

# Test Blueprint

**Grade 6 Reading**

**2017 English**

**Standards of Learning**

**This test blueprint will be effective with the administration of the spring 2023 Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.**

**Notice to Reader**

In accordance with the requirements of the Civil Rights Act and other federal and state laws and regulations, this document has been reviewed to ensure that it does not reflect stereotypes based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

The Virginia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities in employment or provisions of service.

Copyright ©2023 by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120. All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, this material may not be reproduced or used in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the copyright owner. Commonwealth of Virginia public school educators may reproduce any portion of this test blueprint for noncommercial educational purposes without requesting permission. All others should direct their written requests to the Virginia Department of Education at the above address or by email to [Student\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov).

# Grade 6 Reading

# Standards of Learning

## Test Blueprint

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

## General Test Information………………………………………………………..1

Defines common terms

## Test Blueprint Summary Table………………………………………………….3

Organizes the SOL and the number of items assessed

## Expanded Test Blueprint……...…………………………………………………4

Full text of each SOL as organized for the test

# General Test Information

## Test Blueprint

Much like the blueprint for a building, a test blueprint serves as a guide for test construction. The blueprint indicates the content areas that will be addressed by the test and the number of items that will be included by content area and for the test as a whole. There is a blueprint for each test (e.g., Grade 3 Reading, Grade 5 Mathematics, Grade 8 Science, Virginia and United States History).

The Grade 6 Reading blueprint contains information for two types of tests, the online computer adaptive test (CAT) and the traditional test. A passage-based CAT is a customized assessment where each student receives a unique set of passages and items. This is in contrast to the traditional test in which all students who take a particular version (paper, large print, or braille) of the test receive the same passages and respond to the same test questions. All online versions of the Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) test (including audio) are computer adaptive.

All students are required to take the online version of the SOL tests with the exception of students who meet the criteria for needing a paper test. All paper versions of the test (including large print and braille) will be administered using the traditional format. All test questions for Grade 6 Reading have been determined to meet the criteria for Universal Design. The Universal Design principles require that language that is not specific to the content area (e.g., Reading) be simplified and test questions be written so they are accessible by all populations of students. The SOL test questions have been reviewed by Virginia teachers and have been determined to meet the criteria for Universal Design.

## Reporting Categories

Each test covers a number of Standards of Learning. In the test blueprint, the SOL are grouped into categories that address related content and skills. These categories are labeled as reporting categories. For example, a reporting category for the Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning test is *Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts and use word analysis strategies*. Each of the SOL in this reporting category addresses fictional texts. When the results of the SOL tests are reported, the scores will be presented for each reporting category and as a total test score.

## Assignment of Standards of Learning to Reporting Category

In the Grade 6 Reading SOL test, each SOL is assigned to the appropriate reporting category. For example, SOL 6.5i is assigned to *Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts and use word analysis strategies*, while SOL 6.4a is assigned to both the fiction and the nonfiction reporting categories.

## Coverage of Standards of Learning

Due to the large number of SOL in each grade level content area, *every* Standard of Learning will not be assessed on every SOL test. By necessity, to keep the length of a test reasonable, each test will sample from the SOL within a reporting category. All SOL listed in the blueprint are eligible for inclusion on the CAT forms.

## Use of the Curriculum Framework

The Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning, amplified by the Curriculum Framework, define the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills that are measured by the Standards of Learning tests. The Curriculum Framework identifies essential understandings, defines essential content knowledge, and describes essential skills and processes students need to master. The Progression by Grade section at the end of the Curriculum Framework includes charts that show how each grade level builds skills that carry to the following grades.

## Reading Selections

All reading material will be appropriate for sixth-grade students in terms of interest, experiences, length, and reading level, as determined by Content Review Committees of Virginia educators.

### Additional Items

Beginning in spring 2023, the computer adaptive Standards of Learning tests will include a section of additional items at the end of the test. The computer algorithm may deliver passages/items one grade level above or one grade level below a student's current grade based upon the student's responses to the on-grade-level passages/items. The Test Scaled Score (0 to 600) and corresponding performance level (i.e., pass/proficient, pass/advanced, fail/basic, fail/below basic) are based upon a student’s performance on the on-grade-level Operational Passages/Items only. The student’s responses to the on-grade-level Operational Passages/Items *and* the Additional Passages/Items that may be on grade level, one grade level above, or one grade level below the current grade level will be reflected in the student’s Vertical Scaled Score.

**Grade 6 Reading**

# Test Blueprint Summary Table

Beginning in spring 2023, the computer adaptive Standards of Learning tests will include a section of additional passages/items at the end of the test. The computer algorithm may deliver passages/items one grade-level above or one grade-level below a student's current grade based upon the student's responses to the on-grade-level passages/items. The Test Scaled Score (0 to 600) and corresponding performance level (i.e., pass/proficient, pass/advanced, fail/basic, fail/below basic) are based upon a student’s performance on the on-grade-level Operational Passages/Items only. The student’s responses to the on-grade-level Operational Passages/Items *and* the Additional Passages/Items that may be on-grade-level, one grade-level above, or one grade-level below the current grade-level will be reflected in the student’s Vertical Scaled Score.

| **Reporting Category** | **Grade 6 SOL** | **Number of Items**  **Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) Format** | **Number of Items Paper Format** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demonstrate comprehension**  **of fictional texts and use word analysis strategies\*** | **6.4a-e**  **6.5a-j** | **14** | **20** |
| **Demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts and use word analysis strategies\*** | **6.4a-e**  **6.6a-j** | **17** | **25** |
| **Number of Operational Passages/Items** |  | **31**  **4 passages** | **45**  **6 passages** |
| **Number of Field-Test Passages/Items\*\*** |  | **6**  **1 passage** | **0** |
| **Number of Additional On- or Off-Grade Level Passages/Items\*\*\*** |  | **5**  **1 passage** | **0** |

\**Using word analysis strategies and word reference materials* will be tested with both fictional and nonfictional texts.

\*\*Field-test items will be administered to students for potential use on subsequent tests and will not be used to compute the final test score.

# \*\*\* Legislation passed in the 2021 Virginia General Assembly ([HB2027](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=212&typ=bil&val=HB2027) and [SB1357](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=212&typ=bil&val=SB1357)) requires these assessments have the ability to contain additional test items at, below, and above a student’s grade level as appropriate for the student. All test items will be delivered online via the computer adaptive algorithm. Students who meet the criteria for a paper test will receive only on-grade-level items.

# Grade 6 Reading

# Expanded Test Blueprint

## Reporting Category: Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts and use word analysis strategies

**Number of Items: 14 (CAT)**

**Standards of Learning:**

6.4 The student will read and determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within

authentic texts.

a) Identify word origins and derivations.

b) Use roots, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary.

c) Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate among multiple meanings of words.

d) Identify and analyze the construction and impact of figurative language.

e) Use word-reference materials.

6.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, literary

nonfiction, and poetry.

a) Identify the elements of narrative structure, including setting, character, plot, conflict, and theme.

b) Describe cause-and-effect relationships and their impact on plot.

c) Explain how an author uses character development to drive conflict and resolution.

d) Differentiate between first- and third-person point of view.

e) Describe how word choice and imagery contribute to the meaning of a text.

f) Draw conclusions and make inferences using the text for support.

g) Identify the characteristics of a variety of genres.

h) Identify and analyze the author’s use of figurative language.

i) Compare/contrast details in literary and informational nonfiction texts.

j) Identify transitional words and phrases that signal an author’s organizational pattern.

## Reporting Category: Demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts and use word analysis strategies

**Number of Items: 17 (CAT)**

**Standards of Learning:**

6.4 The student will read and determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within

authentic texts.

a) Identify word origins and derivations.

b) Use roots, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary.

c) Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate among multiple meanings of words.

d) Identify and analyze the construction and impact of figurative language.

e) Use word-reference materials.

6.6 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.

a) Skim materials using text features, such as type, headings, and graphics, to predict and categorize information.

b) Identify main idea.

c) Summarize supporting details.

d) Create an objective summary including main idea and supporting details.

e) Draw conclusions and make inferences based on explicit and implied information.

f) Identify the author’s organizational pattern(s).

g) Identify transitional words and phrases that signal an author’s organizational pattern.

h) Differentiate between fact and opinion.

i) Identify cause-and-effect relationships.

j) Analyze ideas within and between selections providing textual evidence.