

Friday Focus- ELA Update

Release of Spring 2018 Test Items

A partial release of items from the spring 2018 Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts is now available in the [Ohio's State Test portal](#). These items give educators insight into the kinds of questions students experienced, and they are a useful tool to inform classroom instruction. Both teachers and parents may use this resource to help students know what to expect on the state tests.

Included with each item in this release are the associated learning standard(s) and scoring rubrics. Examples of student responses also are available to illustrate actual work and the corresponding points earned on the student examples.

- [Grade 3 Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 4 Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 5 Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 6 Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 7 Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 8 Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
- [ELA I Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
- [ELA II Item Release Scoring Guide](#)
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Test Specifications Now Available

The English Language Arts Test Specifications provide an overview of the structure and content of Ohio's State Test. This overview includes a description of the test design as well as information on the types of items that will appear on the tests. Also included is a test blueprint, which is a document that identifies the range and distribution of points grouped into various reporting categories (e.g., Reading Literary Text, Reading Informational Text, Writing). The specifications also provide specific guidelines for the development of all items used for Ohio's English Language Arts tests.

These documents are a resource for item writers, test designers, Ohio educators, and other stakeholders who are interested in a deeper understanding of the tests.

- [Grade 3 Test Specifications](#)
- [Grade 4 Test Specifications](#)
- [Grade 5 Test Specifications](#)
- [Grade 6 Test Specifications](#)
- [Grade 7 Test Specifications](#)
- [Grade 8 Test Specifications](#)
- [High School ELA Test Specifications](#)

Updated Test Blueprints

The test blueprints for Ohio's State Tests for English Language Arts have been updated to reflect the 2017 Ohio Learning Standards for English Language Arts. Test blueprints serve as a guide for test construction and provide an outline of the content and skills to be measured on the tests. They contain information about individual tests, including the number of points on the test and how the learning standards are grouped in order to report the test results. All standards identified on the blueprint are eligible to appear on a test and should be taught during instruction.

- [Grade 3 Blueprint](#)
- [Grade 4 Blueprint](#)
- [Grade 5 Blueprint](#)
- [Grade 6 Blueprint](#)
- [Grade 7 Blueprint](#)
- [Grade 8 Blueprint](#)
- [High School ELA Blueprint](#)

Updated Practice Tests

The half-length [practice tests](#) have been updated to reflect the 2017 Ohio Learning Standards for English Language Arts. Updated half-length practice tests are available for each of the state tests. Practice test items and writing samples allow students to become familiar with the online test environment by showcasing the different item types, features, and functionality available to students during online testing. A scoring rubric is available in the Item Release Scoring Guide for each set of these practice items.

Teachers can review released test items and student writing samples to evaluate the level of reading comprehension and writing skills needed for students to be considered proficient. This analysis can help teachers examine their local curriculum to determine if their instruction is providing students enough opportunities to take their reading comprehension and writing skills to a deeper level.



Updated Practice Test Scoring Guides

The Practice Test Scoring Guides have been updated to reflect the 2017 Ohio Learning Standards for English Language Arts. The Practice Test Scoring Guides provide answer keys and scoring guidance for each of the Ohio State Tests for English Language Arts. They include the item type, the content standard and content statement assessed, an answer key, and the number of points associated with each item. They also include the guidelines for scoring (i.e., scoring rubrics), sample responses and notes on scoring and rationales that describe why response options are correct or incorrect.

- [Grade 3 Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 4 Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 5 Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 6 Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 7 Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)
- [Grade 8 Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)
- [ELA I Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)
- [ELA II Practice Test Scoring Guide](#)

Updated Writing Rubrics

The writing rubrics for grades 3-5 remain the same as previous school years. The writing rubrics for grades 6-12 have been updated to reflect the 2017 Ohio Learning Standards for English Language Arts.

- [Grades 3-5 Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric \(unchanged\)](#)
- [Grades 3-5 Opinion Writing Rubric \(unchanged\)](#)
- [Grades 6-12 Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric](#)
- [Grades 6-12 Argumentation Writing Rubric](#)

Updated Performance Level Descriptors

The Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) have been updated to reflect the 2017 Ohio Learning Standards for English Language Arts. The PLDs are the link between Ohio's Learning Standards and performance standards. They were developed by Ohio educators and other content experts to illustrate the typical demonstration of the learning for each of the five performance levels: Limited, Basic, Proficient, Accelerated and Advanced. Teachers can review the PLDs for each grade level or subject to match each descriptive statement with its course standards. Teachers can then review local curriculum materials to see if opportunities are being given to students to demonstrate deeper conceptual understanding of course content at the different performance levels.

- [Grade 3 Performance Level Descriptors](#)
- [Grade 4 Performance Level Descriptors](#)
- [Grade 5 Performance Level Descriptors](#)
- [Grade 6 Performance Level Descriptors](#)
- [Grade 7 Performance Level Descriptors](#)
- [Grade 8 Performance Level Descriptors](#)
- [ELA I and II Performance Level Descriptors](#)

