

Virginia

Standards of Learning Assessments

Blueprint

Grade 4

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 4 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 4 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 4.6 b. *Collect information, using the resources of the media center, including online, print, and media resources* is assigned to the reporting category “Use word analysis strategies and information resources.” However, SOL 4.6 c. *Evaluate and synthesize information* 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."

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 4 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 4.
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 and nonfiction may be used on the test.
6. Selections will be appropriate for fourth-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 4 Reading Test Blueprint Summary Table

Reporting Categories	Number of Items	Grade 4 SOL
Use word analysis strategies and information resources	8	4.3 a-d 4.6 b
Demonstrate comprehension of printed materials	27	4.4 a-d 4.4 f 4.5 a-f 4.5 h 4.6 c
SOL Excluded From This Test		4.4 e 4.5 g 4.5 i 4.6 a
Total Number of Operational Items	35	
Field-Test Items*	7	
Total Number of Items	42	

*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 4 SOL in This Reporting Category:

- 4.3 The student will read fiction and nonfiction with fluency and accuracy.
- Use context to clarify meanings of unfamiliar words.
 - Explain words with multiple meanings.
 - Use knowledge of word origins; synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms; and multiple meanings of words.
 - Use word-reference materials, including the glossary, dictionary, and thesaurus.
- 4.6 The student will demonstrate comprehension of information resources to research a topic.
- Collect information, using the resources of the media center, including online, print, and media resources.

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

Grade 4 SOL in This Reporting Category:

- 4.4 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fiction.
- Explain the author's purpose.
 - Describe how the choice of language, setting, and information contributes to the author's purpose.
 - Compare the use of fact and fantasy in historical fiction with other forms of literature.
 - Identify major events and supporting details.
 - Identify sensory words.
- 4.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction.
- Use text organizers, such as type, headings, and graphics, to predict and categorize information.
 - Formulate questions that might be answered in the selection.
 - Explain the author's purpose.
 - Make simple inferences, using information from texts.
 - Draw conclusions, using information from texts.
 - Summarize content of selection, identifying important ideas and providing details for each important idea.
 - Distinguish between cause and effect and between fact and opinion.
- 4.6 The student will demonstrate comprehension of information resources to research a topic.
- Evaluate and synthesize information.

Grade 4 SOL Excluded From This Test:

- 4.4 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fiction.
 - e. Describe the relationship between text and previously read materials.

- 4.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction.
 - g. Describe relationship between content and previously learned concepts or skills.
 - i. Identify new information gained from reading.

- 4.6 The student will demonstrate comprehension of information resources to research a topic.
 - a. Construct questions about a topic.