

Frequently Asked Questions: Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)



Q. What is Text-Dependent Analysis?

A. Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) is a type of question on the PEAKS English Language Arts (ELA) assessment where students demonstrate their reading, writing, and language skills to produce a comprehensive response to the prompt based on passage(s) they read. Students are required to provide evidence from the passage(s) to support their claims, opinions, and ideas when responding to the prompt.

Q. Does the addition of TDA make the ELA assessment longer?

A. With the addition of the TDA, the ELA assessment is now divided into three parts in grades 4-5 and two parts in grades 6-9 to break up the length of the assessment. To reduce the amount of reading and minimize additional testing time, students use the same reading passage(s) to answer reading questions and complete the TDA. Therefore, students will not be asked to read any additional reading passages as part of the TDA. PEAKS is an untimed assessment and timing may vary depending on grade, but it is estimated that the TDA will add 30 minutes to the ELA assessment.

Q. Which grade levels have a TDA question included in the assessment?

A. Grades 4-9 have TDA questions included. Writing standard W-9 begins in grade 4 and is assessed after students are taught the skills associated with writing outlined in the Alaska ELA standards.

Q. How is the TDA scored?

A. The TDA is scored on a scale of 0-4 by a group of professionals hired and trained by Data Recognition Corporation, the test vendor for the PEAKS assessments. More information on the scoring process is available on the [PEAKS webpage](#), Text-Dependent Analysis tab.

Q. How will students prepare for PEAKS and specifically for TDA?

A. PEAKS student preparation resources are available for both the computer- and paper-based assessment. The following are for illustrative purposes and allow students to become familiar with the format of the assessment and item types. Sample TDA questions are available for both computer- and paper-based formats.

Computer-Based –

- **Student Tutorials** are short web-based videos teaching how to use the embedded test-taking tools and how to answer different item types (multiple choice, matching, etc.).
- **Online Tools Training (OTT)** allows students to practice navigating the test. Tasks include the login process, directions, using the tools and buttons available to answer, flagging questions for review, and submitting answers. OTT provides an authentic simulation of how the real assessment will look and feel.

Paper-Based –

- **Item Samplers** allow students to become familiar with the format of the paper-based assessment. The printable test booklets and answer documents allow students to see the layout of the questions and answers, how answers are recorded, and provide examples of the different question types they will see on the assessment.

For more information on student preparation resources, visit the [Student Preparation webpage](#).

For more information on the PEAKS assessments, visit the [PEAKS webpage](#).

