

ISTEP+: Grade 8 English/Language Arts 2014-15 Blueprint

There are eight strands for English/Language Arts divided into five categories. Speaking and Listening is assessed in the classroom.

Strands Assessed	Description	Percent Range*
Reading: Literature	Questions are based on a range of grade-level literature and may include analyzing and making inferences about literary elements and themes while citing explicit and inferential textual support, summarizing text to support analysis, using knowledge of literary structure and point of view to provide analysis of literature, comparing and contrasting structures of literary texts, and analyzing how literature draws on and transforms earlier texts.	24%-34%
Reading: Nonfiction and Media Literacy	Questions are based on a range of grade-level nonfiction and may include analyzing how central ideas are conveyed over the course of a text; analyzing the interaction key individuals, events, or ideas and supporting analysis with explicit and inferential textual support; summarizing the text; using knowledge and providing analysis of text features, structures, and author's perspective; delineating and evaluating argument and claims; analyzing multiple presentations of information; and interpreting and analyzing persuasive and propaganda techniques in media.	25%-35%
Reading: Vocabulary	Questions may include determining and clarifying words and understanding their relationships and determining or clarifying the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases and their uses in literature and nonfiction texts.	3%-13%
Writing: Genres, Writing Process, Research Process	Questions may include argument, informative, or narrative writing in response to literature and nonfiction texts; rewriting; editing to produce and strengthen writing that is clear and coherent; locating information in sources; and assessing the credibility of sources.	15%-25%
Writing: Conventions of Standard English	Questions may include using and/or identifying grade-level appropriate Standard English conventions (e.g., usage of parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling).	8%-18%

* This range represents the approximate emphasis for each reporting category on the assessment.