



**Optimum<sup>®</sup>**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*Interactive Tools for Successful Learning*

### **WHAT IS OPTIMUM<sup>®</sup> SOFTWARE?**

**OPTIMUM** offers educational software in Ohio History and state assessment test preparation. The state assessment test CD-ROMs, available in customized versions for Ohio, Illinois and New Jersey, help students prepare by providing interactive sample tests and questions in subject areas aligned with State Department of Education guidelines.

### **WHAT VERSIONS OF OPTIMUM ARE AVAILABLE?**

Available in customized versions for Ohio, Illinois and New Jersey, the **OPTIMUM** software family includes:

<b>STATE</b>	<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>SUBJECT AREAS COVERED</b>	<b>GRADES</b>
<b>OHIO</b>	Ohio Proficiency Tests	Reading, Writing, Math, Citizenship & Science	4th Grade, 6th Grade & 9th Grade
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)	3rd & 5th grade Reading, Writing and Math; 4th grade Science, Social Science, Fine Arts & Physical Development/Health	3rd - 5th Grade
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>	Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (ASK) <hr/> Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA)	Language Arts Literacy, Math, Science & Social Studies	4th & 5th Grade <hr/> 8th Grade
<b>NATIONAL</b>	NCLB Elementary Math	Number & Operations, Measurement, Geometry, Algebra & Patterns, Data Analysis & Probability	3rd, 4th & 5th Grade
<b>OHIO</b>	Ohio History	A general learning tool that is aligned with the Ohio Department of Education Standards for fourth grade Social Studies. The program covers the history of Ohio from the Prehistoric Era to the Industrial Era.	

## HOW DOES OPTIMUM'S ASSESSMENT TEST SOFTWARE BENEFIT TEACHERS?

**OPTIMUM** gives teachers an easy way to assess student needs as they relate to state-mandated tests. The software allows teachers to troubleshoot problems while effortlessly tracking student progress. The computer does the grading, leaving teachers with an individualized view of each student's weaknesses and strengths. As a result, teachers are better able to address weak areas prior to administering the state assessment tests.

## WHAT ARE OPTIMUM'S KEY FEATURES ON ASSESSMENT TEST SOFTWARE?

- Computer-graded multiple-choice questions addressing each outcome area
- Model answers for writing prompts, short-answer, and extended-response questions
- Choice of test or drill modes
- Tutorial explains answers with voice and on-screen text
- Overall score summary and sub-grading by content area

## HOW DOES OPTIMUM HELP STUDENTS PREPARE FOR STATE ASSESSMENT TESTS?

**OPTIMUM** builds student's skills and confidence by removing some of the mystery surrounding assessment tests. The program provides a choice of test or drill modes where students can receive immediate or delayed audio and text feedback on their answers. In addition to an overall score, **OPTIMUM** helps students:

- Identify areas of academic weakness to ensure they get the individual help they need to master these areas.
- Understand the correct answer through a complete explanation with voice and on-screen text
- Anticipate how well they'll perform on the actual test

## HOW WAS OPTIMUM SOFTWARE DEVELOPED?

Christie Brown, co-owner of Photonics Graphics, a multi-media design studio specializing in educational software, graphic design and web site development, created **OPTIMUM** in 1996 when her son was preparing for Ohio's fourth grade proficiency test. Brown recognized the need for state-specific educational software because each state's standards and assessment tests are so unique.

Brown worked with fourth grade Ohio teachers to develop the first **OPTIMUM** CD-ROM that debuted in 1997 as a practice tool for the Ohio Proficiency Test. To date thousands of Ohio schools, parents and teachers have used **OPTIMUM** with their students. Based on this positive response, Illinois and New Jersey versions were released in 2001, with **OPTIMUM** for Ohio History added in 2003.

## WHAT MAKES OPTIMUM'S ASSESSMENT TEST SOFTWARE SO UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT?

Just as today's teachers treat students as individuals, **OPTIMUM** treats each state individually. Researching each state's test, and following each state's Department of Education guidelines, the finished products are "mirrors" of the actual assessment tests.

A key component of the **OPTIMUM** assessment test software is that the test questions are developed and tested by teachers from each of the respective states. **OPTIMUM** doesn't use a generic set of questions. Rather, in each state teachers develop questions based on the specific assessment test criteria for each grade level. In an Ohio comparison study, **OPTIMUM** results matched the actual test scores within three percentage points.

## DOES OPTIMUM OFFER ANY OTHER PRODUCTS?

**OPTIMUM** for Ohio History, released in 2003, is an interactive CD-ROM, which presents an overview of Ohio's history. Features include content aligned with Ohio's 4th grade social studies standards, hundreds of colorful graphics, a Buckeye scavenger hunt, games, puzzles, review quizzes, a glossary, internet links, and more.

## HOW MANY COPIES OF OPTIMUM SOFTWARE HAVE BEEN SOLD?

Since its release in 1997, over 30,000 copies of **OPTIMUM** software have been sold to schools, libraries and parents.

## HOW CAN I GET A SAMPLE TO REVIEW?

Visit our web site at [www.optimumtest.com](http://www.optimumtest.com) to download a demo of the program. Or use the enclosed order form to request a full-length sample of the version of your choice.

## HOW CAN SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS PURCHASE OPTIMUM SOFTWARE?

Teachers and schools can purchase **OPTIMUM** in single units, Lab Packs of 5 or Site Licenses for 30. Pricing and order form information are available at [www.optimumtest.com](http://www.optimumtest.com). Special fund-raising discounts and incentives are available for PTA's and PTO's by calling (toll free) 888-548-4440 x 107.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPTIMUM SOFTWARE?

Visit our web site at [www.optimumtest.com](http://www.optimumtest.com)  
Call: 888-548-4440 x 107 (toll free)  
E-mail: [info@optimumtest.com](mailto:info@optimumtest.com)

