

# I Gave the Test – Now What?

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Do you know what to do with the CASAS test results? The CASAS assessment system is designed to provide the instructor with information that can guide their instructional choices.

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## What information can the CASAS test results provide?

1. The scaled score is related to an **NRS Educational Functioning Level**.
2. The **Skill Level Descriptors** indicate general skills and abilities.
3. Each item on the CASAS assessments is linked to one or more specific **Competency**.
4. Each item is also linked to a **Task Area**.

The final diagnosis of instructional needs begins after the test has been administered and scored. In order to determine the needs of the learners in your class, you can follow these steps:

1. Chart the test results on a copy of the **Class Profile By Competency** form found in your Test Administration Manual.
2. Evaluate the chart to determine which CASAS competencies need to be addressed.
3. If you have given more than one test form/level in your class, compare the results across tests to see if there are similar competencies that need to be addressed.
4. Choose the competency(ies) that you are going to teach.
5. Don't forget to review the Content Standards as you choose the competencies that you will address in your classroom.

### Practice

- Evaluate the "Class Profile By Competency" to determine the following information

CASAS/NRS Level \_\_\_\_\_

**CASAS Competency (ies) that need to be addressed:**


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## How do I find appropriate instructional materials to teach the competencies?


1. The “**Scope and Sequence**” section in your textbook can help you identify which CASAS competencies are being addressed in each lesson. Competencies are taught in conjunction with grammar, vocabulary, listening, and critical thinking activities.
2. CASAS offers **QuickSearch Online** as a helpful instructional resource that assists teachers in selecting appropriate instructional materials to meet the needs of their students. QuickSearch Online, a user-friendly database includes more than 2,300 print, audio, visual and computer-based instructional materials that are commercially available.

 CASAS website: To access **QuickSearch**, go to [www.casas.org](http://www.casas.org) and follow the path [About CASAS >> QuickSearch Online ]. Scroll down to the middle of the page where it says “Log on and access QuickSearch Online now!” You will need to register, but only need to fill in the items with an (\*). Once you have registered, you will need to go back and click on “Log on. . .” again.

With your class or student test results, you can search for materials to address specific competencies and match curriculum by:

- Title of instructional materials
  - Competency number
  - Program, Level, and Skill (reading, writing, listening or speaking)
  - Publisher
  - CASAS Test (both level and series)
3. **Sample Test Items** are available to help in the following ways:
    - To familiarize students and teachers with the CASAS test format
    - Allow students to practice test taking skills and ease test-taking anxiety
    - Allow students to practice marking the answer sheet

There are Sample Test Items available for Levels A, B, and C in the Life and Work Reading Series, the Life and Work Listening Series, and the Life Skills Listening Series. There are 5 to 6 items for each of the three skill levels. Remember, these Sample Test Items are not a predictor of performance.

 Download the **Sample Test Items** from the CASAS website at [www.casas.org](http://www.casas.org) and follow the path [Products and Services >> Test Support Materials >> Sample Test Items]. Check out the PowerPoint presentations that can be used to go over the Sample Test Items with your class.

## Web Resources Linked to Competencies

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### *For Teacher Use:*

➤ **Minnesota ABE Assessment Training**

[http://www.mnabeassessment.com/competency\\_links.html](http://www.mnabeassessment.com/competency_links.html)

This page of the Minnesota ABE Assessment Training website includes links to lessons on the web that are linked to specific CASAS competencies.

➤ **Minnesota Essential Skills Curriculum**

<http://www.escurriculum.spps.org/>

The links on this website provide teachers with classroom-ready lesson plans, handouts and assessments for use in CASAS Low Beginning through High Intermediate ESL, or CASAS testing Levels A, B and C. These lessons are tailored to the CASAS competencies that learners must master in order to complete CASAS Level C in reading, writing, listening, and math. Learners who complete CASAS Level C in any content area may receive an [Essential Skills Certificate](#) from the MN State Department of Education.

➤ **Reading for Life**

[http://www.themlc.org/Reading\\_for\\_Life\\_Lessons3.html](http://www.themlc.org/Reading_for_Life_Lessons3.html)

The two-volume collection of worksheets and activities published by the Minnesota Department of Education and designed to enhance the teaching of life and work skills to adult ESL and ABE learners is now available online. Lesson plans designed to accompany the lessons are being created.

➤ **The Minnesota Literacy Council**

<http://www.themlc.org/internet.html>

This website has many links to a variety of online activities that can be used to enhance classroom instruction.

➤ **OTAN**

<http://www.otan.dni.us/>

This website includes links to lessons. Click on Teaching Tools and Resources >> By Program Type >> ESL/Citizenship/EL Civics.

### *For Student Use:*

➤ **Minneapolis Online Activity List**

<https://abeweb.mpls.k12.mn.us/>

This list includes ELL and GED activities that can be found on the internet. The activities are arranged according to their CASAS levels and competencies.

➤ **Reading Skills for Today's Adults**

<http://www.marshalladulthoodeducation.org/reading-skills-for-todays-adult>

These materials are designed to aid in building learners' fluency and comprehension skills. The materials correspond to CASAS 200 - 235. This project helps adults become better readers and more informed consumers, parents, employees, citizens and community members.

➤ **GCFLearnFree.org**

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org>

Click on the "Everyday Life Project." Your students can sign up to access this interactive website that is linked to various CASAS competencies.

➤ **Marshall Adult Education – Student Lessons**

<http://www.marshalladulthoodeducation.org/student-lessons>

These online practice exercises for students are organized into the CASAS competency content areas.

➤ **English On-the-Web**

<http://www.english-on-the-web.yolasite.com>

## Online Training Resources Related to CASAS

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To access the following online offerings through the Minnesota Literacy Council, you will need to register at <http://online.themlc.org> .

➤ **Reading Assessments for Adult Basic Education**

<http://online.themlc.org>

This interactive course will help ABE/ESL/GED teachers and tutors understand the purpose and use of a variety of adult reading assessments – including CASAS, TABE, and other informal reading tests. This course offers 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

➤ **Understanding CASAS for Student Success**

<http://online.themlc.org>

This course will give teachers and tutors a basic understanding of the CASAS assessment system, tools to help learners master CASAS competencies, and strategies to help learners succeed on CASAS tests. This course offers 5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).