

Assessment Overview

3-8 ELA Testing Guides 2016

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Testing Times

*Students may read when they're done (at the discretion of the school)

	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Book 1	*Big Change for this year: As long as students are productively working they will be allowed as much time as they need to complete the ELA and Mathematics tests. NYSED will release guidance to schools on how to implement this new testing policy. On average, students in Grades 3 and 4 will likely need approximately 60–70 minutes of working time to complete each test session. For Grades 5-8, most students will need approximately 80–90 minutes of working time to complete each test session.					
Book 2						
Book 3						
Total/Day						

Passages

*Authentic passages: books, newspapers, magazines, etc.

*Will require close reading and analysis of text

*3 types of texts: literary texts, informational texts, multiple texts (paired by theme, genre, tone, time period, or other characteristics)

	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Lexiles	420-820	740-1010	740-1010	925-1185	925-1185	925-1185
Length (in words)	500-600	600-700	700-800	750-850	800-900	900-1000
Literary	3-7	3-7	3-8	3-7	2-7	2-8
Informational	3-7	3-7	3-8	6-8	6-9	3-10
Total # Passages	10	10	11	11	11	11

*for 2016, note that number of passages has decreased by 1 per grade level.

Focus Standards/Areas

Reading Literature: 1-9 / Reading Informational Text: 1-9 (Emphasis on Standards 1-3)

Language: 1-4, 6

Writing: 2, 9

Emphasis on the 6 shifts and CCR capacities, particularly shifts #4 and #5

Test Format

	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Multiple Choice	31	31	42	42	42	42
Short-Response	7	7	7	7	7	7
Extended-Response	2	2	2	2	2	2

Additional Important Information:

*** The testing guide shares that while NYS teachers reviewed and selected questions for this year's test, test questions written by NYS teachers will be field tested in 2017 and will contribute to students' scores in Spring 2018.**

***This Skeletal Framework is being shared for the sake of convenience, though 3-8 teachers will still need to access their grade level's Teacher's Directions which include additional information about security, materials, proctoring, accommodations, and directions to be read on the days of the test.**

Multiple Choice Questions

- based on close reading of text
- assess reading and language standards
 - o up to 65% key ideas and details (6-8 = 60%)
 - o up to 35% craft and structure (6-8 = 40%)
 - o up to 30% integration of knowledge and ideas (6-8 = 40%)
- analyze aspects of a text
 - o central idea
 - o style elements
 - o character
 - o plot development
- analyze vocabulary
- combine skills (multistep problems)
- negotiate distractors

Short-Response Questions

- based on close reading of text
- assess reading and language standards
- make a claim/take a position/draw a conclusion

- support with 2 pieces of text-based evidence
- should take no more than 3 complete sentences for response (though 3 sentences is not a mandate)
- 2-point rubric

Extended-Response Questions

- based on close reading of text
- based on informative writing (standard 2)
- assess writing from sources and writing standards
- analysis of individual texts
- analysis of paired texts
- express a position
- support position with text-based details
- synthesize ideas between paired texts
- draw evidence from both of the paired texts
- coherent essay
- 4 point rubric

To Do List:

- Ensure that currently taught curriculum is deeply aligned to Focus Standards
- Ensure that writing rubrics are being used in classroom instruction
- Look for evidence of the instructional shifts
- Have transparent discussions about professional practices around analytical reading: questions, evidence, vocabulary, inference, critical thinking, in-text citations and graphics, engagement, etc.
- Practice endurance and stamina with reading
- Provide many opportunities for sustained independent reading at an instructional level