TCAP English Language Arts
End of Course Assessment Overview

English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the TCAP English Language Arts End of Course (EOC) assessments – English I and English II. The ELA assessments will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through literary passages and informational texts and require students to demonstrate the ability to closely read and analyze text, answer text-dependent questions, display understanding of the complexities and craft of language, provide a written response to a prompt, and demonstrate command of the English language.

The ELA EOC assessments are administered in three subparts, the first of which contains a written response question.

All TCAP End of Course assessments will be administered using the online testing platform. For more information on TCAP EOC assessments, click here.

Students to be Tested

Students who are enrolled in an EOC class, regardless of grade level, must take the assessment pertinent to that class. The Tennessee State Board of Education High School Policy 2.103 (here) states that "Only students who are enrolled in a course with an associated End of Course examination shall take the End of Course examination. Students enrolled in a substituting course without an End of Course examination explicitly tied to the State Board of Education-approved curriculum content standards of that course shall not take an End of Course examination. This exemption applies to all substituting courses, including, but not limited to, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, and dual credit courses.

In summation, students in substituting courses are not obligated to take these assessments.

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the administration windows on the department's website.

Within the state testing window, testing schedules are established **by the district at the school and/or district level**. It is the district's discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule.

Test Administration Subpart Timing and Structure

The following timing details are applicable to the English I and II (or ELA) EOCs. The testing structure below reflects the total of both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Summary
85 minutes	75 minutes	70 minutes	230 minutes
1 passage set*	3 passage sets*	3 passage sets*	38 – 58 items
3-5 passage-based items	6-11 items per passage set	6-11 items per passage set	
1 writing prompt	4-7 editing items		

*A passage set may be comprised of one or more passages. The word count across all passage sets is compatible.

Performance Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Tennessee's statewide assessments is categorized into four performance levels.

The table below provides information regarding student achievement at each performance level for the TCAP ELA tests. This information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

Level 1 (Below Expectations)	Level 2 (Approaching Expectations)	Level 3 (Met Expectations)	Level 4 (Exceeded Expectations)
The student did not meet Tennessee's grade level expectations and has little knowledge of the skills and concepts in the subject.	The student is approaching Tennessee's grade level expectations and has a partial understanding of the skills and concepts in the subject.	The student met Tennessee's grade level expectations and has a thorough understanding of the skills and concepts in the subject.	The student met Tennessee's grade level expectations and understands the most complex skills and concepts in the subject.

Performance level scale score ranges for TCAP EOC ELA assessments are provided in the table below.

Assessment	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
English I	200 – 306	307 – 332	333 – 346	347 – 450
English II	200 – 302	303 – 317	318 – 333	334 – 450

Assessment Blueprints

Assessment blueprints are designed to show educators a summary of what will be assessed on each assessment. This resource is designed to help educators as they plan for the upcoming school year. Assessment blueprints can be found on the department website here.

Item Types

The TCAP English Language Arts assessments are administered using **Selected Response**, **Constructed Response**, and **Technology Enhanced** item types. These item types are used in multiple ways to elicit responses that demonstrate understanding of the Tennessee Academic Standards for ELA.

Selected Response items used for TCAP EOC ELA assessments can include:

- Multiple choice – These are items with four answer options, only one of which is correct.
    - Editing task – This item consists of a short passage that contains underlined text about which the student will answer questions. The student may be asked to correct an error or revise for meaning or style. For some of these editing/revision items, the underlined text will not need to be changed, and the correct answer will be "No change." In addition to editing and revision, students may also be asked to demonstrate a skill such as specificity of word choice, use of affixes, or syllabification (depending on grade level).
- Multiple select – These are items with more than four answer choices with multiple correct answers.
- Composite – These are items with two parts. Students are asked to respond to Part A and then continue with a Part B question. Part A is always multiple choice and Part B can be either multiple choice or multiple select.

Constructed Response items used for TCAP EOC ELA assessments include:

- Written response – Students in English I and II will be asked to write multiple cohesive paragraphs in response to a prompt. The prompt is unique to each passage or passage set. The prompt is aligned to one of three writing standards (9-10.W.TTP.1, 9-10.W.TTP.2, or 9-10.W.TTP.3).

Technology Enhanced items utilize online assessment platform capabilities. A sampler containing the various types of Technology Enhanced items students may encounter can be found on SchoolNet and here. Use the directions below for access:

- Select Tutorials (below the login prompt).
- Under TCAP Samplers, click Start.
- Enter your name as "Guest" and select Start.

Practice Tests

The department has provided the following practice tools to support educators and students:

- **Paper practice tests**: PDF versions of practice tests are available on the Assessment Development LiveBinder (here).

Additional Information

Please visit the [department's website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.