TCAP English Language Arts
Grades 3-5 Assessment Overview

English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the English Language Arts grades 3-5 assessments. The grades 3-5 ELA assessments assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through literary and informational texts and require students to demonstrate the ability to closely read and analyze text, answer text-dependent questions, provide a written response to a prompt (two prompts in grade 3), apply knowledge and understanding of foundational literacy skills, and demonstrate command of the English language. Students who are enrolled in a grade 3-5 ELA class must take the assessment.

The ELA TCAP assessments for grades 3-5 are administered in four subparts, the first of which contains a written response question (two written response questions at grade 3).

For more information on TCAP assessments click here.

Test Administration Information

The ELA assessment for **grade 3** 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.

The ELA assessment for **grade 4** and **grade 5** is administered using a **paper-based test booklet and separate answer document**. All answers for each possible item type will be submitted by students writing in their answer document.

Test Administration Schedule

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

Within the state 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 structures for grades 3-5 reflect the total of both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

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Testing Structure for Grade 3

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4	Summary
80 minutes	30 minutes	40 minutes	30 minutes	180 minutes
1 informational passage set*	2 passage sets*	2 passage sets*	2 passage sets*	38 – 58 items
4-10 passage-based items	4-10 items per passage set	4-10 items per passage set	4-10 items per passage set	
1 writing prompt		4-7 editing items		
1 literary passage set*				
4-10 passage-based items				
1 writing prompt				

*A passage set may be comprised of one or more passages. The word count across all passage sets is compatible.

Testing Structure for Grade 4

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4	Summary
80 minutes	30 minutes	40 minutes	30 minutes	180 minutes
1 passage set*	2 passage sets*	2 passage sets*	2 passage sets*	38 – 58 items
3-5 passage-based items	4-10 items per passage set	4-10 items per passage set	4-10 items per passage set	
1 writing prompt		4-7 editing items		

*A passage set may be comprised of one or more passages. The word count across all passage sets is compatible.

Testing Structure for Grade 5

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4	Summary
80 minutes	40 minutes	40 minutes	40 minutes	200 minutes
1 passage set*	2 passage sets*	2 passage sets*	2 passage sets*	38 – 58 items
3-5 passage-based items	5-10 items per passage set	5-10 items per passage set	5-10 items per passage set	
1 writing prompt			4-7 editing items	

*A passage set may be comprised of one or more passages. The word count across all passage sets is compatible.

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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 can be found [here](#).

Item Types

The TCAP English Language Arts assessments for grades 3-5 are 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 for ELA.

Selected Response items used for TCAP grades 3-5 ELA assessments 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.
  - 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 the 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 answers. Multiple select items are worth one point on ELA assessments and students must identify all of the correct answer choices to earn credit.
- Composite – These are items with two parts. Students are asked to respond to Part A and then continue with a Part B question. Part A is always multiple choice and Part B can be either multiple choice or multiple select. Composite items are worth two points on ELA assessments with partial credit only awarded if a student answers Part A correctly.

Constructed Response items used for TCAP grades 3-5 ELA assessments include:

- Written response:
  - **Grade 3:** Grade 3 students will experience two writing prompts. One writing passage and 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 prompt will be read aloud to the students. Students will be asked to write **at least** one cohesive paragraph drawing from personal experiences and evidence from the passage. The two prompts are aligned to 3.W.RBPK.8 and each prompt will specify a mode of writing. Constructed response items are worth eight points each and are scored using the Tennessee writing rubrics which can be found [here](#).

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- **Grade 4:** Students will be asked to write several cohesive paragraphs in response to a prompt. The prompt is unique to each passage or passage set. The prompt is aligned to one of the three writing standards: 4.W.TTP.1, 4.W.TTP.2, or 4.W.TTP.3., and its directions will explicitly indicate which mode students should respond in (e.g., opinion, explanatory, or narrative). Constructed response items are worth 16 points and are scored using the Tennessee writing rubrics which can be found [here](#).
- **Grade 5:** Students 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 the three writing standards: 5.W.TTP.1, 5.W.TTP.2, or 5.W.TTP.3., and its directions will explicitly indicate which mode students should respond in (e.g., opinion, explanatory, or narrative). Constructed response items are worth 16 points 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:

- **SchooNet** 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.

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