

# **Virginia**

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Standards of Learning Assessments

*Blueprint*

*Grade 3*

*Reading Test*

*for the*

*2002 English Standards of Learning*

This revised blueprint will be effective with the 2005-2006 administration of the Standards of Learning Tests.

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# Grade 3 Reading Blueprint

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# Standards of Learning (SOL) Test Blueprint

## Introduction

### What is a test blueprint?

A test blueprint is a guide for test construction and use. The Standards of Learning (SOL) test blueprints serve a number of purposes. They serve as a guide to test developers as they write test questions and construct the SOL tests. These blueprints also serve as a guide to educators, parents, and students in that they show:

- (a) the SOL covered by the test and which, if any, have been excluded;
- (b) which SOL are assigned to each reporting category;
- (c) the number of test items in each reporting category and on the total test;
- (d) general information about how the test questions were constructed; and
- (e) the materials that students are allowed to use while taking the test.

### How is the test blueprint organized?

The blueprint contains the following information:

1. **Test Development Guidelines**: guidelines used by the testing contractor and the members of the Content Review Committees in developing the SOL tests. This section contains two parts:
  - A. **General Considerations** — lists general considerations that are used in developing the test as well as considerations specific to a particular content area.
  - B. **Ancillary Materials** — lists any materials that students are allowed to use while taking the test.
2. **Blueprint Summary Table**: a summary of the blueprint which displays the following information:
  - reporting categories for the test;
  - number of test items in each reporting category;
  - Standards of Learning (SOL) included in each reporting category. SOL are identified by numbers and letters that correspond to the original SOL document;
  - SOL which are excluded from the SOL test;
  - number of operational items on the test;
  - number of field-test items on the test; and
  - total number of items (operational and field-test items) on the test.
3. **Expanded Blueprint**: provides the same information as the **Blueprint Summary Table** except that the full text of each SOL is included.

### **What is a reporting category?**

Each test assesses a number of SOL. In the test blueprint, SOL are grouped into categories that represent related content or skills. These categories are labeled *Reporting Categories*. For example, a reporting category for the Grade 3 Reading test is “Use word analysis strategies and information resources.” Each of the SOL in this reporting category addresses skills using word analysis strategies or using information resources. When the results of the SOL tests are reported, the scores will be presented in terms of scores for each reporting category and a total test score.

### **Are some SOL assigned to more than one reporting category?**

Letters under a particular SOL are sometimes coded to different reporting categories. For example, SOL 3.4 c. *Apply meaning clues, language structure, and phonetic strategies* is assigned to the reporting category “Use word analysis strategies and information resources.” However, SOL 3.4 a. *Preview and use text formats* is assigned to the reporting category “Demonstrate comprehension of printed materials.” Each lettered SOL is assigned to only one reporting category.

### **Are there some SOL not included in the test blueprint?**

At the end of the blueprint, the SOL not included in the blueprint are listed in “SOL Excluded From This Test.”

All kindergarten and grade-one reading SOL are subsumed or included in a broader or more comprehensive SOL that appears in grades two or three. Certain grade-two SOL are also subsumed and are listed at the end of the blueprint as “SOL Subsumed.”

### **Will all SOL listed in the blueprint be assessed each time the SOL tests are given?**

Each SOL will not be assessed on every SOL test form. To keep the length of a test reasonable, the test will measure a selection of the SOL within a reporting category. However, every SOL that is not excluded in the blueprint is eligible for inclusion on each form of an SOL test. Over time all SOL in a reporting category will be assessed.

## Grade 3 Reading Test Development Guidelines

### *A. General Considerations*

1. All items included in this test will address the knowledge and skills specified in the reading strand of the 2002 Virginia Standards of Learning in English for kindergarten through grade 3.
2. Items will be examined for any content or context that stereotypes, offends, or unfairly penalizes students based on age, gender, economic status, race, ethnicity, religion, or geographic region.
3. The test will be untimed. The reading test should be administered in two sessions.
4. There is no penalty for guessing. Students will be scored on the number of correct answers out of the total number of operational items on the test.
5. A variety of types of reading selections including fiction and nonfiction may be used on the test.
6. Selections will be appropriate for third-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 children's magazines.
7. Whenever possible, reading selections and corresponding test items will appear on facing pages.
8. Students may **not** use a dictionary or thesaurus for any portion of this test.

### *B. Ancillary Materials*

Refer to the current examiner's manual or the Department of Education's Web site for ancillary materials that may be used.

## Grade 3 Reading Test Blueprint Summary Table

Reporting Categories	Number of Items	Grade 2 SOL*	Grade 3 SOL*
Use word analysis strategies and information resources	8	2.6 a-d 2.9 a-c	3.3 b-c 3.4 c-d 3.7 a
Demonstrate comprehension of printed materials	27	2.7 a 2.8 f-g	3.4 a-b 3.5 a 3.5 c-d 3.5 f-j 3.6 c-g
SOL Subsumed		2.4 a-c 2.5 a-c 2.7 b 2.8 a-b 2.8 d-e	3.3 a
SOL Excluded From This Test		2.7 c-d 2.8 c	3.4 e-f 3.5 b 3.5 e 3.6 a-b 3.6 h 3.7 b
Total Number of Operational Items	35		
Field-Test Items**	7		
Total Number of Items	42		

\*Kindergarten and Grade 1 reading SOL are subsumed or included in a broader or more comprehensive SOL that appears in grades 2 or 3.

\*\*These field-test items will *not* be used to compute students' scores on the test.

## Expanded Blueprint

**Reporting Category:** Use word analysis strategies and information resources  
**Number of Items:** 8

### **Grade 2 SOL in This Reporting Category:**

- 2.6 The student will use language structure to expand vocabulary when reading.
- Use knowledge of prefixes and suffixes.
  - Use knowledge of contractions and singular possessives.
  - Use knowledge of simple abbreviations.
  - Use knowledge of antonyms and synonyms.
- 2.9 The student will demonstrate comprehension of information in reference materials.
- Use a table of contents.
  - Use pictures and charts.
  - Use dictionaries and indices.

### **Grade 3 SOL in This Reporting Category:**

- 3.3 The student will apply word-analysis skills when reading.
- Use knowledge of homophones.
  - Decode regular multisyllabic words.
- 3.4 The student will use strategies to read a variety of fiction and nonfiction materials.
- Apply meaning clues, language structure, and phonetic strategies.
  - Use context to clarify meaning of unfamiliar words.
- 3.7 The student will demonstrate comprehension of information from a variety of print resources.
- Use dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, and other reference books, including online reference materials.

**Reporting Category:** Demonstrate comprehension of printed materials  
**Number of Items:** 27

### **Grade 2 SOL in This Reporting Category:**

- 2.7 The student will read fiction and nonfiction, using a variety of strategies independently.
- Preview the selection by using pictures, diagrams, titles, and headings.
- 2.8 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fiction and nonfiction.
- Describe characters, setting, and important events in fiction and poetry.
  - Identify the problem, solution, and main idea.

### **Grade 3 SOL in This Reporting Category:**

- 3.4 The student will use strategies to read a variety of fiction and nonfiction materials.
  - a. Preview and use text formats.
  - b. Set a purpose for reading.
  
- 3.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fiction.
  - a. Set a purpose for reading.
  - c. Make, confirm, or revise predictions.
  - d. Compare and contrast settings, characters, and events.
  - f. Ask and answer questions.
  - g. Draw conclusions about character and plot.
  - h. Organize information and events logically.
  - i. Summarize major points found in fiction materials.
  - j. Understand basic plots of fairy tales, myths, folktales, legends, and fables.
  
- 3.6 The student will continue to read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction.
  - c. Ask and answer questions about what is read.
  - d. Draw conclusions.
  - e. Organize information and events logically.
  - f. Summarize major points found in nonfiction materials.
  - g. Identify the characteristics of biographies and autobiographies.

### **Subsumed SOL for Grade 2 and Grade 3**

#### **Grade 2 SOL Subsumed:**

- 2.4 The student will use phonetic strategies when reading and spelling.
  - a. Use knowledge of consonants, consonant blends, and consonant digraphs to decode and spell words.
  - b. Use knowledge of short, long, and r-controlled vowel patterns to decode and spell words.
  - c. Decode regular multisyllabic words.
  
- 2.5 The student will use meaning clues and language structure when reading.
  - a. Use information in the story to read words.
  - b. Use knowledge of sentence structure.
  - c. Use knowledge of story structure and sequence.
  
- 2.7 The student will read fiction and nonfiction, using a variety of strategies independently.
  - b. Set purpose for reading.
  
- 2.8 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fiction and nonfiction.
  - a. Make predictions about content.
  - b. Read to confirm predictions.
  - d. Ask and answer questions about what is read.
  - e. Locate information to answer questions.

**Grade 3 SOL Subsumed:**

- 3.3 The student will apply word-analysis skills when reading.
  - a. Use knowledge of all vowel patterns.

**Excluded SOL for Grade 2 and Grade 3**

**Grade 2 SOL Excluded From This Test:**

- 2.7 The student will read fiction and nonfiction, using a variety of strategies independently.
  - c. Read stories, poems, and passages with fluency and expression.
  - d. Reread and self-correct when necessary.
- 2.8 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fiction and nonfiction.
  - c. Relate previous experiences to the topic.

**Grade 3 SOL Excluded From This Test:**

- 3.4 The student will use strategies to read a variety of fiction and nonfiction materials.
  - e. Read fiction and nonfiction fluently and accurately.
  - f. Reread and self-correct when necessary.
- 3.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fiction.
  - b. Make connections between previous experiences and reading selections.
  - e. Identify the author's purpose.
- 3.6 The student will continue to read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction.
  - a. Identify the author's purpose.
  - b. Make connections between previous experiences and reading selections.
  - h. Compare and contrast the lives of two persons as described in biographies and/or autobiographies.
- 3.7 The student will demonstrate comprehension of information from a variety of print resources.
  - b. Use available technology.