
ILLINOIS CERTIFICATION TESTING SYSTEM

FIELD 96: BASIC SKILLS

TEST FRAMEWORK

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Subarea	Range of Objectives
I. Reading Comprehension	06
II. Language Arts	07–13
III. Mathematics	14–18

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Reading Comprehension
Language Arts
Mathematics

SUBAREA I—READING COMPREHENSION

The skills addressed in this subarea require demonstration of literal, inferential, and critical reading skills in a variety of written materials—including college-level texts and original source documents—in the areas of physical and life sciences, humanities and fine arts, and the social and behavioral sciences.

0001 Determine the meaning of words and phrases in context.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words or words with multiple meanings.
- Recognize the correct use of commonly misused pairs (e.g., affect/effect) in a passage.
- Determine the meaning of figurative or colloquial language in a passage.
- Identify appropriate synonyms or antonyms for words in a passage.

0002 Understand the main idea and supporting details in written material.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Identify the stated main idea of a paragraph or passage.
- Establish the sequence of events or steps presented in a passage.
- Recognize information that supports, illustrates, or elaborates the main idea of a paragraph or a passage.
- Identify the meaning of a figurative expression in a passage.

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0003 Apply skills of inference and interpretation to a variety of written materials.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Recognize a writer's implied purpose for writing (e.g., to persuade, to describe).
- Identify the statement that best expresses the implied main idea of a paragraph or passage.
- Recognize implied cause-and-effect relationships in a passage.
- Interpret the content, word choice, and phrasing of a passage to determine a writer's opinions, point of view, or position on an issue.

0004 Analyze relationships among ideas in written material.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Recognize similarities and differences among ideas in a passage.
- Analyze relationships between ideas in opposition (e.g., pro and con).
- Select solutions to problems based on information presented in written material.
- Draw conclusions from information stated or implied in a passage.

0005 Use critical reasoning skills to evaluate written material.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Recognize stated or implied assumptions on which the validity of an argument depends.
- Determine the relevance of specific facts, examples, or graphic data to a writer's argument.
- Recognize fallacies in the logic of a writer's argument.
- Recognize qualifying language and distinguish between fact and opinion in written material.
- Assess the credibility, objectivity, or bias of the author of a passage or the author's sources.

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0006 Apply skills for outlining and summarizing written materials and interpreting information presented in graphs or tables.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Organize the main ideas in a passage into an outline or another form of graphic or tabular organization.
- Identify an accurate summary of a passage.
- Interpret information presented in charts, graphs, or tables.

SUBAREA II—LANGUAGE ARTS

The skills addressed in this subarea require demonstration of the ability to write effectively at the college level, with control over the conventions of edited English in the United States and competence in drafting, organizing, and revising written work, as well as the ability to exercise critical thinking and reflection in written communications.

A. GRAMMAR AND USAGE

0007 Demonstrate command of standard usage in edited English in the United States.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Understand the standard use of verbs (e.g., subject-verb agreement, verb tense, consistency of tense).
- Identify and apply the standard use of pronouns (e.g., pronoun-antecedent agreement, standard pronoun case, use of possessive pronouns, standard use of relative and demonstrative pronouns).
- Recognize and apply the standard use of modifiers (e.g., adverbs, adjectives, prepositional phrases).

0008 Understand and apply knowledge of mechanical conventions in edited English in the United States.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Recognize instances in which incorrect or extraneous punctuation has been used or necessary punctuation has been omitted.
- Identify standard initial capitalization and standard capitalization with proper words and titles.
- Recognize the standard spelling of words.

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B. WRITING

0009 Understand the role of purpose and audience in written communication.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Assess the appropriateness of written material for a specific purpose or audience (e.g., a business letter, a communication to parents).
- Determine the likely effect on an audience of a writer's choice of a particular word or words (e.g., to evoke sympathy, to raise questions about an opposing point of view).
- Identify persuasive techniques used by a writer in a passage.
- Demonstrate the ability to adapt forms, organizational strategies, and styles for different audiences and purposes.

0010 Understand unity, focus, development, and organization in writing.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Identify organizational methods used by the author of a passage.
- Distinguish between effective and ineffective thesis statements.
- Recognize unnecessary shifts in point of view (e.g., shifts from first to third person) or distracting details that impair development of the main idea in a passage.
- Select appropriate and effective supporting material.
- Recognize examples of focused, concise, and well-developed writing.

0011 Understand and apply editing and revision strategies.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Apply editing and revision strategies affecting diction, syntax, transitions, organization, clarity, coherence, and point of view.
- Make revisions that improve the unity and focus of a passage or that improve cohesion and the effective sequence of ideas.
- Improve the clarity and effectiveness of a passage through changes in word choice.
- Eliminate or replace unnecessary or imprecise words and phrases.
- Insert appropriate transitional words or phrases (e.g., however, as a result) in a passage to convey the structure of the text and to help readers understand the sequence of a writer's ideas.

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0012 Recognize sentences and paragraphs that effectively communicate intended messages.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Demonstrate an understanding of unity within paragraphs and apply methods for enhancing paragraph organization and unity.
- Recognize effective topic sentences and distinguish between effective and ineffective development of ideas within a paragraph.
- Identify sentence fragments and run-on sentences.
- Recognize wordiness, redundancy, and ineffective repetition in sentences and paragraphs.
- Recognize inefficiency in sentence and paragraph construction.

C. WRITING ASSIGNMENT

0013 Prepare an organized, developed composition in edited English as used in the United States in response to instructions regarding content, purpose, and audience.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Compose a unified, focused, and sustained piece of writing on a given topic using language and style appropriate to a specified audience, purpose, and occasion.
- Take a position on a contemporary social or political issue and defend that position with reasoned arguments and supporting examples.
- Use effective sentence structure and apply the standards of edited English in the United States.
- Demonstrate the ability to spell, capitalize, and punctuate according to the standards of edited English in the United States.

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SUBAREA III—MATHEMATICS

The skills addressed in this subarea require demonstration of quantitative literacy at the college level through the application of mathematical methods and reasoning to the solution of real-world problems.

0014 Solve problems involving integers, fractions, decimals, and units of measurement.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Solve problems involving integers, fractions, and decimals, including percentages.
- Solve problems involving ratios and proportions.
- Solve problems involving units of measurement, including U.S. customary and metric measurements, and conversions, including scientific notation (e.g., 6.05×10^8).
- Use estimation skills to solve problems.

0015 Apply mathematical reasoning skills to analyze patterns and solve problems.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Draw conclusions using inductive reasoning.
- Draw conclusions using deductive reasoning.
- Identify errors in mathematical explanations.

0016 Solve problems involving algebra and geometry.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Graph numbers or number relationships.
- Find the value of the unknown in a given one-variable equation.
- Express one variable in terms of a second variable in two-variable equations.
- Solve problems involving lines and angles.
- Solve problems involving two- and three-dimensional geometric figures (e.g., perimeter and area problems, volume and surface area problems).

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0017 Understand concepts and procedures related to data analysis and statistics.

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Interpret information from tables, line graphs, bar graphs, histograms, pictographs, and pie charts.
- Recognize appropriate representations of various data in graphic form (discrete and continuous).
- Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental statistical concepts (e.g., mean, correlation, standard deviation).
- Interpret graphic and nongraphic representations of frequency distributions, percentiles, central tendency, variability, and correlation.

0018 Solve applied problems using a combination of mathematical skills (including word problems involving one and two variables).

The following are examples of content that may be covered under this standard.

- Apply combinations of mathematical skills to solve a series of related problems.
- Identify an equation to solve word problems involving one and two variables.
- Apply number concepts and geometric principles to solve practical problems.
- Apply statistical principles to analyze patterns and trends in data.