

TCAP English Language Arts

Grade 2 Assessment Fact Sheet

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 districts can choose to administer. The assessment provides valuable data to third grade teachers, and is designed to assess in an integrated manner reflective of classroom teaching and the intended instructional design of the ELA academic standards.

The optional grade 2 ELA assessment is administered in four subparts and assesses 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), display their ability to listen and comprehend, and exhibit their knowledge and understanding of foundational literacy skills.

All items (except for fluency) are connected to passages, both literary and informational. Students' 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).

For more information on TCAP assessments in grade 2, click [here](#).

Test Administration Schedule

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

Test Administration Times

The time for administration of the ELA assessment in grade 2 is outlined in table 1.

Table 1: Test Administration Times

Assessment	Timing
ELA Grade 2 (optional assessment)	Subpart 1: 40 minutes
	Subpart 2: 40 minutes
	Subpart 3: 40 minutes

	Subpart 4: 42 minutes
	Total: 162 minutes

Grade 2 ELA Testing Structure

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

Table 2: Testing Structure for Grade 2

Literature		Informational	
Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4
40 minutes 2 Passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-11 Multiple choice items per passage (includes foundational literacy) • 1 Writing prompt 	40 minutes 2 Passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-11 Multiple choice items per passage (includes foundational literacy) • 3-5 Listening sentences • 1 question per sentence • 3-4 Listening passages • 2-3 questions per passage 	40 minutes 2 Passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-11 Multiple choice items per passage (includes foundational literacy) • 1 writing prompt 	42 minutes 2 Fluency items 2 Passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-11 Multiple choice items per passage (includes foundational literacy) • 3-5 Listening sentences • 1 question per sentence • 3-4 Listening passages • 2-3 questions per passage

Note: Word counts will range from 100-500 words for Reading passages and from 75-125 for Listening passages.

Performance Levels and Scale Scores

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

The table below 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.

The table below shows performance level scale score ranges for the grade 2 ELA assessment.

Table 4: Performance Levels for the TCAP ELA Grade 2 Assessment Scale Scores

Assessment	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Grade 2	200–333	334–364	365–385	386–450

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 Grade 2

ELA Assessment	% Range of Total Score Points	Sub-Score Category
Grade 2	13-17%	Reading: Literature
	13-17%	Reading: Informational
	19-24%	Foundational Literacy: Literature
	19-24%	Foundational Literacy: Informational
	8-12%	Listening to Literary Text
	8-12%	Listening to Informational Text
	5%	Writing: Literary Text

	5%	Writing: Informational Text
	5%	Fluency

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. Please see details on subparts for each subject and grade level on the updated testing times chart [here](#).

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 the grade 2 optional ELA assessment can include:
 - Multiple choice - These are items with four answer options, only one of which is correct.
 - Students will experience the multiple choice selection on items assessing comprehension, phonics and word recognition, vocabulary acquisition, word and sentence composition, listening and fluency.
 - Examples of all variations of multiple choice items can be found on the ELA item sampler and the released items documents.
 - Multiple select - These are items with more than four answer choices with multiple correct responses.
- **Constructed Response** items used for the grade 2 optional ELA assessment include:
 - Written response –
 - **Grade 2:** Grade 2 students will experience two writing prompts on the ELA portion of the assessment. One writing passage and prompt will be literary, and one will be informational. Once the students have independently read the passage and responded to the passage based items, both the reading passage and prompt will be read out loud to the students. Students will be asked to write at 3-4 sentences drawing from personal experiences and evidence from the passage. The two prompts are aligned to writing standard 8.

Practice Tools

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

- **ELA Item Sampler:** PDF versions of an ELA item sampler are available on the Assessment Design Livebinder ([here](#)).
- **Released Items:** PDF versions of released items are available on the Assessment Design Livebinder ([here](#)).

Additional Information

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