

**Analysis – US History 8 Midterm - SLCS  
January 2008  
David Jones**

The midterm examination in US History 8 (class of 2012) given in January 2008 was the multiple-choice section of the New York State Intermediate Social Studies Test given to students at the close of grade 8 in June 2007 (class of 2011). The exam followed 5 days of review and students had access to test questions from old exams (but NOT the particular questions on this test).

The test score entered in the record as a midterm examination was adjusted to account for test included questions we did not yet cover in class. These counted in the student’s favor if correct and ignored if incorrect. Papers got 2 grades: the grade they would get if it were June and the adjusted grade.

Last year, eight points was added to each student’s grade because I thought the test was harder than the class. That adjustment proved to be unwarranted and this adjustment was not made this year.

Getting a midterm measurement was not the only reason for administering this exam. It intended to give students a high stakes reason and opportunity to review what we have learned so far since seventh grade toward enhancing performance on the June exam. It was also a program evaluation for my own information.

*What is the relationship between this test and class average?*

<b>Class of ...</b>	<b>Class Average Overall</b>	<b>Class Average on the M-C Portion of the State Exam</b>	<b>Average Difference</b>	<b>Correlation</b>
2010	74%	61%	10	NA
2011	76%	75%	-1	NA
2012	77%	77% <sup>1</sup>	0	.7

**Conclusions**

- The Class of 2012 is as well prepared for the June exam as the class of 2011 when they took their midterm. 48% would “pass” the exam if it were given now (55% of last year’s class fell into that category) five months before they have to take the test.
- Using the “adjusted score”, 83% of students in the class are meeting the state standards at the moment (would score 3 or 4).
- This year, I have added a calculation of correlation coefficient to my study. When the mean, median, and mode are all similar in comparing class average with the state test, I have been concluding my class measures to reflect the state standards. The high correlation (.7) also supports this view.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the adjusted average of the students, reflecting their progress in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to date. The average for the test taken as a whole (x correct out of all 45 questions including questions not covered in the class yet) was 64%.