

ISTEP+: Grade 4 English/Language Arts 2015-16 Blueprint

There are eight strands for English/Language Arts divided into four categories. Speaking and Listening and Reading: Foundations are assessed in the classroom.

Strands Assessed	Description	Percent Range*
Reading: Literature and Vocabulary	Questions are based on a range of grade-level literature and may include identifying, describing, and making inferences about literary elements and themes while using explicit and inferential textual support; using knowledge of literary structure and point of view; connecting literary elements and themes; determining and clarifying the meanings of words and understanding their relationships; and determining or clarifying the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases and their uses in literature.	30-40%
Reading: Nonfiction, Vocabulary and Media Literacy	Questions are based on a range of grade-level nonfiction and may include identifying main ideas and supporting ideas with explicit and inferential textual support; summarizing the text; using knowledge of text features, structures, and author's perspective; identifying and explaining points and making connections between topics and ideas; recognizing claims in media and how they are supported; determining and clarifying the meanings of words and understanding their relationships; and determining or clarifying the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases and their uses in nonfiction texts.	30-40%
Writing: Genres, Writing Process, Research Process	Questions may include persuasive, informative, or narrative writing in response to literature and nonfiction texts; developing, selecting, and organizing ideas relevant to topic, purpose, and genre; reviewing and revising writing; locating information in sources; and recognizing the reliability of sources.	10-20%
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).	10-20%

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