

This High-Level Blueprint describes the structure and content of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) English Language Arts/Literacy Grade 3 assessment.

ABOUT THE TEST

The MCAP ELA/L assessment focuses on the skills outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. Students engage with informational and literary passages and demonstrate comprehension and knowledge through interaction with items aligned to specific, grade-level standards. The assessment consists of four sections; three sections are operational, and one section contains field test items. The content in each section may vary, with field test content being presented in any of the four sections.

Section	Task	Standards	Number of Items
1	Informational Single Passage AND Literary Single Passage	RI.3.1 – RI.3.9 RL.3.1 – RL.3.9 L. 3.4 – L.3.5	6-8 items per passage
	Reading Foundational Items	RF.3.4 – RF.3.5	10 items
2	Literary Performance Task: Paired Literary Passages (linked by theme or topic)	RL.3.1 – RL.3.9 L. 3.4 – L.3.5 W.3.1 – W.3.3	6-9 items and 1 CR
3	Informational Performance Task: Paired Informational Passages (linked by topic)	RI.3.1 – RI.3.9 L. 3.4 – L.3.5 W.3.1 - W.3.3	6-9 items and 1 CR
4	Informational Single Passage AND Literary Single Passage	RI.3.1 – RI.3.9 RL.3.1 – RL.3.9 L. 3.4 – L.3.5	6-8 items per passage
	Reading Foundational Items OR	RF.3.4 – RF.3.5	3-4 Items
	Literary Performance Task: Paired Literary Passages (linked by theme or topic) OR	RL.3.1 – RL.3.9 L. 3.4 – L.3.5 W.3.1 – W.3.3	6-9 items and 1 CR
	Informational Performance Task: Paired Informational Passages (linked by topic)	RI.3.1 – RI.3.9 L.3.4 – L.3.5 W.3.1 – W.3.3	6-9 items and 1 CR

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS PER CLAIM:	READING	54
	WRITING	18

ACRONYM AND ABBREVIATION KEY

ELA/L = English Language Arts and Literacy

RI = Reading Informational Text Standards

RL = Reading Literature Standards

RF = Reading Foundational Skills Standards

W = Writing Standards

L = Language Standards

CR = Constructed Response