

Frequently Asked Questions about TerraNova Testing at GIS

- **Why did GIS stop using CAT/5 as its standardized test?**

Granada used CAT/5 as its standardized test until 2003 when the test was discontinued by the publisher.

- **Why don't we use the same test that the public schools use?**

In 2003, we contacted CTB-McGraw-Hill to inquire about adopting the same test that the local public schools are using. We found out that they had a contract with the State of California, Department of Education to supply only California Public Schools with the new test (Test is known as CAT/6 or TerraNova 2nd Edition).

- **Why did we choose TerraNova as our standardized testing instrument?**

During the fall of 2002-03, the school Administration conducted research to determine which Standardized Test would be best for Granada. CTB McGraw-Hill was encouraging all of the private schools using CAT/5 to start using the Terra Nova 1st Edition. According to the CTB-McGraw-Hill there are approximately 120 private schools in California that are using the TerraNova 1st Edition.

The GIS Administration also surveyed other schools to see which standardized testing they used. We contacted Catholic, Christian, and Islamic Schools as well as private academies. The schools we surveyed were equally divided in which standardized test they administer.

The GIS Administration recommended that the students take the TerraNova 1st edition Basic Battery Plus for the academic year 2003-04. The plan was to incorporate science and social studies testing after 3 years.

- **How did the CAT/5 and TerraNova scores compare?**

Both tests were administered two weeks apart in the month of May 2004. Taking both tests enabled us to continue monitoring the results of the previous years and establishing a benchmark for the upcoming years. The scores were very comparable within 5 to 6 percentile for the majority of the sections and grade levels. See below the comparison of Total Battery scores between both tests:

Comparison of Total Battery Scores

2003-04	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
CAT/5	76	61	80	76	83	77	85	75
TerraNova	78	67	74	72	85	77	87	80

Alhamdulillah, over the years, our TerraNova scores kept on improving due to two main reasons. Unlike CAT/5, practice tests for TerraNova are available and were used at Granada to better prepare the students for the format and unique nature of standardized tests: multiple-choice questions. In addition, GIS made changes in its curricula that improved the academic program and hence the students' performance in general and on standardized testing in particular.