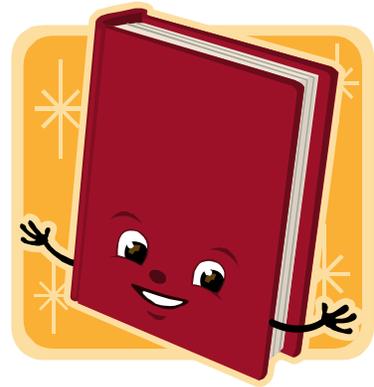


# Reading Skills

The test has multiple-choice **and** open-response questions that focus on the reading skills required in school and daily life:

- o Understanding explicitly (directly) stated ideas and information.
- o Understanding implicitly (indirectly ) stated ideas and information.
- o Making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience.



## Reading Selections

Questions about the reading selections are intended to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of what you have read. It is important to try and answer all of the questions. You will not be penalized for trying. Questions not answered are considered incorrect. All answers must relate to the information and ideas in the selections.

The reading selections include the following: **information paragraph, news report, dialogue, real-life narrative, and graphic selection** (e.g., schedule). They vary in length from a single paragraph to two pages.

## Tips for Reading

### General Strategies

- o Manage your time so that you complete all sections of the test.
- o Read the question first. This will help you predict what the reading selection is going to be about.
- o Skim the selection and then read it closely.
- o Underline or highlight important information and ideas as you read.
- o As you read, think about what you are reading and ask yourself questions about it.
- o Try and “see” what you are reading; some readers say this is like running a video or movie in their heads.
- o Look for links between what you are reading and experiences you have had.
- o If you read a word you don’t understand, look for a root words that you know inside the larger word; look for prefixes and suffixes.
- o If you still don’t understand the word, read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to its meaning. Try reading the sentences before and after the sentence to see if you can find the meaning from the context.
- o If a long sentence has you confused, reread it and try to put it into your own words.

- o If you have trouble understanding an idea, either read on until the meaning becomes clearer or stop and reread.
- o Some questions refer you to a paragraph in the reading selection to help you locate information; however, all of the information you need to answer the question may not be in that paragraph.

## **Reading Skills**

### **Strategies for Multiple-Choice Reading Questions**

- o Read the question and the four options carefully. Underline or highlight key words.
- o Read the four answers and rule out any answers that are obviously incorrect; if you can't find the correct answer easily, start by eliminating the wrong or least correct answers.
- o If necessary, reread the relevant parts of the selection to choose the best or most correct answer.
- o Record the answer on the Student Answer Sheet as described in the test instructions
- o Don't leave any answers blank. Even a guess gives you a 1 in 4 chance of being correct.
- o If you choose more than one option, the question will be marked incorrect.

### **Strategies for Open-Response Reading Questions**

- o Read and reread the questions carefully. Underline or highlight key words.
- o Follow the instructions in the question – if it asks for one thing, e.g., one word which describes – then give only one word, not two or more.
- o The space provided indicates the approximate length of the answer expected. Always be sure to write enough information to demonstrate your understanding of the reading selection.
- o Make connections between the ideas and information in the reading selection and your experience.
- o Answer the question using specific and relevant details and information from the reading selection.
- o Answer in full and correctly written sentences.
- o Reread your response and correct any errors you notice.

### **Strategies for reading Graphical Text (e.g., tables, maps, graphs, labels, schedules)**

When reading this type of text, consider the following points:

- o Look at titles, pictures, charts, and graphs to predict what the selection is going to be about.
- o Think about the purpose of the selection.
- o Look at the graphic features and how they make the selection more interesting or the information clearer.