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PURPOSE

This document is designed to assist Louisiana educators in understanding the LEAP 2025 English Language Arts (ELA) assessment for grade 8, which will be administered in the spring.

INTRODUCTION

All students in grades 3–8 will take the LEAP 2025 ELA and mathematics assessments, which offer the following:

- Consistency with the rigor and types of questions used in previous Louisiana assessments
- Measurement of the Louisiana Student Standards in [ELA](#) and [mathematics](#)
- Ability to measure the full range of student performance, including the performance of high- and low-performing students
- Information for educators and parents about student readiness in ELA and mathematics and whether students are “on track” for college and careers
- Comparison of Louisiana student performance with the performance of students in other states

ELA REPORTING CATEGORIES

Student performance on the LEAP 2025 ELA assessments will be reported by claim and sub-claim as outlined in the following table.

Claim	Sub-Claim	Sub-Claim Description
Reading	Reading Literary Text	Students read and demonstrate comprehension of grade-level fiction, drama, and poetry.
	Reading Informational Text	Students read and demonstrate comprehension of grade-level non-fiction, including texts about history, science, art, and music.
	Reading Vocabulary	Students use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases in grade-level texts.
Writing	Written Expression	Students compose well-developed, organized, and clear writing, using details from provided texts.
	Knowledge and Use of Language Conventions	Students compose writing that correctly uses the rules of standard English (including those for grammar, mechanics, and usage).

These reporting categories provide parents and educators valuable information about

- overall student performance, including readiness to continue further studies in English language arts;
- student performance broken down by subcategories, which may help identify when students need additional support or more challenging work in reading and writing; and
- how well schools and districts are helping students achieve higher expectations.

ELA ASSESSMENT DESIGN

The LEAP 2025 ELA Assessments focus on an integrated approach to reading and writing that reflects instruction in an effective ELA classroom:

- careful, close reading of complex grade-level literary and informational texts
- a full range of texts from across the disciplines, including science, social studies, and the arts
- tasks that integrate key ELA skills by asking students to read text(s), answer reading and vocabulary questions about the text(s), and then write using evidence from what they have read
- questions worth answering, ordered in a way that builds meaning
- a focus on students citing evidence from texts when answering questions about a specific passage or when writing about a set of related passages
- a focus on words that matter most in texts, that are essential to understanding a particular text, and that include context that allows a student to determine literal and figurative meanings

All students will take the Research Simulation Task. The other task will be **either** the Literary Analysis Task **or** the Narrative Writing Task. At grades 4 through 8, an additional passage set with one text or a pair of related texts will come after the Literary Analysis or Narrative Writing task. The additional set may be literary or informational and is included to balance the reading load across the test and to maintain consistent timing in sessions 1 and 2.

The tasks are described below.

- **Research Simulation Task**— mirrors the research process by presenting three texts on a given topic. Students answer a set of selected-response questions about the texts and then write an extended response about some aspect of the related texts (e.g., point of view/purpose, evaluate argument/claims, relationship of ideas, primary and secondary sources).
- **Literary Analysis Task**—provides students an opportunity to show their understanding of literature. It asks students to read two literary texts, answer a set of selected-response questions about the texts, and write an extended response that compares and/or explains key ideas or elements in the texts (e.g., differences in points of view of characters; effect of dialogue or events in passages; analysis of themes, structure).
- **Narrative Writing Task**— asks students to read a literary text, answer a set of selected-response questions about the text, and then create a narrative related to the text (e.g., finish the story; retell the story in another narrative form, such as a journal entry). Students should make sure that they create narrative, not expository, responses.

Session 1 consists of **either** the Literary Analysis Task and one additional passage set **or** the Research Simulation Task, administered by itself.

Session 2 consists of **either** the Research Simulation Task, administered by itself, **or** the Narrative Writing Task and an additional passage set with a pair of related texts.

Session 3, Reading Literary and Informational Texts, asks students to read texts and answer questions to show their understanding of each text. The reading selections may include fiction (e.g., short stories, novel excerpts, poems) and non-fiction (e.g., informational texts from across the disciplines of science, history, and the arts). Students will answer only selected-response questions about each text. No writing is included in this session.

The table on the next page outlines the two possible designs of the Grade 8 ELA Assessment. The first part of the table shows the test design when the Literary Analysis Task is administered, while the second part of the table shows the test design when the Narrative Writing Task is administered.

Grade 8 ELA Test Design—Literary Analysis Task (LAT) Administered

Test Session	Focus of Session	Number of Passages	Number/Type of Items	Assessable ELA Student Standards (by sub-claim)
Session 1	Literary Analysis Task (LAT) and Reading Passage Set	3	5 SR and 1 PCR 4 SR	RL standards; vocabulary standards RL.4, L.4-5; writing standards W.1–2, 4, 9–10; language conventions standards L.1-2, plus language skills from previous grades
Session 2	Research Simulation Task (RST)	3	7 SR and 1 PCR	RI standards; vocabulary standards RI.4, L.4–5; writing standards W.1–2, 4, 7–10; language conventions standards L.1–2, plus language skills from previous grades
Session 3	Reading Literature and Informational Texts	3	12 SR	RL and RI standards and vocabulary standards RL/RI.4, L. 4, and L.5

OR

Grade 8 ELA Test Design—Narrative Writing Task (NAT) Administered

Test Session	Focus of Session	Number of Passages	Number/Type of Items	Assessable ELA Student Standards (by sub-claim)
Session 1	Research Simulation Task (RST)	3	7 SR and 1 PCR	RI standards; vocabulary standards RI.4, L.4–5; writing standards W.1–2, 4, 7–10; language conventions standards L.1–2, plus language skills from previous grades
Session 2	Narrative Writing Task (NWT) and Reading set with paired texts	3	4 SR and 1 PCR 6 SR	RL standards; vocabulary standards RL.4, L.4-5; writing standards W.3 and 4; language conventions standards L.1-2, plus language skills from previous grades
Session 3	Reading Literature and Informational Texts	3	14 SR	RL and RI standards and vocabulary standards RL/RI.4, L.4, and L.5

SR: Selected Response Items—students select answers; includes two-part items ([EBSR](#)), [multiple-select](#) items, which require students to choose more than one correct answer, and [technology-enhanced](#) items

PCR: Prose Constructed Response—requires an extended written response

RL: Reading Literature; **W:** Writing; **L:** Language; **RI:** Reading Informational Text

TEST ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

Administration Schedule

The LEAP 2025 ELA, mathematics, and social studies assessments will be administered during **one** testing window and will be available to districts as computer-based tests (CBT) for grade 8. The table below lists just one example CBT administration session order for grade 8, followed by the policies and recommendations for the spring ELA, mathematics, and social studies online assessments. Examples of testing schedules can be found [here](#).

Computer-Based Test Administration: Grade 8		
Test Window: April 3, 2017 – May 5, 2017		
English Language Arts	Session 1: Literary Analysis Task + 1 passage set OR Research Simulation Task	90 minutes
Mathematics	Session 1	75 minutes
English Language Arts	Session 2: Research Simulation Task OR Narrative Writing Task + 1 paired passage set	90 minutes
Mathematics	Session 2	75 minutes
English Language Arts	Session 3: Reading Literary and Informational Texts	70 minutes
Mathematics	Session 3	75 minutes
Social Studies	Session 1: Item Sets	90 minutes
Social Studies	Session 2: Task Set	45 minutes
Social Studies	Session 3: Item Sets and Discrete Items	90 minutes

Computer-based testing allows districts some flexibility in scheduling. However, to reduce incidences of testing irregularities, districts must adhere to the following scheduling and administration practices:

- Testing students in the same grade level across the district at or very close to the same time
- Completing makeup testing for students immediately upon their return
- Limiting student interaction during breaks between test sessions
- Isolating students who have not completed testing for the day (e.g., students with extended time accommodation)
- Preventing interaction between groups of students taking the same tests at different times within a testing day
- Requiring the completion of a session once it is opened (i.e., limiting the reopening of test sessions)
- Taking the sessions within a content area in the correct order (e.g., ELA Session 1 taken before ELA Session 2)

We also recommend

- limiting sessions to no more than three in one day for a student; and
- administering no more than one session that includes an extended-response task or writing prompt (i.e., Social Studies Session 2, ELA Session 1, and ELA Session 2) in a day to an individual student.

The LEAP 2025 ELA, mathematics, and social studies tests are **strictly timed** and no additional time is permitted, except for students who have a documented extended time accommodation (e.g., an IEP).

The LEAP science assessment will only be available to districts as paper-based tests (PBT). The table below lists the PBT administration schedule for the spring science assessments. Although the LEAP science test is not timed, suggested times are included.

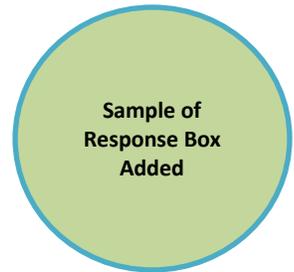
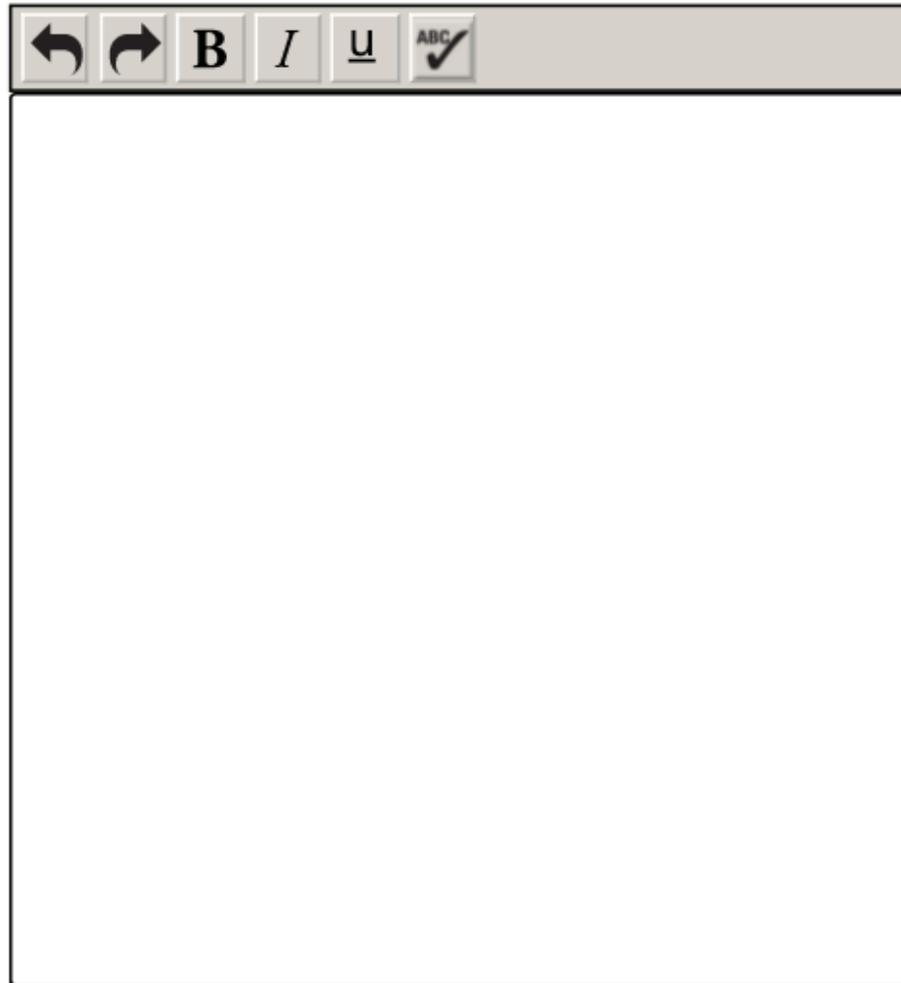
Paper-Based Test Administration Schedule: Grade 8 Science

Testing Date: May 5, 2017		
May 5	Science Session 1: Multiple-Choice	Suggested time: 60 minutes
	Science Session 2: Short Answer	Suggested time: 30 minutes
	Science Session 3: Task	Suggested time: 30 minutes

Computer-Based Tests

Students taking the computer-based tests will enter their answers into the online testing system. The way each answer is entered depends on the item type. For example, for an EBSR item with one correct answer in each part, a student will click on the circle next to the correct answer in Part A and in Part B.

When responding to a PCR, students will type their essays into a response box, like the one shown below.



The toolbar at the top of the response box allows students to undo or redo an action; add boldface, italics, or underlining to their response; and check the spelling of words in their response.

The computer-based tests include the following online tools, which allow a student to select answer choices, “mark” items, eliminate answer options, take notes, enlarge the item, and guide the reading of a text or an item line by line. A help tool is also featured to assist students as they use the online system.

- Pointer tool 
- Highlighter tool 
- Cross-Off tool 
- Sticky Note tool 
- Magnifying tool 
- Line Guide 
- Help tool 

All students taking the computer-based tests should work through the Online Tools Training (available in INSIGHT or [here](#) using the Chrome browser) to practice using the online tools so they are well prepared to navigate the online testing system.

Permitted Testing Materials

Students will be permitted to have school-issued scratch paper only, which can be used to help students prepare their written responses.

Students will **not** be allowed to use dictionaries and thesauruses on any part of the test. Because the ELA tests integrate reading and writing, the use of a dictionary or thesaurus would compromise the measurement of many reading standards. For example, a student would be able to look up key vocabulary words or other words essential to measuring a student’s understanding of a text. Definitions will be provided as footnotes for words that are important to understanding the text but do not have sufficient context. The scoring of the written responses takes into account the absence of such resources and the time constraints of each task.

For more information about accessibility features and accommodations, please refer to the [Accessibility and Accommodations Overview](#).

ELA ITEM TYPES

The grade 8 ELA assessment includes the following types of items:

- 1) **Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR):** This item type consists of two parts for students to A) show their understanding of a text and B) provide evidence that supports their understanding. The EBSR items are worth two points, and students can earn partial credit (1 point). However, they must answer correctly the part that aligns to a specific standard and not only the part that asks for evidence. This means that if part A asks students to demonstrate their understanding of theme and part B asks for evidence of that theme, students must answer part A correctly to receive any credit; they cannot receive partial credit for answering only part B correctly.
- 2) **Multiple Select (MS):** This item type asks students to choose more than one correct answer and may appear as a one-part question or as an EBSR item. Whenever this item type is used, the question always identifies in boldface print the number of correct answers required. The MS items are worth two points, and students can earn partial credit (1 point) if they get one of two correct answers or two of three correct answers in a one-part MS item or in part A, if the MS item is an EBSR.
- 3) **Technology Enhanced (TE):** This item type appears only on the computer-based test and uses technology to capture student comprehension of texts. Each TE item is worth two points, which means students can earn partial credit. The updated Online Tools Training will allow students to practice answering the different kinds of TE questions to prepare for the computer-based test.
- 4) **Prose Constructed Response (PCR):** This item type appears at the end of each of the two tasks and asks students to create an extended and complete written response. It elicits evidence that students have understood a text or texts they have read and can communicate that understanding well, both in terms of written expression and knowledge of language and conventions.

There are two [grade 8 rubrics](#) used to score the PCR— one to score student responses to the Literary Analysis Task (LAT) and the Research Simulation Task (RST) and one to score student responses to the Narrative Writing Task (NWT). The table that follows summarizes the scoring of the grade 8 tasks.

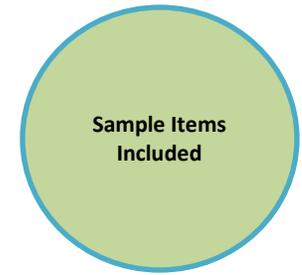
Scoring of Grade 8 Tasks				
Task	Dimensions	Points by Dimension	Total Points	Rubric
Literary Analysis	Reading Comprehension and Written Expression*	16 points (4 times holistic score)	19	LAT/RST Rubric
	Conventions	3 points		
Research Simulation	Reading Comprehension and Written Expression*	16 points (4 times holistic score)	19	LAT/RST Rubric
	Conventions	3 points		
Narrative Writing	Written Expression	12 points (3 times holistic score)	15	NWT Rubric
	Conventions	3 points		

* When scoring the Reading Comprehension and Written Expression dimension, the holistic score (4, 3, 2, 1, 0) is determined, based on which score point best describes that response. That holistic score is multiplied by 4. This means that if a student receives a 2 for Reading Comprehension and Written Expression, the student will receive a score of 8 for this dimension. This score is then added to the Conventions score to provide the total score for the RST and the LAT.

SAMPLE TEST ITEMS

This section includes samples of the following item types: an Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR), a Technology-Enhanced (TE) item, a Multiple-Select (MS) item, and a Prose Constructed Response (PCR).

Information associated with the sample items (i.e., answer keys/rubric and standards alignment) is located in the [Appendix](#). The sample items, and the passages associated with them, will also be included in the updated LEAP OTT (*available Winter*).



Evidence-Based Selected-Response Item

Today you will analyze a passage from *Oliver Twist* and a passage from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. As you read these texts, you will gather information and answer questions about the effect of dialogue or events so you can write an essay.

Read the passage from *Oliver Twist*. Then answer the questions.

from *Oliver Twist*

by Charles Dickens

1 The room in which the boys were fed, was a large stone hall, with a copper at one end: out of which the master, dressed in an apron for the purpose, and assisted by one or two women, ladled the gruel at meal-times. Of this festive composition each boy had one porringer, and no more—except on occasions of great public rejoicing, when he had two ounces and a quarter of bread besides. The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons till they shone again; and when they had performed this operation (which never took very long, the spoons being nearly as large as the bowls), they would sit staring at the copper, with such eager eyes, as if they could have devoured the very bricks of which it was composed, employing themselves, meanwhile, in sucking their fingers most assiduously, with the view of catching up any stray splashes of gruel that might have been cast thereon. Boys have generally excellent appetites. Oliver Twist and his

Part A

How does the word **festive** in paragraph 1 affect the meaning of the paragraph?

- (a) by adding sarcasm to show the poor quality of the meal being served
- (b) by creating imagery of the elaborate meal that is about to be served
- (c) by providing a description of a special celebration
- (d) by comparing an elaborate holiday meal with a typical meal

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Part B

Which phrase from paragraph 1 supports the answer to Part A?

- (a) “The room in which the boys were fed, was a large stone hall. . . .”
- (b) “. . . the master, dressed in an apron for the purpose, and assisted by one or two women”
- (c) “. . . each boy had one porringer, and no more. . . .”
- (d) “. . . except on occasions of great public rejoicing”

Technology-Enhanced Item (on computer-based test only)

Read the article “Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking.” Then answer the questions that follow.

Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking



Which events can be caused when magma rises to Earth’s surface and pushes two more plates apart?

Select **three** phrases from paragraphs 7 and 8 and drag them into the boxes labeled Effects.



Cause: Magma raises and pushes plates apart.

Effects

Mountains and volcanoes rise
The process renews the ocean floor
mid-ocean ridge system connects the world's oceans
giant troughs such as the Great Rift Valley in Africa form
eastern Africa will split from the continent to form a new landmass
A mid-ocean ridge would then mark the boundary between the plates

Click To Respond

Enlarged Graphic from the Technology-Enhanced Item Sample

Read the article "Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking." Then answer the questions that follow.

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A mid-ocean ridge would then mark the boundary between the plates

Multiple-Select Item

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Part A

In paragraph 1, why does the author describe the boy who **was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy who slept next to him**?

- (a) to show how the adults in charge at the institution treated the boys
- (b) to provide details that develop a major character in the passage
- (c) to illustrate how the boys are affected by the conditions at the institution
- (d) to offer an example of the way the boys govern themselves in the passage

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Part B

Which **two** phrases offer additional support for the answer to Part A?

- (a) “. . . suffered the tortures of slow starvation . . .” (paragraph 1)
- (b) “. . . one boy, who was tall for his age, and hadn’t been used to that sort of thing . . .” (paragraph 1)
- (c) “A council was held; lots were cast. . . .” (paragraph 1)
- (d) “The master, in his cook’s uniform, stationed himself at the copper. . . .” (paragraph 2)
- (e) “. . . he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery.” (paragraph 2)
- (f) “The assistants were paralysed with wonder. . . .” (paragraph 4)

Prose Constructed-Response Item

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Both Charles Dickens and James Joyce incorporate dialogue into their passages.

Use evidence you have gathered from **both** passages to write an essay analyzing how the dialogue in **each** passage functions to reveal aspects of the characters. You should discuss **more than one** character from **each** passage.

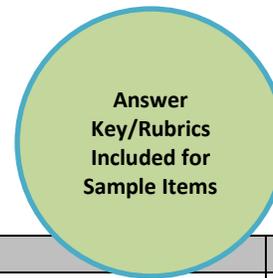
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RESOURCES

- Online Tools Training: (*Available now, updated-version available Winter*) provides students and teachers opportunities to become familiar with the tools available in the online testing platform; spring 2016 version currently available in INSIGHT or [here](#) using the Chrome browser
- LEAP 2025 Grade 8 Practice Test and Scoring Guide (*Available Winter*): offers a computer-based grade-level practice test to help prepare students for the spring assessments; the online practice test accessed through INSIGHT
- LEAP 2025 ELA Practice Test Guidance: (*Available Winter*) provides guidance on how grades 3-8 teachers might better use the ELA practice tests to support their instructional goals
- Guide to Administering the Online Practice Tests (*Available Winter*): provides information regarding the administration and scoring process needed for the online practice tests
- [Accessibility and Accommodations Overview](#): (*Updated version available Winter*) provides an overview of Louisiana’s accessibility features and accommodations for grades 3–8 spring 2017 testing
- [ELA Guidebooks 2.0](#): a whole-class curriculum made by teachers for teachers and focused on real learning grounded in a collection of texts
- [Grades 6-8 Teacher Library](#): provides links to grade-specific resources, such as the standards, shared teacher resources, and instructional plans
- [EAGLE Sample Test Items](#): provides teachers a bank of questions that can be used for instructional and assessment purposes

APPENDIX

Answer Key/Rubric and Alignment Information for Sample Items



Item Type	Answer Keys/Rubric	Alignment
Evidence-Based Selected-Response Item	Part A: A Part B: C	RL.8.4, RL.8.1
Technology-Enhanced Item	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Effects</u></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">Mountains and volcanoes rise</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">The process renews the ocean floor</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">giant troughs such as the Great Rift Valley in Africa form</div>	RI.8.2, RI.8.3, RI.8.1
Multiple-Select Item	Part A: C Part B: A and E	RL.8.3, RL.8.1
Prose Constructed-Response Item	Literary Analysis Task Rubric	RL.8.3, RL.8.1; W.8.2, W.8.4, W.8.9; L.8.1, L.8.2