

STAR Reading Enterprise™ Content Blueprint

Introduction

Each STAR Reading Enterprise test contains 34 operational items and a separately specified number of uncalibrated items. The test blueprint specifies operational item counts from each skill set and skill area within five domains.¹

The test is organized into two sections:

- **Section A** consists of 10 vocabulary-in-context items.
- **Section B** consists of 24 items administered as follows:
 - **Items per domain, skill area, and grade.** The *exact* number of items from each domain is prescribed for each of three grade bands: K–3, 4–8, and 9–12. In addition, the *maximum* number of items from each skill area is prescribed for each individual grade. (With some exceptions, no more than one item measuring any single skill will be administered. For example, two or more vocabulary-in-context items may be included in section B in cases where other content constraints warrant it.)
 - **Spiraling of items in blocks.** Items are drawn from all five domains and administered in five blocks.

Domain Prescriptions

Following is more detailed information about the blueprint according to each section, including the rationale for each aspect of the blueprint as well as specific items counts.

Section A

For all grades, K–12, section A consists of 10 vocabulary-in-context items, selected adaptively on the basis of target item difficulty. The rationale for this is twofold: first, to maintain continuity with the original STAR Reading™ tests, which begin with vocabulary-in-context items; second, to capitalize on the efficiency of this item type by using section A as a “locator” subtest preparatory to section B.

Section B

Section B blends items from all five domains, amounting to 24 items. The items are administered in such a way as to ensure a balance of content received at each grade, appropriate to typical curriculum for that grade.

¹ Beneath the domain level, STAR Reading Enterprise skills are organized according to skill sets, then skill areas, then grade-specific skills. This blueprint focuses primarily on domains and skill areas.

Items per Domain, Skill Area, and Grade

As stated above, the *exact* number of items in this section is prescribed according to grade bands: K–3, 4–8, and 9–12. For example, at the early grades, eight items from the Word Knowledge and Skills domain are administered; however, few or no items measuring Understanding Author’s Craft or Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text will be administered, because related skills are not typically emphasized or taught at those grades. In contrast, beginning at grade 4, both of the latter domains receive more emphasis, while Word Knowledge and Skills receives less. The number of items in Section B from each domain is prescribed by grade.

Additionally, the *maximum* number of items from each skill area is prescribed by grade. The application software will administer no more than the maximum, but it may administer fewer. This provides the flexibility to choose items from the skill area where items have calibrated difficulty appropriate to the student’s performance.

Spiraling of Items in Blocks

As stated previously, the blueprint also ensures that the 24 items in section B are drawn from all five domains and administered in five blocks. This further supports a balance of content throughout this section of the test. More specifically, operational items are administered in a series of five blocks, with content spiraled among blocks as prescribed in table 3 below. Blocks 1 through 4 consist of five items each; block 5 consists of four items. Within each block, the number of items per domain is specified in the table. Items from a given domain may be administered in any order; that is, the domains need not appear in the order listed for each block in the table; instead, the choice of the item to be administered at any point within a block should be governed by the match of item difficulty to a target difficulty determined by student performance.

Tables

All aspects of the blueprint used for section B are depicted in the tables below, as follows:

- **Table 1—Prescribed item counts per domain and grade band.**
- **Table 2—Maximum item counts per skill area and grade.**
- **Table 3—Spiraling of content in blocks of items, per domain and grade band.**

Table 1—Prescribed Item Counts per Domain and Grade Band

Domain	Grade Band		
	K-3	4-8	9-12
Word Knowledge and Skills	8	6	5
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning	8	5	5
Analyzing Literary Text	6	5	6
Understanding Author's Craft	2	3	3
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text	0	5	5
Total	24	24	24

Table 2—Maximum Item Counts per Skill Area by Grade

Skill Area		Grade												
		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Domain (Exact number of items tested, totaled per grade)														
Skill Set														
Skill Area (Item maximum per grade, sum not to equal item total) ²														
Word Knowledge and Skills		8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5
Vocabulary Strategies														
Use context clues		8	8	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Use structural analysis		0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vocabulary Knowledge														
Recognize and understand synonyms		0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Recognize and understand homonyms and multi-meaning words		0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Recognize connotation and denotation		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Understand idioms		0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Understand analogies		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

² Skill area numbers will not add up to the item totals per grade shown at the domain level – they represent the number of items *available* from each skill area for inclusion in the total.

Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning		8	8	8	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Reading Process Skills													
	Make predictions	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify author's purpose	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify and understand text features	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Recognize an accurate summary of text	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Constructing Meaning													
	Understand vocabulary in context	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Draw conclusions	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Make inferences	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify and understand main ideas	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify details	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Extend meaning or form generalizations	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify and differentiate fact and opinion	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Organizational Structure													
	Identify organizational structure	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Understand cause and effect	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	Understand comparison and contrast	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify and understand sequence	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Analyzing Literary Text		6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
Literary Elements														
	Identify and understand elements of plot	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify and understand setting	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify characters and understand characterization	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify and understand theme	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify the narrator and point of view	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Genre Characteristics														
	Identify fiction and nonfiction, reality and fantasy	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify and understand characteristics of genres	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Understanding Author's Craft		2	2	2	2	3								
Author's Choices														
	Understand figurative language	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Understand literary devices	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Identify sensory detail	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text		0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Analysis														
	Identify bias and analyze text for logical fallacies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Identify and understand persuasion	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Evaluation														
	Evaluate reasoning and support	0	0	0	0	5	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Evaluate credibility	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 3—Spiraling of Content in Blocks of Items, per Domain and Grade Band

Domain	Grade Band		
	K-3	4-8	9-12
Block 1			
Word Knowledge and Skills	2	1	1
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning	1	1	1
Analyzing Literary Text	1	1	1
Understanding Author's Craft	1	1	1
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text	0	1	1

Block 2			
Word Knowledge and Skills	2	1	1
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning	2	1	1
Analyzing Literary Text	1	1	1
Understanding Author's Craft	0	1	1
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text	0	1	1
Block 3			
Word Knowledge and Skills	1	2	1
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning	2	1	1
Analyzing Literary Text	2	1	1
Understanding Author's Craft	0	0	0
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text	0	1	2
Block 4			
Word Knowledge and Skills	2	1	1
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning	2	1	1
Analyzing Literary Text	1	1	2
Understanding Author's Craft	0	1	0
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text	0	1	1

Block 5			
Word Knowledge and Skills	1	1	1
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning	1	1	1
Analyzing Literary Text	1	1	1
Understanding Author's Craft	1	0	1
Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text	0	1	0
Total	24	24	24