

Hickory High School adheres to all division policies regarding final exam exemption.

QUESTION 1 Which courses have final exams?

Semester and final exams will be administered for all courses bearing credit. Final exams are cumulative in nature.

QUESTION 2 What are the exam exemption options available to students?

SOL EXAM EXEMPTION – Students (grades 9-12) enrolled in an SOL course who pass the SOL on their **first attempt*** or in an **expedited retake*** will have the option of being awarded an exam grade which correlates to their earned SOL score (see chart →). (* if SOL is required)

| SOL EXAM EXEMPTION SCORE CONVERSION CHART | SOL SCORE | EXAM GRADE | |
|---|-----------|------------|----|
| | 400-428 | 75 | C |
| | 429-457 | 78 | C+ |
| | 458-486 | 81 | B- |
| | 487-515 | 85 | B |
| | 516-544 | 88 | B+ |
| | 545-572 | 92 | A- |
| | 573-599 | 98 | A |
| 600 | 100 | A | |

INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL EXAM EXEMPTION – Students enrolled in a CTE course who pass a course-specific industry credential test may use the average of their marking period grades as their exam grade.

ATTENDANCE EXAM EXEMPTION – Students who have low absences* in a course AND have a class grade average greater than or equal to a C- AND have passed the SOL test associated with the course (if SOL is required) can opt for an exam grade (see chart→).

*Total absence count - Time Recovery will not be considered

| ATTENDANCE EXAM EXEMPTION SCORE CHART | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| GRADE | NUMBER OF ABSENCES (before exam day) | EXAM GRADE |
| A or A- | 5 days or fewer per semester | Course Average |
| B+, B, or B- | 4 days or fewer per semester | Course Average |
| C+, C, or C- | 3 days or fewer per semester | Course Average |

QUESTION 3 Can I decline an exam exemption?

A student has an option of taking the final exam up until the time the exam is given and will be awarded the higher grade (either the grade earned on the exam OR the exam exemption value...whichever is higher).

QUESTION 4 Do I (the student) need parent permission for an exam exemption?

Yes. A student without the signed parent form distributed before exam time will be expected to take the final exam. Students should receive the exam exemption form from their teacher.

QUESTION 5 Are there exceptions to the exemption policy?

Yes – for the SOL Exam Exemption. During an equating year (equating occurs when a new test format is released for a subject) for a specific SOL course, students will NOT be eligible for an SOL exam exemption. All Math SOL courses (Alg. 1, Alg. 2, & Geometry) during the Spring 2019 semester are being equated – therefore any student enrolled in an SOL Math course during the Spring of 2019 cannot use the SOL Exam Exemption option.

QUESTION 6 How does the new Attendance Exam Exemption work?

To encourage students to keep grades between an A and a C and to keep absences low, students may consider using the attendance exam exemption. Qualifying student exam grades are outlined above (see question 2 in this FAQ) Please note – students with a D or an E course average are not eligible for this exemption and must take the final exam. For SOL classes, the student must pass the SOL (if required) to be eligible for the attendance exam exemption.

QUESTION 7 I am a senior with an A average in a class – what are my options?

Seniors with an A average must have 5 or fewer absences prior to exam day. Seniors may also use the SOL or Industry Credential Exam Exemption, if applicable. (see Exam Exemption Options in Question 2).

QUESTION 8 What if I qualify for more than 1 exam exemption option?

Students can choose the exemption option that is most beneficial to their final grade.