

Spring 2019  
English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics  
Assessment Blueprints



The high-level blueprints for the PEAKS ELA and mathematics assessments include overall designs for each test, reporting categories, number of items, number of points in each category, and the estimated testing time by grade level in the charts below.

English Language Arts

Table 1. Number of Items by Domain

Domain	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<b>Reading - Literary Text</b> (Key Ideas/Details: RL standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure: RL standards 4, 5, 6 Integration of Knowledge/Ideas: RL standards 7 and 9)	6-10	6-10	6-10	6-8	6-8	6-8	9-15
<b>Reading - Informational Text</b> (Key Ideas/Details: RI standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure: RI standards 4, 5, 6 Integration of Knowledge/Ideas: RI standards 7, 8, 9)	6-8	6-8	6-8	8-12	8-12	8-12	12-20
<b>Writing</b> (Text Type/Purposes: W standards 1, 2, 3 Production and Distribution: W standards 4, 5, 6 Research: W standards 7 and 8)	12-16	14-18	14-18	14-18	16-20	16-20	12-18
<b>Language</b> (Language/Conventions: L standards 1, 2, 3 Language/Vocabulary Acquisition: L standards 4 and 5)	10-12	10-12	8-10	8-10	8-10	8-10	6-10
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis Writing (TDA)</b> Reading and Writing: W standard 9 (Key Ideas/Details; RL standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure; RL standards 4, 5, 6 (Key Ideas/Details; RI standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure; RI standards 4, 5, 6 Integration of Knowledge/Ideas; RI standards 7, 8, 9)	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total Number of ELA Items</b>	44	45	45	45	45	45	50

Note: Reading Standard 10 for both literary text and informational text and Language Standard 6 are covered globally throughout the passages and items.

Table 2. Number of Possible Points by Domain

Domain	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<b>Reading - Literary Text</b> (Key Ideas/Details: RL standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure: RL standards 4, 5, 6 Integration of Knowledge/Ideas: RL standards 7 and 9)	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	12-18
<b>Reading - Informational Text</b> (Key Ideas/Details: RI standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure: RI standards 4, 5, 6 Integration of Knowledge/Ideas: RI standards 7, 8, 9)	8-12	8-12	8-14	10-14	10-14	10-14	16-24

Domain	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<b>Writing</b> (Text Type/Purposes: W standards 1, 2, 3 Production and Distribution: W standards 4, 5, 6 Research: W standards 7 and 8)	18-22	18-22	18-22	20-26	20-26	20-26	18-20
<b>Language</b> (Language/Conventions: L standards 1, 2, 3 Language/Vocabulary Acquisition: L standards 4 and 5)	12-15	12-15	10-15	10-12	10-12	10-12	8-12
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis Writing (TDA)</b> Reading and Writing: W standard 9 (Key Ideas/Details; RL standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure; RL standards 4, 5, 6 (Key Ideas/Details; RI standards 1, 2, 3 Craft and Structure; RI standards 4, 5, 6 Integration of Knowledge/Ideas; RI standards 7, 8, 9)	0	8	8	8	8	8	8
<b>Total Number of Points Possible</b>	52-60	60-68	60-68	60-68	60-68	60-68	68-73

Note: Reading Standard 10 for both literary text and informational text and Language Standard 6 are covered globally throughout the passages and items.

Table 3. Reading Blueprint

The reading part of the ELA assessment for grades 3-8 contains four passage sets. Grade 9 contains 5-6 passage sets. A passage set is defined as a unit, which could be one passage or multiple passages.

Grade Level	Number of Multiple-Choice, Multi-Select, and Technology-Enhanced Items <i>1 point each</i>	Evidence-Based Selected Response, Multi-Select, and Technology-Enhanced Items <i>2 points each</i>	Total Number of items	Total Reading Points
3	12-16	5-8	20	20-25
4	12-16	5-8	20	20-25
5	12-16	5-8	20	22-28
6	12-16	5-8	20	22-28
7	12-16	5-8	20	22-28
8	12-16	5-8	20	22-28
9	18-28	8-12	<b>24</b>	25-40

Table 4. Writing Blueprint

Grade Level	Number of Multiple-Choice, Multi-Select, and Technology-Enhanced Items <i>1 point each</i>	Evidence-Based Selected Response, Multi-Select, and Technology-Enhanced Items <i>2 points each</i>	Total Number of items	Total Writing Points
3	10-16	5-10	24	30-35
4	10-16	5-10	24	30-35
5	10-18	5-10	24	30-35
6	10-18	5-10	24	30-35
7	10-18	5-10	24	30-35
8	10-18	5-10	24	30-35

Grade Level	Number of Multiple-Choice, Multi-Select, and Technology-Enhanced Items <i>1 point each</i>	Evidence-Based Selected Response, Multi-Select, and Technology-Enhanced Items <i>2 points each</i>	Total Number of items	Total Writing Points
9	20-24	6-8	<b>25</b>	25-40

Table 5. Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)

Grade Level	Number of TDA Items	Total TDA Points
3	0	0
4	1	8
5	1	8
6	1	8
7	1	8
8	1	8
9	1	8

Table 6. Total ELA Items and Points Possible

Grade Level	Total ELA Points	Total ELA Items
3	52-60	44
4	60-68	45
5	60-68	45
6	60-68	45
7	60-68	45
8	60-68	45
9	68-73	50

## ELA Reporting Categories

Alaska’s standards define what a student should know and be able to do. The standards are broken down into groups of similar standards. PEAKS items assess student skills on reporting categories that correspond to a group of standards. The ELA reporting categories were determined by Alaska educators during the standards adoption process. The reporting categories for ELA are identical across grade levels. Tables 7-20 show possible points for each grade level.

Note: Each reading question connects to a Reading reporting category as well as to a Text Type reporting category. However, each reading question counts only one time in the student’s score.

Table 7. Grade 3 ELA Reporting Categories

Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
<b>Reading</b>	<b>18-22</b>
Key Ideas and Details	10-14
Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	8-10
<b>Writing</b>	<b>20-24</b>
Text Types and Purposes	8-12
Distribution and Production/Research	8-12

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Language</b>	<b>12-15</b>
<b>Total ELA Points Possible</b>	<b>52-60</b>

Table 8. Grade 3 ELA Text Type Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Literary Text</b>	<b>8-12</b>
<b>Informational Text</b>	<b>8-12</b>

Table 9. Grade 4 ELA Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>18-24</b>
Key Ideas and Details	10-14
Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	6-10
<b>Writing</b>	<b>20-24</b>
Text Types and Purposes	8-12
Distribution and Production/Research	8-12
<b>Language</b>	<b>12-15</b>
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total ELA Points Possible</b>	<b>60-68</b>

Table 10. Grade 4 ELA Text Type Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Literary Text	8-12
Informational Text	8-12

Table 11. Grade 5 ELA Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>18-26</b>
Key Ideas and Details	10-16
Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	6-10
<b>Writing</b>	<b>20-24</b>
Text Types and Purposes	8-12
Distribution and Production/Research	8-12
<b>Language</b>	<b>12-15</b>
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total ELA Points Possible</b>	<b>60-68</b>

Table 12. Grade 5 ELA Text Type Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Literary Text	8-12
Informational Text	8-12

Table 13. Grade 6 ELA Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>20-24</b>
Key Ideas and Details	8-12
Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	8-12
<b>Writing</b>	<b>22-24</b>
Text Types and Purposes	8-10
Distribution and Production/Research	12-24
<b>Language</b>	<b>8-12</b>
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total ELA Points Possible</b>	<b>60-68</b>

Table 14. Grade 6 ELA Text Type Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Literary Text	8-10
Informational Text	10-14

Table 15. Grade 7 ELA Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>20-24</b>
Key Ideas and Details	8-12
Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	8-12
<b>Writing</b>	<b>22-24</b>
Text Types and Purposes	8-10
Distribution and Production/Research	12-24
<b>Language</b>	<b>8-12</b>
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total ELA Points Possible</b>	<b>60-68</b>

Table 16. Grade 7 ELA Text Type Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Literary Text	8-10
Informational Text	10-14

Table 17. Grade 8 ELA Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>20-24</b>
Key Ideas and Details	8-12
Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	8-12
<b>Writing</b>	<b>22-24</b>
Text Types and Purposes	8-10

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Distribution and Production/Research	12-24
<b>Language</b>	<b>8-12</b>
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total ELA Points Possible</b>	<b>60-68</b>

Table 18. Grade 8 ELA Text Type Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Literary Text	8-10
Informational Text	10-14

Table 19. Grade 9 ELA Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>24-32</b>
Key Ideas and Details	14-18
Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	10-16
<b>Writing</b>	<b>14-20</b>
Text Types and Purposes	6-10
Distribution and Production/Research	8-12
<b>Language</b>	<b>8-12</b>
<b>Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total ELA Points Possible</b>	<b>68-73</b>

Table 20. Grade 9 ELA Text Type Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Literary Text	12-18
Informational Text	16-24

## ELA Estimated Test Times

The estimated test times in the following tables are approximate and do not include time needed to start computers, log in students, hand out test materials, and read test directions.

Table 21. Estimated Test Time for ELA by Test Part

Test	Estimated Time Per Part
Grade 3 Part 1: Reading	55 Minutes
Grade 3 Part 2: Writing	35 Minutes
Grades 4–5 Part 1: Reading	55 minutes
Grades 4–5 Part 2: Reading and TDA	30 Minutes
Grades 4–5 Part 3: Writing	30 Minutes
Grades 6–8 Part 1: Reading and TDA	85 Minutes
Grades 6–8 Part 2: Writing	35 Minutes
Grades 9 Part 1: Reading and TDA	85 minutes
Grades 9 Part 2: Writing	35 minutes

Table 22. Estimated Test Time for ELA

Grade Level	Estimated Total Test Time
Grade 3	90 minutes
Grades 4 and 5	115 Minutes
Grades 6 - 8	120 minutes
Grade 9	120 Minutes

## Mathematics

Table 23. Mathematics Design and Blueprint

Grade Level	Number of Multiple-Choice, Multi-Select, and Short Answer Items	Part 1	Part 2	Total Possible Points
3	42	21	21	42
4	42	21	21	42
5	42	21	21	42
6	46	19	27	46
7	46	13	33	46
8	46	10	36	46
9	60	30	30	60

### Calculator Use by Grade Level

The use of calculators on the PEAKS mathematics assessment differs by grade level based on the Alaska mathematics standards. Grades 3-5 have a strong focus on building foundational skills and fluency in arithmetic and working with numbers by hand is emphasized in the design of the standards in the formative grades. Based on this, calculators are NOT allowed for grades 3, 4, and 5 on the PEAKS mathematics assessment.

The Alaska mathematics standards incorporate the use of calculators in grades 6-9. The specific type of calculator used by students depends on grade level and test part, as shown in Table 24.

Additional information about the use of calculators on the PEAKS mathematics assessment can be found in the Calculator Policy on the [PEAKS webpage](#).

Table 24. Calculator Use by Grade Level and Test Part

Grade Level	Part 1	Part 2
3	Calculators Not Allowed	Calculators Not Allowed
4	Calculators Not Allowed	Calculators Not Allowed
5	Calculators Not Allowed	Calculators Not Allowed
6	Calculators Not Allowed	Basic (four-function) Calculator Allowed
7	Calculators Not Allowed	Basic and Scientific Calculators Allowed
8	Calculators Not Allowed	Basic and Scientific Calculators Allowed
9	Basic, Scientific, and Graphing Calculators Allowed	Basic, Scientific, and Graphing Calculators Allowed

### Mathematics Reporting Categories

Alaska's standards define what a student should know and be able to do. The standards are broken down into groups of similar standards. PEAKS items assess student skills on reporting categories that correspond to a group of standards. The mathematics reporting categories were determined by Alaska educators during the standards adoption process. The reporting categories for mathematics differ across grade levels. Tables 25-31 show possible points for each grade level.

Table 25. Grade 3 Mathematics Reporting Categories

Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
Number and Operations in Base Ten	6
Number and Operations—Fractions	7



Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
Operations and Algebraic Thinking	15
Geometry and Measurement	14
<b>Total Math Points Possible</b>	<b>42</b>

Table 26. Grade 4 Mathematics Reporting Categories

Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
Number and Operations in Base Ten	8
Number and Operations—Fractions	12
Operations and Algebraic Thinking	10
Geometry and Measurement	12
<b>Total Math Points Possible</b>	<b>42</b>

Table 27. Grade 5 Mathematics Reporting Categories

Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
Number and Operations in Base Ten	8
Number and Operations—Fractions	16
Operations and Algebraic Thinking	6
Geometry and Measurement	12
<b>Total Math Points Possible</b>	<b>42</b>

Table 28. Grade 6 Mathematics Reporting Categories

Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
The Number System	13
Ratios and Proportional Relationships	6
Expressions and Equations	15
Geometry	6
Statistics and Probability	6
<b>Total Math Points Possible</b>	<b>46</b>

Table 29. Grade 7 Mathematics Reporting Categories

Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
The Number System	8
Ratios and Proportional Relationships	10
Expressions and Equations	13
Geometry	7
Statistics and Probability	8
<b>Total Math Points Possible</b>	<b>46</b>

Table 30. Grade 8 Mathematics Reporting Categories

Domain (Reporting Categories)	Possible Points
Numbers, Expressions, and Equations	19

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Functions	10
Geometry	11
Statistics and Probability	6
<b>Total Math Points Possible</b>	<b>46</b>

Table 31. Grade 9 Mathematics Reporting Categories

<b>Domain (Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Number and Quantity	7-9
Algebra	22-24
Functions	19-21
Statistics and Probability	8-10
<b>Total Math Points Possible</b>	<b>60</b>

## Mathematics Estimated Test Times

The estimated test times in the following tables are approximate and do not include time needed to start computers, log in students, hand out test materials, and read test directions.

Table 32. Estimated Test Time for Mathematics by Test Part

Test	Estimated Time Per Part
Grades 3–5 Part 1: Non-Calculator	40 Minutes
Grades 3–5 Part 2: Non-Calculator	40 Minutes
Grade 6 Part 1: Non-Calculator	40 Minutes
Grade 6 Part 2: Calculator	50 Minutes
Grades 7 Part 1: Non-Calculator	25 Minutes
Grades 7 Part 2: Calculator	65 Minutes
Grade 8 Part 1: Non-Calculator	20 Minutes
Grade 8 Part 2: Calculator	70 Minutes
Grade 9 Part 1: Calculator	45 – 60 minutes
Grade 9 Part 2: Calculator	45 – 60 minutes

Table 33. Estimated Test Time for Mathematics

Grade Level	Estimated Total Test Time
Grade 3-5	80 minutes
Grade 6	90 minutes
Grade 7	90 minutes
Grade 8	90 minutes
Grade 9	90 – 120 minutes