Reading Assessment
Updates for 2012

Measurements of Student Progress

Reading

Grades 6-8

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Purpose: To provide information on changes for 2012, to draw attention to reading assessment materials for classroom use and to call attention to new materials available for educators.

2012 Testing

The 2012 grades 3-HS reading assessments will mirror the 2011 assessment. Each grade level assessment includes a balance of literary and informational passages along with stand-alone items. Passages and items are based on the reading Strands and Targets directly related to *Washington State's Essential Academic Learning Requirements* published in 2004 which can be accessed in the resources section toward the end of this document. All grade levels experience a one-day, untimed, testing session.

2012 Testing Window

- Online: April 25—June 4, 2012
- Paper/Pencil: April 27— May 18, 2012

Upcoming Resources

Two resources that reflect information gathered from 2011 scoring will be available in late Fall 2011. The *2011 Lessons Learned* document features common student responses as a way to help both teachers and students understand scoring. The document offers tips and explanations based on examples of students who earn full credit compared with students who did not. A second resource, The Teacher Resource Tool, allows educators to view descriptions of each item (the term *item* is used synonymously with question) students saw on the 2011 spring assessment.

Online Testing

We received positive feedback for online testing in 2011. About 20% of students participated for the first time online in fourth and fifth grade. About 40% of 6-8 students participated in online testing in its second year online. A student survey showed that 82% percent of students who took the online assessment preferred this format to the paper/pencil version.

Online testing in Washington began in spring 2010. At that time, the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) were offered online for grades 6-8 in reading and math. In spring 2011, reading and math were added for grades 4 and 5, and science for grades 5 and 8. This coming spring, 2012, students in grade 3 will also be able to take reading and math via computer.

Washington has joined a growing number of states that have moved to online testing. By spring 2012, it's expected a majority of students in grades 4-8 will take the MSP online instead of the traditional paper/pencil format.

A **Student Demo** for the online MSP reading will be posted on the state's online-testing website early in 2012. The Student Demo allows students to view a demonstration of the testing software. The Demo can also be shared with parents and other interested community members.

The Online Tools Training (OTT) will also be posted January 2012. This tutorial differs from the Student Demo in that it allows students to practice with the testing software; including navigating through the test, practice using all tools available and typing responses to completion and short-answer items. The testing software must be loaded on the computer before using the OTT. Student responses from the tutorial are not saved or recorded. Reading passages and items on the tutorial are from our released and sample materials.

More information about online testing in Washington can be found at:
http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/OnlineTestingTemp.aspx

Test Characteristics

Number of Items and Points per Assessment Reading -- 2012			
Item Type	Grade 6 MSP	Grade 7 MSP	Grade 8 MSP
Multiple-Choice and Completion (1pt items)	30	30	30
Short Answer (2 pt items)	5	5	5
Total Items	**35**	**35**	**35**
Total Score Points	**40**	**40**	**40**
Pilot Items (not included in student scores)	*6*	*6*	*6*

Item Types Defined				
	Multiple-Choice (MC)	**Completion (CP)**	**Short Answer (SA)**	**Stand-Alone (ST)**
Point Value	1	1	2	1
Distinguishing Feature(s)	Students select their answer from among four choices; one correct choice and three distractors.	Students write or type a word or a short phrase on a line, in a box or in a graphic organizer.	Students write their answer on a 9-line answer space, or type their answer in a text box.	Students answer either MC or CP using text not connected to a passage.

Strands and Targets
Grades 6 - High School

Targets may be assessed using literary passages, informational passage or functional documents.

Strand **Comprehension** 4 Targets	**01**	**Demonstrate understanding of theme/message/main idea and supporting details** (Reading GLE 2.1.3)
	02	**Summarize with evidence from the text** (Reading GLE 2.1.7)
	03	**Make or confirm inferences or predictions based on the text** (Reading GLE 2.1.5)
	04	**Understand and apply content vocabulary critical to the meaning of the text** (Reading GLE 1.3.2)
Strand **Analysis** 4 Targets	**05**	**Literary Specific: Demonstrate understanding of authors' use of literary elements (character, setting, plot, genre, etc.) and literary devices (simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, etc.)** (Reading GLEs 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.3.3) **Informational/Functional Specific: Demonstrate understanding of authors' use of text features (titles, headings, captions, maps, charts, tables, graphs, pull-down menus, etc.)** (Reading GLE 2.2.2)
	06	**Compare and contrast using elements of the text(s)** (Reading GLEs 2.3.1, 2.4.6)
	07	**Make connections (cause and effect) within a text** (Reading GLE 2.3.1)
	08	**Analyze usefulness of resources** (Reading GLEs 2.3.2, 3.1.1)
Strand **Critical Thinking** 3 Targets	**09**	**Analyze author's purpose and evaluate effectiveness for different audiences (includes fact/opinion; author's point of view, tone, and use of persuasive devices)** (Reading GLEs 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4)
	10	**Evaluate reasoning and ideas/themes to draw conclusions and develop insights related to the text** (Reading GLEs 2.4.1, 2.4.5)
	11	**Extend information beyond text, (make generalizations beyond the text to a broader idea or concept, or apply information to other texts and situations, and support the generalization with details from the text)** (Reading GLEs 2.4.1, 2.4.5)

Functional Documents Include:
Hobby Magazines, E-mail
Friendly Letters, Letters to the Editor
Newsletters, Schedules
Brochures, Advertisements,
Catalogs, Web Sites, Credit and
Job Applications
Purchased goods and services
Contracts, Procedures, Directions

Informational Passages Include:
Historical Documents
Nonfiction Magazines
Newspaper Articles
Excerpts or Articles from Social
Studies
Or Science Narratives

Literary Passages Include:
Stories
Poems
Novel Excerpts
Biographies,
Autobiographies
Literary Essays

2011 Sample Materials

The Sample passages and items in the sample materials provide teachers and students the opportunity to become familiar with the types of passages, reading material and items they will experience on the assessment. Included with these materials are scoring guidelines for format and scoring of the four item types on the assessment. Sample materials for 2012 include one new passage per grade level.

The sample passages and items have been through every step of the development and review cycle. Every passage and item has passed our quality checks and was eligible to be used on a future test. OSPI chooses to release these materials to assist classroom teachers and their students.

There are two sample forms for each grade level passage: Teacher Edition and Student Edition

The Teacher Edition includes passages, items and an answer key.
The answer key provides:
- Item Type (MC, CP, SA)
- Strand and Target
- Correct answer for multiple-choice items
- Rubrics and annotated student examples for short answer and completion items.

The Student Edition includes only the passages and items.

Sample and Released Materials **Grade 6**
Sample and Released Materials **Grade 7**
Sample and Released Materials **Grade 8**

New! Moodle Materials

The reading assessment team has created a new, interactive site for educators. Along with our regular reading sample materials, additional reading passages and items have been uploaded to the Reading Assessment Moodle site. These passages and items were reviewed and written by committees of Washington State educators but were never piloted with students therefore there are no student examples. The Moodle site provides a platform for teachers to upload their own classroom examples of student responses to share with other educators. Teachers can also submit new items for the posted passage to build a broader bank of items for teachers across the state to use. A chat forum is available for teachers to share ideas and lessons used in the classroom that they have found to be successful with students. We are preparing this site, so please check the main page for updates.

Reading Assessment Resources

Our website contains a multitude of classroom resources.
http://www.k12.wa.us/Reading/Assessment/default.aspx

- Sample and Released Materials from 2006*-2011 can be accessed by a drop down menu specific to each grade level. PowerPoint presentations to use with students accompany each form.

- Teacher access to item templates, generic rubrics, reading vocabulary and a Strands and Targets document.

- Committee application for teacher involvement in test development.

Test and Item Specifications
http://www.k12.wa.us/Reading/Assessment/pubdocs/WashingtonStateReadingTestandItemSpecs2011.pdf

Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements
http://standards.ospi.k12.wa.us/

Reading Assessment Contacts

Beth Simpson
Reading Assessment Specialist- Elementary
Beth.Simpson@k12.wa.us
360-725-6442

Cindy Knisely
Reading Assessment Specialist- Secondary
Cynthia.Knisely@k12.wa.us
360-725-6113

Terese Otto
Reading Assessment Administrative Assistant
Terese.Otto@k12.wa.us
360-725-6414

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