

Preview of Common Core State Standards Sample EAGLE Items

Grades 3–11

English Language Arts and Mathematics

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Louisiana Believes.

Introduction: Preview of Common Core State Standards Sample EAGLE Items

In support of *Louisiana Believes*, the Department of Education and Pacific Metrics have collaborated to develop sample test questions for grades 3 through 11 that measure knowledge and skills identified in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. These item sets contain various types of reading passages and a mixture of technology-enhanced items based on the CCSS that can help students become more competitive in a twenty-first-century learning environment. Writing prompts for these item sets challenge the student to develop analytical thinking skills and to improve their reading, thinking, and writing skills. Teachers can embed these items in their instructional practices during all phases of student learning. Student achievement improves when assessment is seen as both an instructional tool during the learning process as well as an accountability tool to determine whether learning has occurred (Stiggins, 2003).

These sample item sets will be added to the EAGLE (Enhanced Assessments of Grade-Level Expectations) item bank in the 2012–2013 school year. EAGLE, an online classroom assessment tool, is designed for Louisiana teachers to create their own tests. The EAGLE system can be used during classroom instruction and provides teachers with feedback on student performance so that the teaching-learning process can be adjusted to improve student learning. This tool is available year-round to teachers and students.

The samples for English language arts illustrate the following innovations in content:

- A variety of stimuli including passages, articles, poems, photographs, illustrative art, slide shows, and videos
- Analysis of text complexity by using a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and “reader and task” considerations
- Materials that allow regular practice with complex texts and academic vocabulary
- The ability to build knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and informational texts
- Reading and writing grounded in evidence from texts

The samples for mathematics illustrate the following innovations in content:

- Connection of content and practice standards
- Balance of conceptual understanding and procedural skill
- Greater focus and exploration of key concepts in the standards
- Greater emphasis on the basic modeling cycle described by the CCSS
- Technology-enabled, multiple-part, constructed-response item types that use a common context and contain several prompts that increase in difficulty or cognitive complexity and guide students to a culminating activity
- Technology-enabled, extended-response item types that provide an opportunity for multiple solution methods, long chains of reasoning, and connection to many of the practices

This preview of Common Core sample items is provided in PDF format. In each sample set for each grade, the document includes an introduction to that set of items, reading passages for the set, item templates listing the metadata (grade, subject, CCSS number and text, difficulty level, depth of knowledge, etc.) for each item, and the items.