

TCAP English Language Arts

End-of-Course Assessment Fact Sheet

English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the English language arts end-of-course (EOC) assessments—English I and English II. The ELA assessments will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through literary passages and informational texts and require students to demonstrate the ability to closely read and analyze text, answer text-dependent questions, display understanding of the complexities and craft of language, provide a written response to a prompt, and demonstrate command of the English language.

For more information on TCAP EOC assessments, click [here](#).

Students to be Tested

Students who are enrolled in an EOC class, regardless of grade level, must take the assessment pertinent to that class. The Tennessee State Board of Education High School Policy 2.103 ([here](#)) states that “Only students who are enrolled in a course with an associated End of Course examination shall take the End of Course examination. Students enrolled in a substituting course without an End of Course examination explicitly tied to the State Board of Education-approved curriculum content standards of that course shall not take an End of Course examination. This exemption applies to all substituting courses, including, but not limited to, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, and dual credit courses.”

In summation, students in substituting courses are not obligated to take these assessments.

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the test administration windows on the department’s [website](#).

Test Administration Times

The time for administration of the subparts of the ELA EOC’s is outlined in the Table 1.

Table 1: Test Administration Times for English I and II

Assessment	Timing
ELA English I and II	Subpart 1: 85 minutes
	Subpart 2: 50 minutes
	Subpart 3: 95 minutes
	Total: 230 minutes

Testing Structure: English I and II

Table 2 provides the testing structure for English I and II and reflects both the number of operational assessment items and the number of embedded field test assessment items.

Table 2: Testing Structure for English I and II

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3
85 minutes	50 minutes	95 minutes
1 passage set*	2 passage sets*	3 passage sets
3-5 passage-based items	6-11 items per passage set	6-11 items per passage set
1 writing prompt		8-16 editing items

Performance Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Tennessee’s statewide assessments is categorized into four performance levels.

Table 3 provides information regarding student achievement at each performance level for the TCAP ELA tests. This information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

Table 3: Performance Levels

Level 1 (Below)	Level 2 (Approaching)	Level 3 (On-track)	Level 4 (Mastered)
Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a minimal understanding and has a nominal ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student is approaching understanding and has a partial ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a comprehensive understanding and has a thorough ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has an extensive understanding and has an expert ability to apply the grade/course-level knowledge and skills defined by the Tennessee Academic Standards.

Performance level scale score ranges for TCAP ELA assessments are provided in the table below.

Table 4: Performance Levels for the TCAP ELA EOC Scale Scores

Assessment	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
English I	200–306	307–332	333–346	347–450
English II	200–302	303–317	318–333	334–450

Score Point Distribution by Sub-Score Categories

Score point distribution percentage ranges of total score points by sub-score category for each assessment are provided in the table below. Ranges reflect percentage of operational assessment items.

Table 5: Score Point Distribution by Sub-Score Category for English I and II

ELA Assessment	% Range of Total Score Points	Sub-Score Category
English I and II	25-29%	Written Expression
	7-10%	Conventions
	25-30%	Reading: Literature
	25-30%	Reading: Informational
	8-12%	Reading: Vocabulary

Assessment Blueprints

Assessment blueprints are designed to show educators a summary of what will be assessed on each assessment. This resource is designed to help educators as they plan for the upcoming school year. Assessment blueprints for 2019-20 can be found on the department website [here](#).

Test Administration Information

Within the state testing window, testing schedules are established by the district at the school and/or district level. It is at the district's discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule.

Item Types

The TCAP English language arts assessments are administered using both **Selected Response** and **Constructed Response** item types. These item types are used in multiple ways to elicit responses that demonstrate understanding of the Tennessee Academic Standards for ELA.

- **Selected Response** items used for TCAP EOC ELA assessments can include:
 - Multiple choice - These are items with four answer options, only one of which is correct. Two-part multiple choice items contain a part A and a part B and may use either multiple choice or multiple select.
 - Editing task - This item consists of a short passage that contains underlined text about which the student will answer questions. The student may be asked to correct an error or revise for meaning or style. For some of these editing/revision items, the underlined text will not need to be changed, and the correct answer will be "No change." In addition to editing and revision, students may also be asked to demonstrate a skill such as specificity of word choice, use of affixes, or syllabification (depending on grade level).
 - Multiple select - These are items with more than four answer choices with multiple correct responses.
 - This item type requires students to choose the textual evidence in Part B that supports or elaborates on the correct answer in Part A.
- **Constructed Response** items used for TCAP grades EOC ELA assessments include:
 - Written response - Students in English I and II will be asked to write multiple cohesive paragraphs in response to a prompt. The prompt is unique to each passage or passage set. The prompt is aligned to one of three writing standards (9-10.W.TTP.1, 9-10.W.TTP.2, or 9-10.W.TTP.3).

Practice Tests

The department has provided the following practice tools to support educators and students:

- **Paper practice tests:** PDF versions of practice tests are available on the Assessment Design Livebinder ([here](#)).

Additional Information- Please visit the [department's website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.