



English Language Arts/Literacy Interim Assessment Blocks

Fixed Form Blueprint

as of July 2023

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) are one of two distinct types of interim assessments being made available by the Consortium; the other type is the Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICAs). IABs are short, focused sets or blocks of items that measure one or more assessment targets. Results from these assessments provide information about a student's strengths or needs relative to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and, therefore, generate more detailed information for instructional purposes than the summative or ICAs alone. The IABs are currently available as fixed forms. The fixed forms are administered online, using the same delivery software as the summative assessments.

This blueprint presents the specific blocks that are available by grade level for English Language Arts/literacy beginning in grade 3 and continuing through high school. Each block-level blueprint contains information about claim(s), assessment target(s), and depth of knowledge level(s) addressed by the items in that block as well as the numbers of items allocated to each of those categories. Other more subject-specific information is also included. For example, this blueprint incorporates details on passage length (claim 1 reading) and scoring of responses.

The blueprint can be used by educators to plan how to integrate the IABs effectively within classroom instruction or to better understand results that are reported. Users of the blueprint can become familiar with the number of IABs for each grade level, the general focus of each IAB, (i.e. which assessment targets are addressed in a specific IAB and the emphasis of each target relative to the other targets in the block). A fifth-grade English Language Arts/literacy teacher, for example, may wish to determine what practice students need in writing informational texts. The teacher would see that there is a block on revising texts composed of fifteen machine-scored items across three assessment targets—revising narrative, informational, and opinion texts—and another briefwrite block composed of six items requiring hand scoring across the 1.4 (i)2e task that deals solely with

class time required and the amount of time needed to
the class



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Summary of ELA/Literacy Interim Assessment Blocks: Grade 6

Block Number	Block Name	Number of Items
1	Read Literary Texts	16
2	Read Informational Texts	16
3	Brief Writes	6
4	Edit/Revise	



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Summary of ELA/Literacy Interim Assessment Blocks⁴ High School

Block Number	Block Name	Number of Items
1	Read Literary Texts	16
2	Read Informational Texts	15
3	Brief Writes	6
4	Revision	15
5	Research	17
6	Explanatory Performance Task	3 ⁴
7	Argumentative Performance Task	0

⁴ The Writing PT score is derived from a single student response scored on three distinct traits. There are also two or three Research items in each PT, for a total of three or four items per task.



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Grade 3 Block 1: Read Literary Texts (15 items)



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Grade 3 Block 5: Research(16 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Research	2. Interpret & Integrate Information	2	5	0	5
	3. Analyze Information/Sources	2	6	0	6
	4. Use Evidence	2	5	0	5

Grade3, Block 6: Informational Performance Task (0 items)⁸

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	4. Compose Full Text ⁸ (Informational)	4	0	0	0
Research	2. Interpret & Integrate Information	3	0	0	0
	3. Analyze Information/Sources	3, 4			
	4. Use Evidence	3			

⁸ An IAB for this particular writing purpose is not being used for this grade at this time.



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Grade 4, Block 3: Brief Writes (6 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer ¹³	Total Items
Writing	1a. Write Brief Texts (Narrative)	3	0	3	3
	3a. Write Brief Texts (Informational)	3	0	2	2
	6a. Write Brief Texts (Opinion)	3	0	1	1

Grade 4, Block 4: Revision (15 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	1b. Revise Brief Texts (Narrative)	2	6	0	6
	3b. Revise Brief Texts (Informational)	2	6	0	6
	6b. Revise Brief Texts (Opinion)	2	3	0	3

¹³ These items are designed for hand scoring and may be AI scored with an application that yields comparable results by meeting or exceeding reliability and validity criteria for hand scoring.



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Grade 4, Block 5: Research (5 items)

Claim



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Grade 4, Block 7: Opinion Performance Task (4 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	7. Compose Full Text (Opinion)	4	0	1	1 ¹⁵

3

1

2

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Grade 5, Block 1: Read Literary Texts (14 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK ¹⁷	Short Passage 1 Items	Short Passage 2 Items	Long Passage Items	Total Items
	1. Key Details	2	0	0	1	1
	2. Central Ideas	2, 3	2	2	2	6
	3. Word Meaning					

Reading



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Grade 5 Block 3: Brief Writes (6 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer ^{#9}	Total Items
Writing	1a. Write Brief Texts (Narrative)	3	0	2	2
	3a. Write Brief Texts (Informational)	3	0	2	2
	6a. Write Brief Texts (Opinion)	3	0	2	2



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Grade 6, Block 1: Read Literary Texts (12 items)





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Grade 6, Block 2: Read Informational Texts (16 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK ²³	Short Passage 1 Items	Short Passage 2 Items	Long Passage Items	Total Items
Reading	8. Key Details	2	1	1	0	2
	9. Central Ideas	2	1	1	1	3
	10. Word Meaning	1	1	0	1	2
	11. Reasoning & Evidence	3	1	1	1	3

12. Analysis within or across Texts



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Grade 6 Block 3: Brief Writes (6 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer ²⁴	Total Items
Writing	1a. Write Brief Texts (Narrative)	3	0	3	3
	3a. Write Brief Texts (Explanatory)	3	0	2	1
	6a. Write Brief Texts (Argument)	3	0	1	2

Grade 6 Block 4: Revision (15 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	1b. Revise Brief Texts (Narrative)	2	5	0	5
	3b. Revise Brief Texts (Explanatory)	2	5	0	5



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Grade 6 Block 5: Research (1 items)

Claim



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Grade 6 Block 7: Argument Performance Task (3 items)

Claim



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Grade7, Block 3: Brief Writes (6 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer ³⁰	Total Items
Writing	1a. Write Brief Texts (Narrative)	3	0	2	2
	3a. Write Brief Texts (Explanatory)	3	0	1	1
	6a. Write Brief Texts (Argument)	3	0	3	3

Grade7, Block 4: Revision (15 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	1b. Revise Brief Texts (Narrative)	2	4	0	4
	3b. Revise Brief Texts (Explanatory)	2	4	0	4
	6b. Revise Brief Texts (Argument)	2	7	0	7

³⁰ These items are d



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Grade7, Block 5: Research (18 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Research	2. Interpret & Integrate Information	2	6	0	6
	3. Analyze Information/Sources	2	6	0	6
	4. Use Evidence	2	6	0	6

Grade7, Block 6: Explanatory Performance Task (items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	4. Compose Full Texts (Explanatory)	4	0	1	1 ³¹
Research	2. Interpret & Integrate Information	3, 4	1	2	3
	3. Analyze Information/Sources	3, 4			
	4. Use Evidence	3, 4			

³¹ The Writing PT score is derived from a single student response scored on three distinct traits. There are also two or three Research items in each PT, for a total of three or four items per task



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Grade 7, Block 7: Argumentative Performance Task (items)³²

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	7. Compose Full Texts (Argument)	4	0	0	0
Research	2. Interpret & Integrate Information	3, 4	0	0	0
	3. Analyze Information/Sources	3, 4			



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Grade 8, Block 1: Read Literary Texts (16 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK ³³	Long Passage 1 Items	Long Passage 2 Items	Long Passage3 Items	Total Items
Reading	1. Key Details	2	1	2	1	4
	2. Central Ideas	2, 3	1	0	1	2
	3. Word Meaning	2	1	1	0	2
	4. Reasoning & Evidence	3, 4	0	1	1	2
	5. Analysis within or across Texts	3, 4	0	0	0	0
	6. Test Structure and Features	2, 3	2	0	1	3
	7. Language Use	3	1	1	1	3



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Grade 8, Block 2: Read Informational Texts (16 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK ³⁴	Short Passage Items	Long Passage1 Items	Long Passage2 Items	Total Items
Reading	8. Key Details	2	1	1	1	3
	9. Central Ideas	2, 3	1	1	1	3
	10. Word Meaning	1	1	0	1	2
	11. Reasoning & Evidence	3, 4	1	1	1	3
	12. Analysis within or across Texts	3, 4	1	1	0	2
	13. Test Structure and Features	2, 3	0	0	0	0
	14. Language Use	3	1	2	0	3

³⁴ The goal is for a student to receive no more than 4 items at DOK 1 and at least 3 items at DOK 3 or higher.



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Grade 8 Block 3: Brief Writes (6 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer ⁵	Total Items
Writing	1a. Write Brief Texts (Narrative)	3	0	2	2
	3a. Write Brief Texts (Explanatory)	3	0	2	2
	6a. Write Brief Texts (Argument)	3	0	2	2

Grade 8 Block 4: Edit/Revise (14 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
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Grade 8 Block 7: Argumentative Performance Task (0 items)³⁷

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	7. Compose Full Texts (Argument)	4	0	0	0
Research	2. Interpret & Integrate Information	3, 4	0	0	0
	3. Analyze Information/Sources	3, 4			
	4. Use Evidence	3, 4			

Grade 8 Block 8: Narrative Performance Task (0 items)³⁷

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
Writing	2. Compose Full Texts (Narrative)	4	0	0	0
Research	2. Interpret & Integrate Information	3, 4	0	0	0
	3. Analyze Information/Sources	3, 4			
	4. Use Evidence	3, 4			

³⁷ An IAB for this particular writing purpose is not being used for this grade at this time.



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High School, Block 1: Read Literary Texts (16 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK ³⁸	Short Passage 1 Items	Long Passage1 Items	Long Passage2 Items	Total Items
Reading	1. Key Details	2	1	1	1	3
	2. Central Ideas	2, 3	0	0	0	0
	3. Word Meaning	1, 2	2	1	1	4
	4. Reasoning & Evidence	3	1	1	1	3
	5. Analysis within or across Texts	2, 4	1	1	0	2



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High School, Block2: Read Informational Texts15 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK ³⁹	Short Passage 1 Items	Short Passage2 Items	Long Passage Items	Total Items
Reading	8. Key Details	2	0	0	1	1
	9. Central Ideas	2	2	1	0	3
	10. Word Meaning	1, 2	1	1	0	2
	11. Reasoning &Evidence	3, 4	0	1	2	3
	12. Analysis within or across Texts	3, 4	1	1	1	3
	13. Test Structure and Features	3	1	0	0	1
	14. Language Use	3	1	0	1	2



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High School Block 3: Brief Writes (6 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer ⁴⁰	Total Items
Writing	1a. Write Brief Texts (Narrative)	3	0	2	2
	3a. Write Brief Texts (Explanatory)	3	0	1	2
	6a. Write Brief Texts (Argument)	3	0	3	2

High School Block 4: Revision (15 items)

Claim	Assessment Target	DOK	Machine Scored	Short Answer	Total Items
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1b. Revise Brief Texts (Narrative) Tm [(T)-18.96 0.41ay(Tw 16)]TJ 0Tm [(T)-18.96 9(r)-11.4 ((i)

Writing

