

# **Virginia**

Standards of Learning Assessments

**Test Blueprint**

## **Grade 6 Reading**

**2010 English  
Standards of Learning**

**This revised test blueprint will be effective with the spring  
2018 test administration.**

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# Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning

## Test Blueprint

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## General Test Information

### Test Blueprint

Much like the blueprint for a building, a test blueprint serves as a guide for test construction. The blueprint indicates the content areas that will be addressed by the test and the number of items that will be included by content area and for the test as a whole. There is a blueprint for each test (e.g., Grade 3 Reading, Grade 5 Mathematics, Grade 8 Science, Virginia and United States History).

For Grade 6 Reading, the blueprint contains information for two types of tests, the online passage-based computer adaptive test (CAT) and the traditional test. A passage-based CAT is a customized assessment where each student receives a unique set of passages and items. This is in contrast to the traditional test in which all students who take a particular version of the test receive the same passages and respond to the same test questions.

All online versions of the Grade 6 Reading test will be computer adaptive beginning in spring 2018. All paper versions of the test (including large print and Braille) will be administered using the traditional format.

### Reporting Categories

The Grade 6 Reading test covers the Standards of Learning (SOL) in the reading strand of the Grade 6 English SOL. In the test blueprint, the SOL are grouped into categories that address related content and skills. These categories are labeled as reporting categories. For example, a reporting category for the Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning test is *Use word analysis strategies and word reference materials*. Each of the SOL in this reporting category addresses skills using word analysis strategies or word reference materials. When the results of the SOL tests are reported, the scores will be presented for each reporting category and as a total test score.

### Assignment of Standards of Learning to Reporting Categories

In the Grade 6 Reading SOL test, each Standard of Learning is assigned to only one reporting category. For example, SOL 6.5i is assigned to *Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts*.

### Standards of Learning Excluded from Testing

In some content areas, there are SOL that do not lend themselves to assessment within the current format of the SOL tests. The SOL not tested are listed as *Excluded from Testing* at the end of the blueprint for each test.

### Coverage of Standards of Learning

Due to the large number of SOL in each grade level content area, *every* Standard of Learning will not be assessed on every version (form) of an SOL test. By necessity, to keep the length of a test reasonable, each version will sample from the SOL within a reporting category. All SOL in the blueprint will be tested within a three year period, and *all of these* SOL are eligible for inclusion on each version of an SOL test.

### **Use of the Curriculum Framework**

The English Standards of Learning, amplified by the Curriculum Framework, define the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills that are measured by the Standards of Learning tests. The Curriculum Framework asks essential questions, identifies essential understandings, defines essential content knowledge, and describes essential skills students need to master.

### **Reading Selections**

All reading material will be appropriate for six-grade students in terms of interest, experiences, length and reading level, as determined by the Content Review Committee. Selections will be similar in format to excerpts from trade books, content textbooks, or magazines.

**Grade 6 Reading  
Test Blueprint Summary Table**

<b>Reporting Category</b>	<b>Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning</b>	<b>Number of Items Passage-Based Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) Format</b>	<b>Number of Items Traditional Format</b>
<b>Use word analysis strategies and word reference materials</b>	<b>6.4 a-e</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts</b>	<b>6.5 a-d, f-k</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts</b>	<b>6.6 a, c-k</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Excluded from Testing</b>	<b>6.4f 6.5e, l 6.6 b, l</b>		
<b>Number of Operational Items</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Number of Field Test Items*</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Number of Items on Test</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>55</b>

\*Field test items are being tried out with students for potential use on subsequent tests and will not be used to compute students' scores on the test.

## **Grade 6 Reading Expanded Test Blueprint**

**Reporting Category: Use word analysis strategies and word reference materials**

**Number of Items: 5 (CAT), 8 (Traditional)**

**Standards of Learning:**

- 6.4 The student will read and learn the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.
- a) Identify word origins and derivations.
  - b) Use roots, cognates, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary.
  - c) Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate among multiple meanings of words.
  - d) Identify and analyze figurative language.
  - e) Use word-reference materials.

**Reporting Category: Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts**

**Number of Items: 12 (CAT), 17 (Traditional)**

**Standards of Learning:**

- 6.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.
- a) Identify the elements of narrative structure, including setting, character, plot, conflict, and theme.
  - b) Make, confirm, and revise predictions.
  - c) Describe how word choice and imagery contribute to the meaning of a text.
  - d) Describe cause and effect relationships and their impact on plot.
  - f) Use information in the text to draw conclusions and make inferences.
  - g) Explain how character and plot development are used in a selection to support a central conflict or story line.
  - h) Identify the main idea.
  - i) Identify and summarize supporting details.
  - j) Identify and analyze the author's use of figurative language.
  - k) Identify transitional words and phrases that signal an author's organizational pattern.

**Reporting Category: Demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts**

**Number of Items: 14 (CAT), 20 (Traditional)**

**Standards of Learning:**

- 6.6 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.
- a) Use text structures such as type, headings, and graphics to predict and categorize information in both print and digital texts.

- c) Identify questions to be answered.
- d) Make, confirm, or revise predictions.
- e) Draw conclusions and make inferences based on explicit and implied information.
- f) Differentiate between fact and opinion.
- g) Identify main idea.
- h) Summarize supporting details.
- i) Compare and contrast information about one topic, which may be contained in different selections.
- j) Identify the author's organizational pattern.
- k) Identify cause and effect relationships.

### **Standards of Learning Excluded from Testing:**

- 6.4 The student will read and learn the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.
  - f) Extend general and specialized vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
- 6.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.
  - e) Use prior and background knowledge as context for new learning.
  - l) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.
- 6.6 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.
  - b) Use prior knowledge and build additional background knowledge as context for new learning.
  - l) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.