / 917	48% / 52%
Chareidi / Yeshiva	275	324	217	12%
Day School / Modern Orthodox	1,530	1,447	1,406	79%
Community	49	65	70	4%
Other	91	99	87	5%

Note: For the most accurate comparison, all numbers and calculations in this review do not include students who took the exam in the 4th quarter of the school year.

Changes to the 2022-2023 Exam

The only significant change to the exam was an increase in the official time allowed per section. The time allowed was increased from 50 to 55 minutes for Parts A and B. In addition, the time for the optional Gemara section was increased from 20 minutes to 25 minutes.

Section II – Methodology:

The JSAT Level 8 exam contains nine sections plus an optional Gemara section, which is scored separately. The initial mandatory portion of the exam this year consisted of 147 questions, which were distributed as follows:

Initial	Number of Questions	Section Weight
Section 1 – Chumash Skills	35	23.8%
Section 2 – Chumash Vocabulary	10	6.8%
Section 3 – Chumash Knowledge (פָּרָשָׁה)	30	20.4%
Section 4 – Critical Thinking	3	2.0%
Section 5 – Dinim/Yediot Klaliot	20	13.6%
Section 6 – Navi Knowledge	15	10.2%
Section 7 – Hebrew Language Skills	25	17.0%
Section 8 – Torah Sheb'al Peh	3	2.0%
Section 9 – Tefillah	6	4.1%
Total:	**147**	**100%**

Upon completion of the exam, we sent the raw results to a psychometrician to evaluate each question for statistical validity, and upon review, several questions were discarded. The final distribution of questions scored in sections 1-9 was as follows:
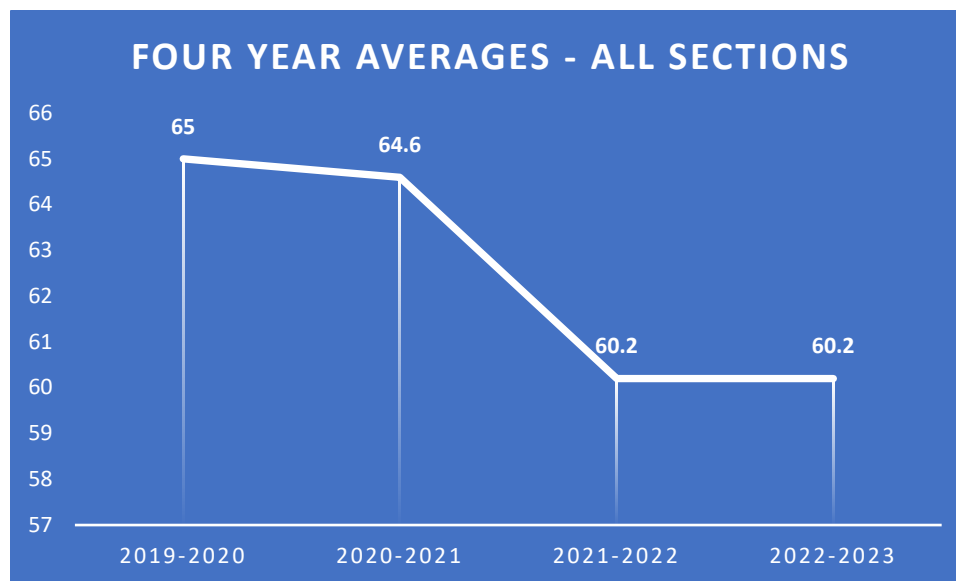
Final	Number of Questions	Section Weight
Section 1 – Chumash Skills	32	24.6%
Section 2 – Chumash Vocabulary	10	7.7%
Section 3 – Chumash Knowledge (פָּרָשָׁה)	24	18.5%
Section 4 – Critical Thinking	3	2.3%
Section 5 – Dinim/Yediot Klaliot	15	11.5%
Section 6 – Navi Knowledge	14	10.8%
Section 7 – Hebrew Language Skills	23	17.7%
Section 8 – Torah Sheb'al Peh	3	2.3%
Section 9 – Tefillah	6	4.6%
Total:	**130***	**100%**
Point value of each question:	**0.77**	

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* Note: One question in the Chumash Knowledge was removed after results were sent out.

Issue with misnumbering of some test booklets:

To improve test security, CoJDS produces three versions of part of the exam. There are three versions of Part A, three versions of Part B and three versions of Part C. All questions are the same in the various versions, they are just arranged in a different order as are the answer choices. This year we unfortunately had an issue with one version of Part B (B2) in that the questions were misnumbered. Specifically, the questions were numbered 76,77,78,79 and instead of continuing with 80, the numbering started again for the next question with 76 and continued. The error was brought to our attention a day before the exam, and we immediately notified all the schools of which booklets contained the errors and requested that they fix the numbering in the test booklets so that students do not get confused on the answering sheets. After the exam, we analyzed the results and noticed that students who had this version of the exam scored slightly lower on this part than the other students. The difference was .7 of a point or less than one question which according to our psychometrician was not statistically significant. Nonetheless, out of an abundance of caution, on the individual student reports we noted when a student had a misnumbered version of the exam. In addition, we also reported how the student scored on each part of the exam individually as if it had it been a standalone test. We also noted how much they were above or below average for each of the parts of the exam. We hope this provided context for reviewers for such students. The results which we report here include all versions of the test.

Year-Over-Year Comparison:

Scores are flat compared to last year

After a significant decline last year, this year's results were exactly flat. The average overall score was 60.2 just as last year. On a per section basis as well the average score per section was essentially unchanged with the exception of the Dinim/Yediot Klaliot section that declined eleven percentage points from an average of 69.7 to 58.4.

JSAT Level 8 2022-2023 Analysis of General Results

	2021-2022	2022-2023	Diff	4 YR AVG
JSAT L8 - All Sections	60.2%	60.2%	-	62.4%
JSAT L8 - Section 01: Chumash Skills	62.4%	63.1%	0.7	66.3%
JSAT L8 - Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	71.9%	76.8%	4.9	75.2%
JSAT L8 - Section 03: Chumash Knowledge	68.5%	66.0%	(3.5)	68.8%
JSAT L8 - Section 04: Critical Thinking	50.5%	50.1%	(0.4)	40.2%
JSAT L8 - Section 05: Dinim/Yediot Klaliot	69.7%	58.4%	(11.3)	68.4%
JSAT L8 - Section 06: Navi Knowledge	53.1%	55.2%	2.1	52.0%
JSAT L8 - Section 07: Hebrew Language	45.3%	49.0%	3.7	48.9%
JSAT L8 - Section 08: Torah Shebal Peh	59.3%	55.8%	(3.5)	59.3%
JSAT L8 - Section 09: Tefillah	57.5%	59.1%	1.6	64.9%

Males vs Females

Males vs Females	F	M	Diff	ALL
	917	863		1,780
JSAT L8 - Section 01: Chumash Skills	64.2%	61.9%	2.30	63.1%
JSAT L8 - Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	78.9%	74.5%	4.40	76.8%
JSAT L8 - Section 03: Chumash Knowledge	64.7%	67.4%	(2.70)	66.0%
JSAT L8 - Section 04: Critical Thinking	50.2%	50.0%	0.20	50.1%
JSAT L8 - Section 05: Dinim/Yediot Klaliot	57.4%	59.4%	(2.00)	58.4%
JSAT L8 - Section 06: Navi Knowledge	56.7%	53.5%	3.20	55.2%
JSAT L8 - Section 07: Hebrew Language	50.8%	47.2%	3.60	49.0%
JSAT L8 - Section 08: Torah Shebal Peh	48.4%	63.7%	(15.30)	55.8%
JSAT L8 - Section 09: Tefillah	57.4%	60.9%	(3.50)	59.1%
AVG (All Sections)	60.5%	59.8%	0.70	59.9%
4 Year Average	64.0%	60.7%	3.30	62.4%

Overall, females continued the trend of outperforming their male counterparts, however the margin was significantly less than in previous years. Until this past year, girls outperformed the boys by a margin of 4.1 points and they outperformed in nearly every subject. This year, the overall average score for girls was only slightly better than the average score for boys (.7 of one percentage point) and they outperformed in only five of the nine subjects. In particular, girls were weak in Torah Shebal Peh section.

Students with Learning Difficulties vs. Students Without Learning Difficulties

As in previous years, there was a wide achievement gap between students with learning difficulties (LD) and students without learning difficulties (non-LD).

Year 4 - Learning Difficulties?	No	Yes	
Number of Students	1,361	419	Diff
JSAT L8 - Section 01: Chumash Skills	66.0%	53.7%	(12.30)
JSAT L8 - Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	78.8%	70.1%	(8.70)
JSAT L8 - Section 03: Chumash Knowledge	67.1%	56.7%	(10.40)
JSAT L8 - Section 04: Critical Thinking	53.0%	40.8%	(12.20)
JSAT L8 - Section 05: Dinim/Yediot Klaliot	60.7%	50.6%	(10.10)
JSAT L8 - Section 06: Navi Knowledge	57.8%	46.5%	(11.30)
JSAT L8 - Section 07: Hebrew Language	51.7%	40.3%	(11.40)
JSAT L8 - Section 08: Torah Shebal Peh	57.8%	49.5%	(8.30)
JSAT L8 - Section 09: Tefillah	61.7%	50.6%	(11.10)
AVG (All Sections)	62.5%	51.5%	(11.00)
4 Year Average	65.1%	53.1%	(12.00)

Year 4 - Learning Difficulties?	F	M	
Number of Students	209	210	Diff
JSAT L8 - Section 01: Chumash Skills	54.1%	53.3%	(0.80)
JSAT L8 - Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	73.0%	67.1%	(5.90)
JSAT L8 - Section 03: Chumash Knowledge	56.9%	56.5%	(0.40)
JSAT L8 - Section 04: Critical Thinking	38.1%	43.5%	5.40
JSAT L8 - Section 05: Dinim/Yediot Klaliot	49.9%	51.4%	(1.50)
JSAT L8 - Section 06: Navi Knowledge	47.9%	45.2%	(2.70)
JSAT L8 - Section 07: Hebrew Language	40.7%	39.9%	0.80
JSAT L8 - Section 08: Torah Shebal Peh	45.9%	53.0%	7.10
JSAT L8 - Section 09: Tefillah	48.6%	52.5%	3.90
AVG (All Sections)	51.8%	51.3%	(0.50)
4 Year Average	53.5%	52.7%	(0.80)

As can be seen, on average, there was an eleven point gap between students described as having learning difficulties and those who did not. This is slightly lower than the four-year average of twelve points. In terms of females vs. males with LD, the gap was only one half of one point.
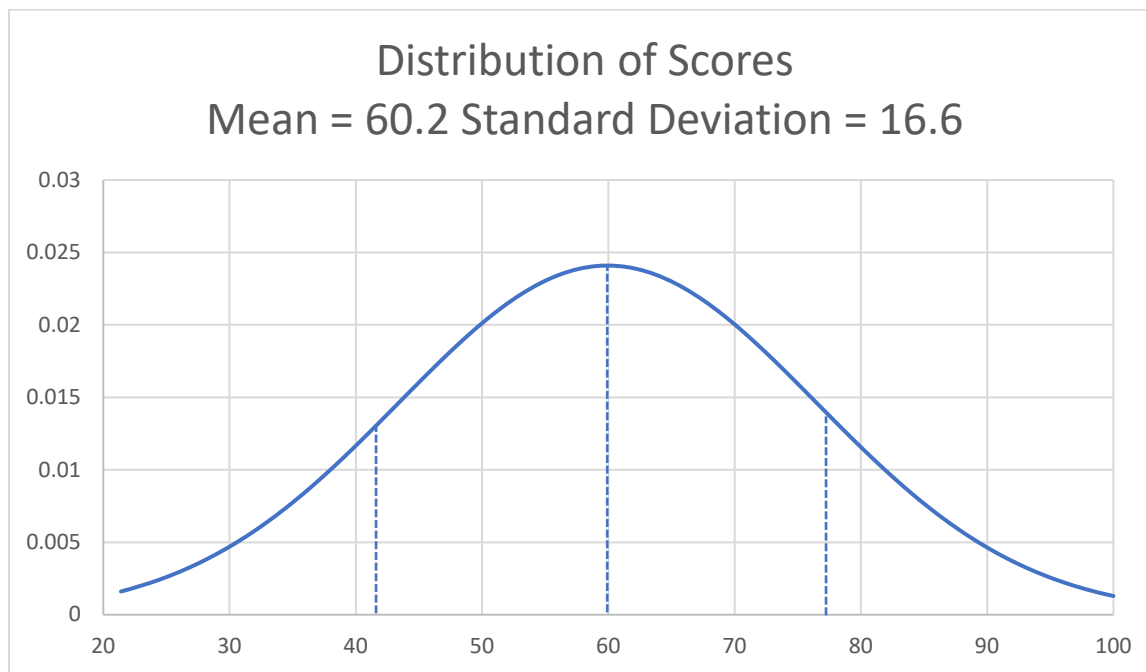
Ivrit B'ivrit Students

Last year we asked schools for the first time to identify students who take at least one Ivrit B'Ivrit class to see if there was any difference between the two. Indeed, on average there was a 3.7 point advantage to Ivrit B'ivrit students. That difference was lowered to 2.1 points if the Hebrew Language section was not counted in the results. This year, we were surprised to see there was virtually no difference between Ivrit B'ivrit students and non-Ivrit B'Ivrit students on the test as a whole and even in the Hebrew Language section where last year Ivrit B'ivrit students scored nearly eleven points higher! Ivrit B'ivrit students scored the same or lower in every category. This will be an interesting trend to watch in the future.

	ALL	Ivrit	Non-Ivrit	Diff
Number of Students	1780	782	998	44% / 56%
JSAT L8 - All Sections	60.2	60.0	60.3	-0.3
JSAT L8 - Section 01: Chumash Skills	63.1	63.0	63.2	-0.2
JSAT L8 - Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	76.8	77.2	76.4	0.8
JSAT L8 - Section 03: Chumash Knowledge	66.0	66.0	66.0	0.0
JSAT L8 - Section 04: Critical Thinking	50.1	50.0	50.2	-0.2
JSAT L8 - Section 05: Dinim/Yediot Klaliot	58.4	58.3	58.4	-0.1
JSAT L8 - Section 06: Navi Knowledge	55.2	54.4	55.7	-1.3
JSAT L8 - Section 07: Hebrew Language	49.0	49.0	49.1	-0.1
JSAT L8 - Section 08: Torah Shebal Peh	55.8	55.3	56.2	-0.9
JSAT L8 - Section 09: Tefillah	59.1	58.9	59.2	-0.3

Distribution of Scores

Below is a chart that shows the distribution of scores plotted on a Belle curve. Approximately 66% of all scores fell within one standard unit of deviation (the area between the dotted lines).

Distribution of Scores
Mean = 60.2 Standard Deviation = 16.6
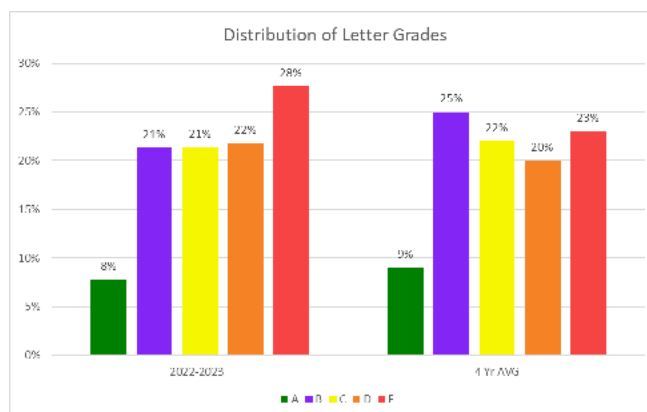
Distribution of Letter Grades

(Note: This year we made a change to the way letter grades are noted on the student reports. All discussions of letter grades in this analysis follow the grade and class level grading scheme which is unchanged from previous years.)

Letter Grades follow the following schema:

A = 85-100, **B** = 70-84, **C** = 60-69, **D** = 50-59, **F** = 0-49

As can be seen in the chart above, this year there was a significant increase in students scoring an F and a decrease in students achieving a B versus the four-year average. The chart below shows how many students achieved a given score and letter grade.

Grade	Score	Count	Grade	Score	Count	Grade	Score	Count
A (139)	100.0	1	C (381)	73.3	24	F (492)	46.6	14
	99.2	1		72.5	26		45.8	32
	98.5	1		71.8	26		45.0	30
	97.7	4		71.0	18		44.3	19
	96.9	5		70.2	25		43.5	28
	96.2	2		69.5	24		42.7	17
	95.4	4		68.7	28		42.0	11
	94.7	6		67.9	31		41.2	29
	93.9	6		67.2	21		40.5	16
	93.1	7		66.4	36		39.7	20
	92.4	10		65.6	32		38.9	7
	91.6	6		64.9	32		38.2	19
	90.8	10		64.1	22		37.4	16
	90.1	8		63.4	24		36.6	10
	89.3	4		62.6	25		35.9	11
	88.5	10		61.8	31		35.1	15
	87.8	16		61.1	35		34.4	18
	87.0	9		60.3	31		33.6	10
	86.3	5	D (388)	59.5	36		32.8	14
	85.5	18		58.8	40		32.1	11
B (380)	84.7	16		58.0	28		31.3	13
	84.0	18		57.3	41		30.5	6
	83.2	19		56.5	21		29.8	9
	82.4	9		55.7	27		29.0	15
	81.7	12		55.0	28		28.2	4
	80.9	9		54.2	34		27.5	6
	80.2	9		53.4	31		26.7	6
	79.4	11		52.7	25		26.0	3
	78.6	26		51.9	17		25.2	2
	77.9	22		51.1	27		24.4	3
	77.1	26		50.4	30		23.7	4
	76.3	13		49.6	38		22.1	2
	75.6	16		48.9	17		21.4	2
	74.8	24		48.1	16			
	74.0	23		47.3	25			

Distribution of Letter Grades by Section:

	# of Q:	A	B	C	D	F
Section 01: Chumash Skills	32	220	464	326	357	413
		12%	26%	18%	20%	23%
Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	10	735	639	149	100	157
		41%	36%	8%	6%	9%
Section 03: Chumash Knowledge	24	297	546	275	319	343
		17%	31%	15%	18%	19%
Section 04: Critical Thinking	3	507	N / A	308	N / A	965
		28%	-	17%	-	54%
Section 05: Dinim / Yediot Klaliot	15	214	317	416	209	624
		12%	18%	23%	12%	35%
Section 06: Navi Knowledge	14	258	283	159	403	677
		14%	16%	9%	23%	38%
Section 07: Hebrew Language	23	167	196	224	199	994
		9%	11%	13%	11%	56%
Section 08: Torah Sheba'al Peh	3	394	N / A	600	N / A	786
		22%	-	34%	-	44%
Section 09: Tefillah	6	192	339	404	388	457
		11%	19%	23%	22%	26%

Analysis of Results by Section

Section 01: Chumash Skills

Grade 8 (All Populations):		This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 01: Chumash Skills AVG		63.1%	66.3%	-3.2

This Year		ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 01: Chumash Skills (All)	32	63.1%	61.9 %	64.2%

This Year	# of Q:	A	B	C	D	F
Section 01: Chumash Skills	32	220	464	326	357	413
		12%	26%	18%	20%	23%

Chumash Skills Results by Section:

Year 2 vs. Year 3		ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
Grade 8 (All Populations):	# of Q:			
	32	This Year	ALL Years	
Group 01: Decoding Standards	22	62.6%	67.3%	-4.7
Group 02: Understanding the Text	4	54.0%	55.8%	-1.8
Group 03: Rashi Standards	4	76.7%	72.3%	+4.4
Group 04: Additional Standards	2	59.4%	70.6%	+11.2

As we can see in the tables above, Chumash Skills was down 3.2 point from the four-year average to 63.1%. Within this group, females outperformed males by 2.3 points. Within those sections, decoding skills were down by 4.7 points and understanding the text skills were down by 1.8 points. However, Rashi standards were up by 4.4 points and additional standards was up by 11.2 points.

Chumash Skills Results by Standards

Group 01: Decoding Standards.

Decoding Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
Standard 01: Student can identify the three-letter שֹׁרֶשׁ of a word.	1	92.5%	90.3%	+2.20
Standard 02: Student can identify the three-letter שֹׁרֶשׁ of a word even when one letter of the שֹׁרֶשׁ is absent.	1	62.7%	65.1%	-2.40
Standard 03: Student can identify a noun as singular or plural.	2	75.9%	86.9%	-11.00
Standard 04: Student can identify a singular noun as masculine or feminine.	2	56.6%	69.9%	-13.30
Standard 05: Student can identify a plural noun as masculine or feminine.	1	57.8%	72.3%	-14.50
Standard 06: Student understands that the number and gender of a noun determines the number and gender of its adjective. (/ אִישׁ גָּדוֹל אִשָּׁה גְדוֹלָה).	1	66.7%	79.1%	-12.40
Standard 07: Student can translate the prefixes of מֹשֶׁה וְכָלֵב when they appear with nouns e.g. לְמִצְרַים, מִמִּצְרַים.	1	73.1%	78.7%	-5.60
Standard 08: Student can translate a combined or contracted prefix e.g. (בַּ = בְּ+הַ) בַּבַּיִת or וְהָאִישׁ).	0	-	62.5%	
Standard 09: Student can translate two words that appear בִּסְמִיכוּת, e.g. בֵּית פַּרְעֹה = הַבַּיִת שֶׁל פַּרְעֹה.	2	68.2%	68.8%	-0.60
Standard 10: Student can translate the suffixes of singular nouns that show possession, e.g. יָדִי, יָדְךָ, יָדֵךְ.	1	38.6%	64.2%	-25.60
Standard 11: Student can translate the suffixes of plural nouns that show possession e.g. יָדֶיךָ.	1	78.8%	72.6%	+6.20
Standard 12: Student can translate a word that has a ו' הַהִפּוּךְ.	2	76.1%	76.1%	-
Standard 13: Student can identify the ה"א הַמְּגַמָּה e.g. מִצְרַיְמָה = to Egypt.	1	54.9%	43.1%	+11.80
Standard 14: Student can translate Hebrew numbers from 1-999,999 e.g. 127 = מֵאָה עֶשְׂרִים וְשֶׁבַע.	2	48.2%	39.2%	+9.00
Standard 15: Student can translate a קַל/פָּעַל verb in the past tense e.g. שָׁמַר, שָׁמְרָה, שָׁמַרְתִּי.	1	55.3%	63.9%	-8.60
Standard 16: Student can translate a קַל/פָּעַל verb in the present tense e.g. שׁוֹמֵר.	1	54.4%	47.8%	+6.60
Standard 17: Student can translate a קַל/פָּעַל verb in the future tense e.g. אֶשְׁמַע, נִשְׁמַע.	1	48.3%	48.7%	-0.40
Standard 18: Student can recognize a command in פָּעַל e.g. שְׁמֹר.	1	44.8%	56.6%	-11.80

Decoding Skills

Standard	#Q	AVG	Comments
Standard 01: Student can identify the three-letter שֹׁרֶשׁ of a word.	1	92.5%	Word was וקדשתם.
Standard 02: Student can identify the three-letter שֹׁרֶשׁ of a word even when one letter of the שֹׁרֶשׁ is absent.	1	62.7%	Word was ויפל.
Standard 03: Student can identify a noun as singular or plural.	2	75.9%	Struggled with רגליך.
Standard 04: Student can identify a singular noun as masculine or feminine.	2	56.6%	Struggled with שדה and paired body parts.
Standard 05: Student can identify a plural noun as masculine or feminine.	1	57.8%	Struggled with שנים.
Standard 06: Student understands that the number and gender of a noun determines the number and gender of its adjective. (/ אִישׁ גָּדוֹל אִשָּׁה גְדוֹלָה).	1	66.7%	Recognized מנחה חדשה.
Standard 07: Student can translate the prefixes of מֹשֶׁה וְכָלֵב when they appear with nouns e.g. לְמִצְרַים, מִמִּצְרַים.	1	73.1%	Word was כְּדָבְרֶךָ.

Standard 09: Student can translate two words that appear בִּסְמִיכוּת, e.g. בֵּית פַּרְעֹה = הַבַּיִת שֶׁל פַּרְעֹה.	2	68.2%	The two phrases were אשת יעקב and גמלי ההרים.
Standard 10: Student can translate the suffixes of singular nouns that show possession, e.g. יָדִי, יָדְךָ, יָדֵךְ.	1	38.6%	Word was פָּנֶיךָ student answered like פָּנֶיךָ.
Standard 11: Student can translate the suffixes of plural nouns that show possession e.g. יָדַיִךְ.	1	78.8%	Word was חומותיהם.
Standard 12: Student can translate a word that has a ו' הַהִפּוּךְ.	2	76.1%	Words were וַיָּקָם משה (88%) and וַתִּקְרָא את הילד (64%)
Standard 13: Student can identify the ה"א הַמְּגַמָּה e.g. מִצְרַיְמָה = to Egypt.	1	54.9%	וַיָּבֹאָה יִצְחָק "הָאֹהֱלָה"
Standard 14: Student can translate Hebrew numbers from 1-999,999 e.g. 127 = מֵאָה עֶשְׂרִים וְשֶׁבַע.	2	48.2%	Re: חֲמִשָּׁה וְאַרְבָּעִים אֶלֶף וְשֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת (31% - most answered 54,600)
Standard 15: Student can translate a קַל/פָּעַל **verb in the past tense e.g.** שָׁמַר, שָׁמְרָה, שָׁמַרְתִּי.	1	55.3%	Word was יָמוּתוּ.
Standard 16: Student can translate a קַל/פָּעַל **verb in the present tense e.g.** שׁוֹמֵר.	1	54.4%	Phrase was "אָנֹכִי יוֹשֵׁב" 32% said "I have sat".
Standard 17: Student can translate a קַל/פָּעַל **verb in the future tense e.g.** אֶשְׁמַע, נִשְׁמַע.	1	48.3%	Word was נָמוּת – 35% said "She will die".
Standard 18: Student can recognize a command in פָּעַל e.g. שְׁמֹר.	1	44.8%	Word was "קְחוּ".

Group 02: Understanding the Text Standards

Understanding the Text Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
Standard 19: Student can identify the subjects and objects in a פָּסוּק.	1	31.1%	49.1%	-18.0%
Standard 20: Student can identify the correct translation of a פָּסוּק **using context clues.**	1	68.0%	56.0%	+12.0%
Standard 21: Student can answer questions on the text using לְשׁוֹן הַפָּסוּק.	1	61.1%	70.2%	-9.1%
Standard 22: Student can comprehend a פָּסוּק **not previously learned.**	1	56.0%	45.1%	+10.9%

Standard	#Q	AVG	Comments
Standard 19: Student can identify the subjects and objects in a פָּסוּק.	1	31.1%	The phrase was: וַיִּקְחוּ בְנֵי אַהֲרֹן נָדָב וַאֲבִיהוּא אִישׁ מַחְתָּתוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ "בָהֵן" אֵשׁ
Standard 20: Student can identify the correct translation of a פָּסוּק **using context clues.**	1	68.0%	מִזְבַּח אֲדָמָה תַּעֲשֶׂה-לִי "וְזָבַחְתָּ עָלָיו"
Standard 21: Student can answer questions on the text using לְשׁוֹן הַפָּסוּק.	1	61.1%	Q: Where does the כהן place the "זרוע בשלה"? וְלָקַח הַכֹּהֵן אֶת הַזְּרֹעַ בְּשֵׁלָה מִן הָאַיִל וְחַלַּת מַצָּה אַחַת מִן הַסַּל וּרְקִיק מַצָּה אֶחָד וְנָתַן עַל כַּפֵּי הַנָּזִיר
Standard 22: Student can comprehend a פָּסוּק **not previously learned.**	1	56.0%	וְרַבִּים מֵהַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִם וְרָאשֵׁי הָאָבוֹת הַזְּקֵנִים אֲשֶׁר רָאוּ אֶת-הַבַּיִת הָרִאשׁוֹן בְּיָסְדוֹ זֶה הַבַּיִת בְּעֵינֵיהֶם בֹּכִים בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל

Group 03: Rashi Standards

Rashi Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
JSAT L8 - Standard 24: Student can identify letters and words in רַשִׁ"י script (with and without נְקֵדּוֹת).	2	85.4%	83.6%	+1.80%
JSAT L8 - Standard 25: Student knows what a דִבּוּר הַמַתְחִיל in רַשִׁ"י is and can identify it.	1	73.8%	78.3%	-4.5%
JSAT L8 - Standard 26: Student can identify שְׁאֵלַת רַשִׁ"י.	1	62.4%	56.5%	+5.9%

Standard	#Q	AVG	Comments
JSAT L8 - Standard 24: Student can identify letters and words in רַשִׁ"י script (with and without נְקֵדּוֹת).	2	85.4%	-
JSAT L8 - Standard 25: Student knows what a דִבּוּר הַמַתְחִיל in רַשִׁ"י is and can identify it.	1	73.8%	-
JSAT L8 - Standard 26: Student can identify שְׁאֵלַת רַשִׁ"י.	1	62.4%	-

Group 04: Additional Standards

Additional Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
JSAT L8 - Student can identify עֲלִיּוֹת in חֻמָשׁ (e.g. שֵׁנִי, שְׁלִישִׁי etc.) and understands what they are used for.	1	64.2%	65.6%	-1.4

Standard	#Q	AVG	Comments
JSAT L8 - Student can identify עֲלִיּוֹת in חֻמָשׁ (e.g. שֵׁנִי, שְׁלִישִׁי etc.) and understands what they are used for.	1	64.2%	-

Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary

Grade 8 (All Populations):		This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 02: Chumash Vocab AVG		76.8%	75.2%	+1.6

This Year	ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	10	76.8%	74.5 %	78.9%

This Year	# of Q:	A	B	C	D	F
Section 02: Chumash Vocabulary	10	735	639	149	100	157
		41%	36%	8%	6%	9%

The following are the ten vocabulary words assessed on the exam.

	ALL	Comments
חֶסֶד	94.9	
עַד	89.5	
הֵן	86.7	
רָאָה	84.3	
זָכַר	80.6	
מָלֵא	74.3	
כָּרַת	69.2	
גֵּר	66.7	29% of students thought it meant "live"
אוֹתוֹ	63.9	14% of students chose "with", 13% chose "each"
שָׁכַב	57.5	25% chose "held back"
AVG	76.8%	

Section 03: Chumash Knowledge

Grade 8 (All Populations):	This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 03: Chumash Knowledge AVG	66.0%	68.4%	-2.4

This Year	ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 03: Chumash Knowledge (All)	24	66.0%	67.4 %	64.7%

This Year	# of Q:	A	B	C	D	F
Section 03: Chumash Knowledge	24	297	546	275	319	343
		17%	31%	15%	18%	19%

Breakdown by Sefer

Chumash Knowledge Standards	# of Q	This Year	All	Diff
Standard 32: Chumash Knowledge בְּרֵאשִׁית	9	72.7%	71.9%	+.8
Standard 33: Chumash Knowledge שְׁמוֹת	8	73.4%	68.0%	+3.4
Standard 34: Chumash Knowledge וַיִּקְרָא	4	61.4%	67.9%	-6.5
Standard 35: Chumash Knowledge בַּמִּדְבָּר	3	40.0%	52.8%	-12.8
Standard 36: Chumash Knowledge דְּבָרִים	1	50.3%	68.7%	-18.4

JSAT Level 8 2022-2023 Analysis of General Results

Notes on Chumash Knowledge Section

ספר בראשית

Over 80% of students could identify הבל as the brother of קין, לוט chose to settle in סדום, the servant of אברהם was chosen to find a wife for יצחק, and אברהם served a meal to a group of three people or angels. About 70% were able to identify the sons of יעקב as the ones who found money in their sack(s), and it was עשו who had a group of 400 men. 65% of students were able to identify לבן as the brother of רבקה, 61% that לבן gave יעקב spotted animals as payment. Only 50% of students were able to identify אדם as the one who named the animals (e.g. a horse = סוס).

ספר שמות

90% of students were able to identify the מנורה as the vessel which required olive oil in its daily use. 86% of students were able to identify משה as a person who could not speak well. 78% of students were able to identify עמלק as the first nation to attack בנ"י after they left Egypt. 75% of students were able to correctly identify the ג' רגלים. 64% of students were able explain that the commandment of פדיון הבן was to commemorate מכת בכורות. 63% of students were able to name ערוב as the plague where the Egyptians were attacked by wild animals and 57% were able to identify גרשם as the son of משה.

ספר ויקרא

92% of students were able to identify שמיטה as being a מצוה done once every seven years. 62% of students knew that it is forbidden to pay back a loan with interest even if the borrower or lender was poor. 47% knew that השם spoke to משה primarily from the אהל מועד. 44% of students were able to identify the מצוה of פאה.

ספר במדבר

Only 34% of students knew that פינחס became a כהן after he killed a woman from Midyan. The same percentage of students were able to answer that ארץ ישראל was divided by a lottery. 52% of students knew that a person needs to give a portion of their dough to a כהן.

ספר דברים

Only 50% of students were able to identify the מצוה of הקהל as one which took place once in seven years and which parts of the תורה were read in public.

Section 04: Critical Thinking

Grade 8 (All Populations):		This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 04: Critical Thinking AVG		50.1%	40.2%	+9.9

This Year		ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female

15

Section 04: Critical Thinking (All)	3	50.1%	50.0 %	50.2%

This Year	# of Q:	A	B	C	D	F
Section 04: Critical Thinking	3	507	-	308	-	965
		28%		17%		54%

For the fourth year in a row, the average score on Critical Thinking has improved. This year's topic revolved around how much בית דין would make one pay for damages in a case where witnesses were present. Students needed to apply the rules of two witnesses versus one witness, etc.

Section 05: Dinim / Yediot Klaliot

Grade 8 (All Populations):	This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 05: Dinim / Yediot Klaliot AVG	58.4%	68.4%	-10.0

This Year		ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 05: Dinim / Yediot Klaliot (All)	15	58.4%	59.4 %	57.4%

This Year	# of Q:	A	B	C	D	F
Section 05: Dinim / Yediot Klaliot	15	214	317	416	209	624
		12%	18%	23%	12%	35%

Notes on Dinim/Yediot Klaliot

Overall, Dinim/Yediot Klaliot scores were down significantly from last year as well as the four-year average.

85% of students knew that if an item is "מוקצה" it cannot be moved on שבת. 84% of students knew one may light a flame from an existing flame on יום טוב but not on שבת. 80% of students knew that the earliest time that a boy can have a ברית מילה is on the eighth day after his birth. 70% of students knew that the שבת where we read about the half-shekel donation required for the building of the משכן is called "פרשת שקלים". 69% of students could identify טבת as the month after כסלו and that שבועות is the holiday where many people have a custom to stay up all night and learn תורה. 59% of students knew that the father gives a כהן five silver שקל when performing the מצוה of פדיון הבן. 57% of students knew the זרוע is placed on the סדר plate as a reminder of the קרבן פסח. 54% knew that one is not allowed to eat after אפיקומן. 53% knew that סכך can only be made from a material that grows from the ground. 46% could correctly identify a "תרועה" as nine quick sounds. 41% of students knew that we fast on עשרה בטבת because that is when the city of Jerusalem was surrounded by its enemies. 39% knew that the proper blessing to make

when seeing lightning is "עושה מעשה בראשית". 37% of students knew that "מעשר ראשון" is produce that a ישראל gives to a לוי. 33% of students knew that מתתיהו was the son of יוחנן כהן גדול (40% thought he was the son of יהודה המכבי).

Section 06: Navi Knowledge

Grade 8 (All Populations):	This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 06: Navi Knowledge AVG	55.2%	62.4%	-7.2

This Year		ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 06: Navi Knowledge (All)	14	55.2%	53.5 %	56.7%

This Year	# of Q:	A	B	C	D	F
Section 06: Navi Knowledge	14	258	283	159	403	677
		14%	16%	9%	23%	38%

Navi Knowledge Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
Standard 39: Navi יהושע	2	39.5%	48.4%	-8.9
Standard 40: Navi שופטים	-	-	57.0%	-
Standard 41: Navi שמואל א'	5	61.8%	54.3%	+7.5
Standard 42: Navi שמואל ב'	4	50.8%	48.3%	+2.5
Standard 43: Navi מגילת אסתר	1	78.7%	64.1%	+14.6
Standard 44: Navi מגילת רות	1	47.0%	58.5%	-11.5
Standard 45: Navi ספר יונה	1	55.3%	41.4%	+13.9

In ספר יהושע, 42% of students were able to identify the ים הגדול as the western border of ארץ ישראל and 37% were able to identify the גבעונים as a group that used trickery to make a treaty with בנ"י.

In ספר שמואל א', 81% of students were able to identify שמואל as the person בנ"י asked to appoint a king over them. 64% of students were able to identify חנה as a person accused of being drunk. 61% of students were able to identify שאול as the person who was nearly killed and instead his attacker decided to cut off his garment. 58% of students were able to identify עלי as the person who died when he heard the ארון was captured. 44% of students were able to identify שאול as the person who sought to know the future from a sorceress (בעלת אוב).

In ספר שמואל ב', 61% of students were able to identify אבנר בן נר as being a person killed by יואב. 51% of students were able to identify אוריה as the person who came home from battle but refused to go to his wife. 48% of students were able to identify אבשלום as the

one whose hair got caught in a tree. 43% of students were able to idenitfy נתן as the נביא who rebuked דוד for killing a man and taking his wife.

In מגילת אסתר, 79% of students were able to identify המן as a person who had ten children who were all hanged. In מגילת רות, 47% of students were able to identify רות as the person who said to נעמי, "Wherever you go, I will go". In ספר יונה, 55% of students were able to identify נינוה as the city were יונה was told to go to and rebuke the people there.

Section 07: Hebrew Language

Grade 8 (All Populations):	This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 07: Hebrew Language AVG	49.0%	48.9%	+0.1

This Year		ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 07: Hebrew Language (All)	23	49.0%	47.2 %	50.8%

This Year		A	B	C	D	F
Section 07: Hebrew Language		167	196	224	199	994
		9%	11%	13%	11%	56%

Hebrew Language	# of Q:	This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Reading Comprehension	11	50.1%	48.1%	+1.0
Hebrew Grammar Skills	12	48.1%	49.8%	-1.7

The overall Hebrew Language score was essentially the same as the four year average score of 49. Reading comprehension improved slightly and Hebrew Grammar skills declined slightly. The following is the breakdown by standards.

Hebrew Language Reading Comprehension Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
Standard 46: Student can identify the main idea or select an appropriate title for the passage.	1	61.9%	43.4%	+18.5
Standard 47: Student can identify factually correct statements about events or characters in the passage.	1	39.5%	38.0%	+1.5
Standard 48: Student can identify explicit details from the passage.	3	52.6%	47.3%	+5.3
Standard 51: Student can identify the objects of pronouns (עַל מִי מְדֻבָּר).	1	39.8%	42.3%	-2.5
Standard 52: Student can use contextual clues to translate words from the passage.	1	51.5%	55.9%	-4.4
Standard 53: Student can identify implied details from the passage.	1	60.1%	47.1%	-13.0
Standard 55: Student can identify the type of text of the passage	1	47.6%	47.6%	-
Standard 56: Student can identify the most accurate Hebrew translation of sentences in the passage.	1	58.3%	55.3%	+3.0

Standard 57: Student can draw conclusions based on details from the passage.	1	34.7%	34.7%	-

Hebrew Language Grammar Skills Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
Standard 59: Student can identify the root letters of Hebrew words.	1	44.6%	68.0%	-23.4
Standard 60: Student recognizes the correct gender for words.	2	58.7%	50.0%	+8.7
Standard 61: Student can identify the correct tense or aspect of a verb.	2	49.7%	49.0%	+0.7
Standard 62: Student can recognize correct gender agreement usage for words.	1	24.4%	37.9%	-13.5
Standard 64: Student can conjugate/break down conjugated nouns or verbs.	2	39.1%	48.6%	-9.5
Standard 65: Student can select an appropriate connecting word for use in a sentence (מִלּוֹת קִשּׁוּר).	1	49.7%	41.6%	+8.1
Standard 66: Student can identify the correct spelling of homophones.	1	63.2%	57.5%	+5.7
Standard 67: Student can alphabetically sequence Hebrew letters and words.	2	50.0%	56.7%	-6.7

We won't comment much on the indvidual questions, but will reproduce the five questions from the Hebrew Grammar section which students found most difficult to answer.

אֵיךְ אוֹמְרִים בִּשְׁתֵּי מִלִים "מַחְבְּרוֹתֶיהָ"?

(a) הַחֲבֵרוֹת שֶׁלָּהּ

(b) הַמַּחְבֶּרֶת שֶׁלָּהּ

(c) הַמַּחְבָּרוֹת שֶׁלָּהֶן

(d) הַמַּחְבָּרוֹת שֶׁלָּהּ

For this question, only 48% of students were correctly able to answer D.

בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַבָּא הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל _____ רֹאשׁ מֶמְשָׁלָה חָדָשׁ.

(a) בּוֹחֶרֶת

(b) בָּחַרְנוּ

(c) יִבְחֲרוּ

(d) בָּחֲרוּ

For this question, only 46% of students were correctly able to select C.

אֵיזוֹ מִלָּה **לֹא** שַׁיֶּכֶת לַשֹּׁרֶשׁ ה.כ.נ?

(a) לְהָכִין

(b) מְכִינִים

(c) לְכוֹנֵן

(d) הֲכָנָה

For this question, 45% of students correctly answered C.

אֵיךְ אוֹמְרִים בְּאַרְבַּע מִלִּים "סִפְרֵי לִמּוּדוֹ"?

(a) הַסְּפָרִים שֶׁל הַלִּמּוּדִים שֶׁלּוֹ

(b) הַסֵּפֶר שֶׁל הַלִּמּוּדִים שֶׁלּוֹ

(c) הַסֵּפֶר שֶׁל הַלִּמּוּד שֶׁלּוֹ

(d) הַסְּפָרִים שֶׁל הַלִּמּוּד שֶׁלּוֹ

For this question, 30% of students answered C.

76. בְּתוֹךְ הַבַּיִת ה_____, יֵשׁ דֶּלֶת _____ וְחַלּוֹנוֹת _____ .

(a) לְבָנָה, אָדֹם, כְּחֻלִּים

(b) לָבָן, אֲדֻמָּה, כְּחֻלִּים

(c) לָבָן, אֲדֻמָּה, כְּחֻלּוֹת

(d) לְבָנָה, אֲדֻמָּה, כְּחֻלּוֹת

For this question, 24% of students correctly answered B.

Grade 8 (All Populations):		This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 08: Torah Sheb'al Peh		55.8%	59.3%	-3.5

This Year	ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 08: Torah Sheb'al Peh	3	55.8%	63.7%	48.4%

This Year		A	B	C	D	F
Section 08: Torah Sheb'al Peh		394	-	600	-	786
		22%		34%		44%

For this section, 82% of students knew that Talmud Bavli was written in Aramaic. 44% of students knew that Rabbis mentioned in the גמרא are known as אמוראים. 41% of students were able to identify the שלחן ערוך as a ספר which is primarily involved with showing the practical הלכה as derived from the תלמוד.

Grade 8 (All Populations):		This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 09: Tefillah		59.1%	64.9%	-5.8

This Year	ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
	# of Q:	AVG	Male	Female
Section 09: Tefillah	6	59.1%	60.9%	57.4%

This Year		A	B	C	D	F
Section 09: Tefillah		192	339	404	388	457
		11%	19%	23%	22%	26%

Tefillah Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
JSAT L8 - Standard 82: Students knows on which occasion a given prayer is recited.	1	85.0%	77.2%	+7.8
JSAT L8 - Standard 83: Student can identify which תְּפִלָּה a given text is from.	2	57.8%	61.6%	-3.8
JSAT L8 - Standard 84: Student can identify the main idea or theme of a given prayer.	2	51.1%	65.2%	-14.1
JSAT L8 - Standard 85: Laws of תְּפִלָּה.	1	51.9%	51.9%	-

For standard 82, 85% of students could identify מנחה as a prayer said in the afternoon. For standard 83, 72% of students could identify the words את צמח דוד עבדך מהרה תצמיח as being found in תפילת העמידה / שמונה עשרה and 42% of students could identify the words עלינו as being found in ויקבלו כולם את עול מלכותך ותמלוך עליהם מהרה לעולם ועד. For standard 84, 60% of students could knew that when saying the words ובטובו הגדול תמיד לא חסר לנו we are praising השם because we have never been lacking food. 42% knew that when saying the words ובנה ירושלים עיר הקדש במהרה are a prayer to be brought up to ירושלים. For standard 85, 52% of students knew we begin to say משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם on שמיני עצרת.

Section 10: Gemara (Optional)

This Year	No Reported Learning Diff			Students With Learning Diff		
Grade 8 (All Populations):	Number of Students:			Number of Students:		
	340	251	89	106	73	34
	AVG Score	Male	Female	AVG Score	Male	Female
Section 10: Gemara (Optional)	59.1%	61.0%	53.7%	45.9%	45.2%	37.5%

This Year	ALL Students (With and W/O LD)		
Grade 8 (All Populations):	Number of Students:		
	446	324	122
# of Q:	AVG Score	Male	Female
Section 10: Gemara (Optional) 18	56.0%	57.5%	52.0%

Grade 8 (All Populations):	This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Section 10: Gemara (Optional)	56.0%	55.3%	+0.7

This Year	A	B	C	D	F
Section 10: Gemara (Optional)	50	69	88	82	157
	11%	15%	20%	18%	35%

Section 10: Gemara (Optional)	# of Q:	This Year	ALL Years	Diff
Specific Text Chosen for Study	8	52.0%	50.9%	+1.1
Mishnah	1	70.9%	73.4%	-2.5
Structure of the Gemara	1	71.1%	58.5%	+12.6
Gemara Concepts	8	56.3%	56.3%	-

Specific Text Chosen for Study Standards	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
JSAT L8 - Standard 86: Student can identify a selected text as being a statement, question, answer, proof, or rejection of a proof.	1	62.6%	56.5%	+6.1
JSAT L8 - Standard 87: Student can demonstrate understanding of a selected statement, question, answer, or proof.	1	42.2%	45.3%	-3.1
JSAT L8 - Standard 88: Student can translate all parts of the text (including רָאשֵׁי תֵּבוֹת).	2	54.1%	61.2%	-7.1
JSAT L8 - Standard 90: Student can identify the רֵישָׁא/סֵיפָא of a בָּרַיְיתָא or מִשְׁנָה.	1	43.7%	44.1%	-0.4
JSAT L8 - Standard 91: Student can identify who is speaking in a given text and, if relevant, to whom they are speaking.	1	70.4%	65.5%	-4.9
JSAT L8 - Standard 92: Student can identify a selected text as being part of a מִשְׁנָה, בָּרַיְיתָא, or a discussion of אֲמוֹרָאִים.	1	48.0%	41.8%	+6.2
JSAT L8 - Standard 94: Student understands the conclusion of the גְּמָרָא and any relevant logical or halachic outcomes of the סוּגְיָא.	1	40.6%	45.4%	-4.8

Overall, גמרא scores were fractionally higher than the four-year average at 56%. Some points about the standards: For standard 86 the question was, are the words "המניח את הכד ברה"ר ובא אחר ונתקל בה ושבר פטור" a question, statement, answer or proof. 63% of students answered this question correctly. For standard 88, 67% of students could translate רה"ר as a public place and 42% of students were able to דכיון דליכא פסידא as "for since there is no loss".

Mishnah and Structure of the Gemara Standards

For the משנה section, 71% of students knew that the last part of a משנה or ברייתא is known as the סיפא. For the structure of the גמרא section, 71% of students knew that a ברייתא is a teaching of תנאים not mentioned in the משנה.

Gemara Concepts

Gemara Concepts	# of Q:	This Year	All	Diff
JSAT L8 - Standard 103: Student can translate, explain or apply key terms of the Gemara.	1	86.3%	80.8%	+5.5
JSAT L8 - Standard 104: Student can decipher and translate the following רָאשֵׁי תֵּבוֹת.	1	59.9%	33.1%	+26.8
JSAT L8 - Standard 105: Student understands the meaning of these words commonly used in the discussion of גְּמָרָא.	2	44.7%	51.9%	-7.2
JSAT L8 - Standard 106: Student can translate the following words and identify them as a statement, question, answer, or proof.	1	50.9%	43.1%	+7.8
JSAT L8 - Standard 107: Student can translate common vocabulary words.	3	54.5%	59.2%	-4.7