

TCAP English Language Arts

Grade 2 Optional Assessment Overview

English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the optional English Language Arts assessment in grade 2. The grade 2 assessment is an optional test that districts can choose to administer. The assessment provides valuable data to third grade teachers and is designed to assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through literary passages and informational texts. Students will be required to demonstrate their ability to closely read and analyze text, answer-text dependent questions, provide a written response to two prompts (one aligned to a literary passage, and one aligned to an informational passage), and exhibit their knowledge and understanding of foundational literacy skills.

All items are connected to passages, both literary and informational. Foundational literacy skills will be assessed using words and sentences taken directly from the given passages, as well as sentences about the passages (i.e., related to the events or topic of the passage, though not directly quoted from it).

The ELA assessment for grade 2 is administered in three subparts, the first of which contains two written response items.

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

Test Administration Information

The ELA assessment for grade 2 is administered using a **consumable test booklet** in which students will place all answers. All answers for each possible item type will be submitted by students writing in the test booklet.

Test Administration Schedule

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

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

Test Administration Subpart Timing and Structure

The below testing structure for grade 2 reflects the total of both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Summary
56 minutes	38 minutes	38 minutes	132 minutes
1 informational passage*	3 passages*	3 passages*	44 – 48 items
4-10 passage-based items	4-10 items per passage	4-10 items per passage	
1 writing prompt			
1 literary passage*			
4-10 passage-based items			
1 writing prompt			

*Note: Word counts will range from 100-500 words for Reading passages.

Assessment Blueprints

Assessment Blueprints describe the content and structure of an assessment. The assessment blueprints for TCAP provide expectations of the possible number of items that may appear on a given TCAP assessment by reporting category and standard(s). The assessment blueprints for TCAP can be found in LiveBinder ([here](#)) by selecting the tab for a given content area.

Item Types

The optional English Language Arts assessment for grade 2 is administered using **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.

Selected response items used for the grade 2 optional ELA assessment can include:

- Multiple choice – These are items with four answer choices, only one of which is correct. Multiple choice items are worth one point on ELA assessments.

- Multiple select – These are items with more than four answer choices with multiple correct answers. Multiple select items are worth one point on ELA assessments and students must identify all of the correct answer choices to earn credit.

Constructed Response items use for the grade 2 optional ELA assessment can include:

- Written response – Grade 2 students will experience two writing prompts. One passage and one prompt will be literary, and one will be informational. Once students have independently read the passage and responded to the passage-based items, both the passage and the prompt will be read aloud to students. Students will be asked to write **at least** 3-4 sentences drawing from personal experience and evidence from the passage. The two prompts are aligned to 2.W.RBPK.8. Constructed response items are worth five points each and are scored using the Tennessee writing rubrics, which can be found [here](#).

Additional Information

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

- **SchoolNet** is a TDOE provided formative assessment platform. Resources include released items and various formative assessments across all TCAP-assessed contents and grade levels. There are ready-made assessments as well as item banks for users to access and create custom assessments. SchoolNet can be accessed [here](#).
- **Released Items** are also available in PDF documents on the Assessment Development LiveBinder [here](#).
- **The Assessment Development LiveBinder** houses resources from the TDOE Assessment team. Examples of resources include blueprints, assessment overviews, practice tests, item releases, and anchor papers. The Assessment Development LiveBinder can be found [here](#).
- **TestNav** is the summative assessment platform utilized for administering TCAP assessments. Resources include a TestNav Tutorial and Test Practice Items. TestNav can be found [here](#). Use the directions below for access:
 - Select Tutorials (below the login prompt).
 - Under the desired resource, click Start.
 - Enter your name as “Guest” and select Start.

Please visit the [department’s website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.