

## **Golden State Seal Merit Diploma**

In 1997, the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma was established to recognize outstanding academic achievements of graduating seniors as evidenced by passing scores in at least six Golden State Exams (GSE) completed at any grade level. Students must attain scores of high honors, honors, and/or school recognition designations in at least four specified areas:

- Written Composition or Reading/  
Literature
- U.S. History
- Algebra, Geometry or High School  
Mathematics
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics or  
Integrated (coordinated) Science 2

The other two required Golden State Exam scores may be a second GSE in English, math and/or science or in other GSE areas of student choice: U.S. Government, Economics, and/or Spanish 2.

The state department will make every effort to forward the GSE diploma prior to the high school graduation date; in the event the student is qualifying by taking a GSE in May of the senior year, the GSE diploma may be received the following school year.

## **Golden State Examinations**

There are currently thirteen Golden State Examinations (GSE) offered at no cost to students.

The Golden State Examinations assess students' knowledge of the subjects and their ability to apply that knowledge. All of the exams, except written composition, include a balance of multiple choice items and questions or problems that require written responses. The written composition examination also requires written responses. In addition, the science examinations include laboratory tasks.

Student results on the GSE are reported in terms of six levels of achievement, ranging from minimal achievement to high honors. The score categories recorded on the student transcript are those that are the three highest levels of achievement: high honors, honors, and school recognition. Having the GSE notation on the student transcript signals high achievement to colleges, universities and employers.

A student who achieves the high honors, honors or school recognition level on a GSE will also receive a certificate of achievement for that subject area from the California Department of Education. All students who achieve high honors or honors will additionally receive a GSE insignia on their high school diploma. A GSE Diploma notation will be added to the final transcript for all graduates earning a Golden State Merit Seal Diploma.

January 2003

Huntington Beach Union High School District

# **Golden State Exams**

# **Golden State Seal Merit Diploma**

**Office  
of  
Pupil Personnel  
Services**

	<b>Golden State Exam (GSE) Diploma</b> Four Required Areas (6 GSE scores required from at least four areas)	<b>January 2003</b>	<b>May 2003</b>
<b>Math</b> Required	One score required: <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> High School Math (prior completion of 2nd sem. of Alg. 2)	Not Available Not Available Not Available	Thursday, May 15 Thursday, May 15 To be determined
<b>Science</b> Required	One score required: <input type="checkbox"/> Biology <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Physics <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinated Science 2	Not Available Not Available Not Available Not Available	Tuesday, May 20 Tuesday, May 20 Tuesday, May 20 Tuesday, May 20
<b>English</b> Required	One score required: <input type="checkbox"/> Reading/Literature (juniors/seniors) <input type="checkbox"/> Written Composition (juniors/seniors)	Not Available Not Available	To be determined To be determined
<b>U.S. History</b> Required	Score required: <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History	Not Available	Friday, May 16
<b>Electives</b> Two required	Two scores required: <input type="checkbox"/> Other math _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other science _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other English _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 2 <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Government <input type="checkbox"/> Economics	(see above math schedule) (see above science schedule) (see above English schedule) Not Available Thursday, January 9 Wednesday, January 8	(see above math schedule) (see above science schedule) (see above English schedule) Friday, May 16 Monday, May 19 Monday, May 19

November 1: The HBUHS District Office will notify the California Department of Education of the class of 2003 GSE diploma recipients based upon scores earned through May 2002.

April 2003: The HBUHS District Office will notify the California Department of Education of additional class of 2003 GSE diploma recipients based upon scores earned through January 2003.

October 2003: Remaining GSE diploma recipients identified based upon scores earned through May 2003 exams.