

ISTEP+: Grade 6 English/Language Arts 2015-16 Blueprint

There are eight strands for English/Language Arts divided into four categories. Speaking and Listening is 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 describing, explaining, and making inferences about literary elements and themes while citing explicit and inferential textual support; summarizing the text; using knowledge of literary structure and point of view to provide explanation and analysis of literature; connecting literary elements and themes across different forms or genres in literature; 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 determining how central ideas are conveyed through details; analyzing 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; tracing and evaluating argument and claims; making connections between topics and ideas; using evidence to evaluate the accuracy of media messages and identifying the target audience; 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 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.	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.