

Reading Aspire Overview

TJHSST Reading Aspire

www.YoungScholarsCircle.com

Text Complexity

3.3.2 Reading Test

The reading test measures a student's ability to **read closely, reason logically about texts using evidence, and integrate information from multiple sources**. Passages in the reading test include both literary narratives, such as prose fiction, memoirs, and personal essays, and informational texts from the natural sciences and social sciences. Across the grades, **these texts span a range of complexity levels that lead up to the reading level in challenging first-year college courses**. On the test at each grade, passages at different levels of complexity within a range appropriate for the grade present students different opportunities to demonstrate understanding. In addition, reading items assess the student's ability to complete reading-related tasks at various depth-of-knowledge (DOK) levels, and, as a whole, the tests reflect a range of task difficulty appropriate for the grade level.

Figure 3.2 shows an example of the construct hierarchy for the Reading test.

New TJ Reading Aspire Categories



Key Ideas and Details

- The items in this category require students to read texts closely; to determine central ideas and themes, and summarize information and ideas accurately; and to understand relationships and to draw logical inferences and conclusions including understanding sequential, comparative, and cause-effect relationships.

Craft and Structure

- The items in this category require students to determine word and phrase meanings, analyze an author's word choice rhetorically, analyze text structure, and understand authorial purpose and characters' points of view. They interpret authorial decisions rhetorically and differentiate between various perspectives and sources of information.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- The items in this category require students to understand authors' claims, differentiate between facts and opinions, and use evidence to make connections between different texts that are related by topic. Students read a range of informational and literary texts critically and comparatively, making connections to prior knowledge and integrating information across texts. They analyze how authors construct arguments, evaluating reasoning and evidence from various sources.

Skill Targets

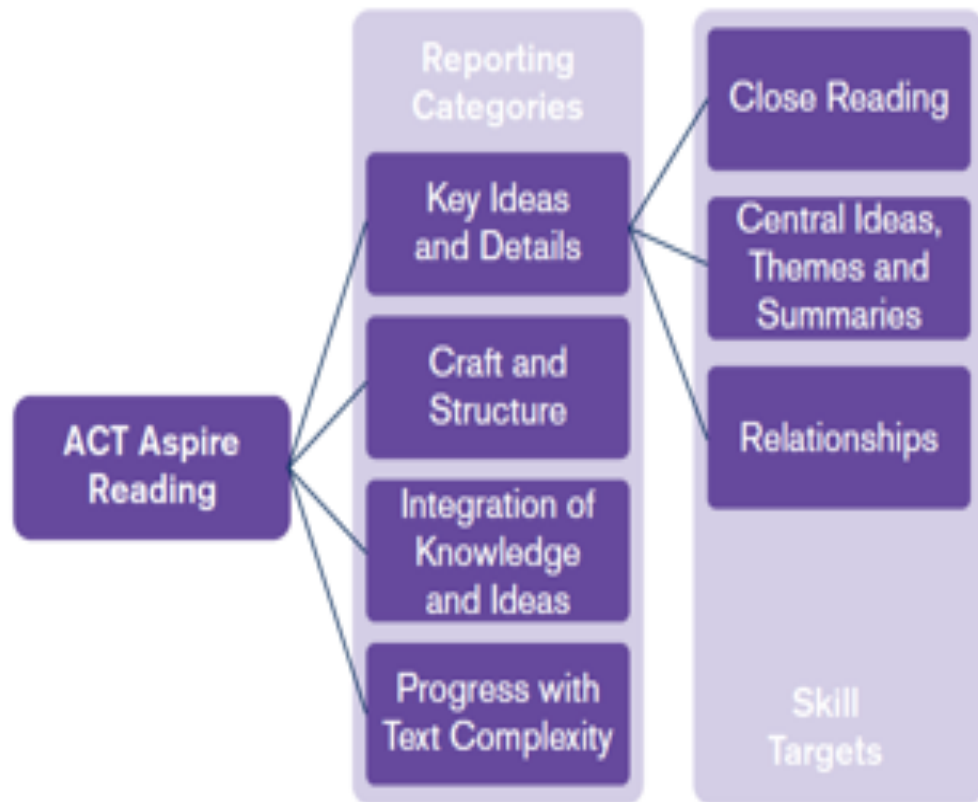


Figure 3.2. ACT Aspire reading test reporting categories with example skill targets for one reporting category

Constructed Response Examples

Examples of constructed-response tasks in the reading test include:

- Make **claims about a passage and provide support** using specific details from the text
- Identify **similarities and differences between the key ideas of paired passages** and provide support using specific details from both texts.

Constructed-response tasks are scored according to **rubrics** that give students varying amounts of credit for responses that are correct or partially correct, enabling differentiation between multiple skill levels.

EHS (Early High School)

Table 3.5. Passage Coverage by Text Complexity for the ACT Aspire Reading Test Grade Level

	3	4	5	6	7	8	EHS
Basic	X	X	X				
Straightforward	X	X	X	X	X		
Somewhat challenging			X	X	X	X	X
More challenging						X	X
Complex							X

Text Types of Reading Aspire

ACT Aspire Reading passages are drawn from the following range of text types:

- **Literary Narrative:** Literary passages from short stories, novels, memoirs, and personal essays
- **Social science:** Informational passages on topics such as anthropology, archaeology, biography, business, economics, education, environmentalism, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology
- **Natural science:** Informational passages on topics such as anatomy, astronomy, biology, botany, chemistry, ecology, geology, medicine, meteorology, microbiology, natural history, physiology, physics, technology, and zoology

Table 3.7. Specification Ranges by Item Type and Reporting Category for Grades 8–EHS

Operational Items	Number of Items	Raw-score points (percentage of test)
Item Types		
Multiple choice	20–21	20–21 (65–68%)
Technology enhanced	0–1	0–1 (0–3%)
Constructed response	3	10 (32%)
Reporting Categories		
Key Ideas and Details	14–15	17–18 (45–58%)
Craft and Structure	6–9	7–11 (23–35%)
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	1–3	4–6 (13–19%)
Depth of Knowledge		
DOK Level 1	5–7	7–9 (23–29%)
DOK Level 2	9–13	12–17 (38–54%)
DOK Level 3	5–9	7–12 (21–38%)
Non-operational		
Field-test	6–8	—
TOTAL	30–32*	31 (100%)

*Total number of items includes field-test items that do not contribute to score points.

Are you ready to learn?

