

PSSA English Language Arts Test Design

The PSSA English Language Arts test plan shown in the following table is organized by grade and broken down between Multiple-Choice (MC), Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR), Short Answer (SA) [G3 only], Writing Prompts (WP), and Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) [G4-8 only]. Core items are also distinguished from items that serve the role of psychometric use and field test (FT). The following tables summarize the ELA test design.

Standard Operational ELA High-Level Test Plan per Form from 2015 Onward

Grade	Selected Response							Constructed Response					Total Core Items	Total Core Points (Raw)	Total Core Points (Weighted)
	Passage-Based Multiple Choice (MC)			Stand Alone MC		Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR)		Passage-Based Short-Answer (SA)		Prompt (WP)	Text Dependent Analysis (TDA)				
	Core	Psychometric Use*	Embedded FT	Core	Psychometric Use*	Core	Embedded FT	Core	Embedded FT	Core**	Core**	Embedded FT			
3	20 (4 pass.)	6 (1 pass.)	8 (1 pass.)	18	2	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	42 SR 3 CR	58	62
4	23 (4 pass.)	6 (1 pass.)	8 (1 pass.)	18	2	6	2	0	0	1	1	1	47 SR 2 CR	64	84
5	23 (4 pass.)	6 (1 pass.)	8 (1 pass.)	18	2	6	2	0	0	1	1	1	47 SR 2 CR	64	84
6	23 (4 pass.)	6 (1 pass.)	8 (1 pass.)	18	2	6	2	0	0	1	1	1	47 SR 2 CR	64	84
7	23 (4 pass.)	6 (1 pass.)	8 (1 pass.)	18	2	6	2	0	0	1	1	1	47 SR 2 CR	64	84
8	23 (4 pass.)	6 (1 pass.)	8 (1 pass.)	18	2	6	2	0	0	1	1	1	47 SR 2 CR	64	84

* Psychometric Use is generally for equating purposes. Not all equating items will be unique on all forms. [Passage-based is estimated as 3 total passages for 18 unique MC items across all forms.]

**Weighted (G3: WP x 2; G4-8: WP x 3, TDA x 4)