

ELA Assessment Blueprint – Grades 8 & 10

This blueprint describes the structure and content of the Grades 8 and 10 Maryland System of Testing Academic Readiness (MSTAR) English Language Arts and Literacy (ELA/L) Assessments. The assessments are administered as a **Multi-Stage Adaptive Test** and include operational items organized into the following reporting categories:

Reading Claim: Reading Informational and Reading Literature

Writing Claim: Written Expression and Written Conventions

For detailed Maryland content standards and frameworks that define the essential knowledge, skills, and understandings expected across grade levels, please visit the [Maryland College and Career Ready Standards \(MCCRS\) for ELA/L](#) page.

For a variety of resources that support state assessments, such as calendars, accessibility information, and guides by audience, please visit the [Maryland State Assessment page](#).

READING CLAIM REPORTING CATEGORY – 83% OF MSTAR TEST FORM

Sub-Claim	Standards Available for Assessment		Approximate Percentage of Test
Reading Informational (RI)	Key Ideas and Details	RI.1, RI.2, RI.3	24% – 30%
Reading Informational (RI)	Craft and Structure Vocabulary	RI.4, RI.5, RI.6 L.4, L.5	14% – 20%
Reading Informational (RI)	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	RI.7, RI.8, RI.9	4% – 8%
Reading Literature (RL)	Key Ideas and Details	RL.1, RL.2, RL.3	24% – 22%
Reading Literature (RL)	Craft and Structure Vocabulary	RL.4, RL.5, RL.6 L.4, L.5	9% – 15%
Reading Literature (RL)	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	RL.7 and RL.9	2% – 5%

WRITING REPORTING CATEGORY – 17% OF MSTAR TEST FORM

Reporting Category	Standards Available for Assessment		Approximate Percentage of Test
Written Expression and Written Conventions	Text Types and Purposes	W.1 - W.2	17%

OVERALL TEST

Approximate Total Number of Items: **34-46**

Breakdown by Reporting Category

Test Form Information	Details
Reading Claim	34 points
Writing Claim	7 points
Total Points	41 points overall
Total Testing Time	210 Minutes (3.5 hours)

Operational Form Development Notes:

- The item types may vary by form and content area based on the content being assessed.
- The goal is for the form to contain approximately 75 - 90% Multiple Choice Single Select (MCSS) items, with the remaining 10 - 25% consisting of Multiple Choice Multiple Select (MCMS), Composite, and Technology Enhanced Item (TEI) types.
- The operational form will be developed to ensure that at least 75% of the standards within each reporting category are assessed annually.