

Prepare your students for the H.S.A.

- Help students approach the testing in a relaxed, positive way.
- Encourage and motivate your students to put forth their best effort.
- Remind students that the purpose of these tests is to assess knowledge and skills.
- Point out that some questions may be more difficult than other questions.
- Explain that even if a student does not give a complete, correct response to a constructed response question, partial credit may be given.
- Encourage students to answer constructed response questions in the order in which they appear.
- Encourage students to write well-organized, complete answers to constructed response questions. Encourage students to refer to the appropriate content rubric to help them plan their responses.
- Encourage students who have finished a session early to review their responses in that session for completeness and accuracy.
- Students' responses to constructed response questions will be scored using the appropriate content rubric. Familiarize students with the rubrics and provide opportunities during instruction to use the rubrics to evaluate and score students' work.
- The scoring rubrics and released forms of the tests are available on the MSDE web site (<http://www.mdk12.org>). These materials should be used to prepare for the tests.