Virginia
Standards of Learning Assessments

Blueprint

Grade 8

Reading Test

for the

2002 English Standards of Learning

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

Grade 8 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. **<u>Test Development Guidelines</u>:** 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. <u>General Considerations</u> — lists general considerations that are used in developing the test as well as considerations specific to a particular content area.

   B. <u>Ancillary Materials</u> — lists any materials that students are allowed to use while taking the test.

2. **<u>Blueprint Summary Table</u>:** 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. **<u>Expanded Blueprint</u>:** provides the same information as the <u>Blueprint Summary Table</u> 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 8 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 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."

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 8 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 grade 8.

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 a single day.

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, narrative nonfiction, and functional text may be used on the test.

6. Selections will be appropriate for eighth-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.

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 8 Reading Test
Blueprint Summary Table

Reporting Categories	Number of Items	Grade Eight SOL
Use word analysis strategies and information resources	11	8.4 a-b
Demonstrate comprehension of printed materials	34	8.5 a-c 8.6 c-i
SOL Excluded From This Test		8.5 d-e 8.6 a-b
Total Number of Operational Items	45	
Field-Test Items*	10	
Total Number of Items	55	

*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: 11

Grade 8 SOL in This Reporting Category:

8.4 The student will apply knowledge of word origins, derivations, inflections, analogies, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development.
  a. Identify simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and analogy.
  b. Use context, structure, and connotations to determine meaning of words and phrases.

Reporting Category: Demonstrate comprehension of printed materials
Number of Items: 34

Grade 8 SOL in This Reporting Category:

8.5 The student will read and analyze a variety of narrative and poetic forms.
  a. Explain the use of symbols and figurative language.
  b. Describe inferred main ideas or themes, using evidence from the text as support.
  c. Describe how authors use characters, conflict, point of view, and tone to create meaning.

8.6 The student will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of informational sources.
  c. Analyze the author's use of text structure and word choice.
  d. Analyze details for relevance and accuracy.
  e. Read and follow instructions to complete an assigned task.
  f. Summarize and critique text.
  g. Evaluate and synthesize information to apply in written and oral presentations.
  h. Draw conclusions based on explicit and implied information.
  i. Make inferences based on explicit and implied information.

Grade 8 SOL Excluded From This Test:

8.5 The student will read and analyze a variety of narrative and poetic forms.
  d. Compare and contrast the use of the poetic elements of word choice, dialogue, form, rhyme, rhythm, and voice.
  e. Compare and contrast authors' styles.

8.6 The student will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of informational sources.
  a. Draw on background knowledge and knowledge of text structure to understand selections.
  b. Analyze the author's credentials, viewpoint, and impact.