

MontCAS

CRT Reading Test Specifications

Purpose

The purpose is to develop quality items for the MontCAS, Phase 2 Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) for grades 3 through 8 and 10 in reading. The reading assessment has eight forms for each grade. The common and field test items are developed to align with the Montana Content Standards and Montana Grade Level Expectations.

History

	Year	Grade Level	Assessment
1	2002 and 2003	3 through 8 and 10	Spring Administration of Field Tests
2	2003 and 2004	4, 8, and 10	Spring Administration of Operational Tests
3	2004 and 2005	4, 8, and 10	Spring Administration of Operational Tests
		3, 5, 6, and 7	Spring Administration of '03 Field Tests
4	2005 and 2006	3 through 8 and 10	Spring Administration of Operational Tests with 16 Forms of Field Test Items (100% release of items)
5	2006 and 2007	3 through 8 and 10	Spring Administration of Operational Tests with 16 Forms of Field Test Items (100% release of items in grades 3, 5, 6 & 7 and 50% release of items in grades 4, 8 & 10)
6	2008 through 2009	3 through 8 and 10	Spring Administration of Operational Tests with 8 Forms of Field Test Items (50% release of items in all grades)

Test Design—Grades 3 through 8 and 10

Passages	Number of Items
Session 1	
Embedded short passage	7 MC
Common short passage A	7 MC
Common Long Passage A	12 MC, 1 CR
Session 1 Total	26 MC, 1 CR
Session 2	
Common Short passage B	7 MC
Common Short passage C	7 MC
Embedded long passage	12 MC, 1 CR
Session 2 Total	26 MC, 1 CR
Session 3	
Common Short passage D	7 MC
Embedded short passage	7 MC
Common Long Passage B	12 MC, 1 CR
Session 3 Total	26 MC, 1 CR
Common (Scored) Total	52 MC, 2 CR

Test Total	78 MC, 3 CR
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Common Test

2 long passages each with 12 multiple-choice items and 1 constructed response item
 4 short passages each with 7 multiple-choice items
 (Release 1 long passage and 2 short passages annually)

Embedded Field Test

2007-2008

4 long passages each with up to 24 MC and 2 CR
 8 short passages each with up to 14 MC items

2008-2009

2 long passages each with up to 24 MC and 2 CR
 4 short passages each with up to 14 MC items

Source of Items

The common and field test items for the assessment are developed and selected (by Montana educators) to align with the Montana Content Standards and Montana Grade Level Expectations.

Field Test—8 Forms

FORM	PASSAGES		
1	Short A (literary)	Short A (informational)	Long A (literary)
2	Short B (literary)	Short B (informational)	Long A (literary)
3	Short C (literary)	Short C (informational)	Long B (literary)
4	Short D (literary)	Short D (informational)	Long B (literary)
5	Short A (informational)	Short A (literary)	Long A (informational)
6	Short B (informational)	Short B (literary)	Long A (informational)
7	Short C (informational)	Short C (literary)	Long B (informational)
8	Short D (informational)	Short D (literary)	Long B (informational)

Blueprint - Percent of Point Distribution by Montana Standards

Standard	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 10
1	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	25%
2	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	32%
3							
4	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	22%
5	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	22%

Blueprint - Point Distribution by Montana Standards (Acceptable Range)

Standard	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 10
1	20 (18-22)	20 (18-22)	20 (18-22)	20 (18-22)	20 (18-22)	20 (18-22)	15 (13-17)
2	18 (16-20)	18 (16-20)	18 (16-20)	18 (16-20)	18 (16-20)	18 (16-20)	19 (17-21)
3							
4	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	13 (11-15)
5	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	11 (9-13)	13 (11-15)
Total	60	60	60	60	60	60	60

NOTE: CR items always assess standards 1 and 2 (1 CR for each standard)

Standard 1: Students construct meaning as they comprehend, interpret, and respond to what they read.

Standard 2: Students apply a range of skills and strategies to read.

Standard 4: Students select, read, and respond to print and nonprint material for a variety of purposes.

Standard 5: Students gather, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information from a variety of sources, and communicate their findings in ways appropriate for their purposes and audiences.

Distribution of Points by Passage Type

Reading Passage Distribution			
Literary	Stories, poetry, and other forms of literature	50 %	30 points
Informational	Content and practical passages	50 %	30 points
		100 %	60 points
Reading Passage Length			
Long*	One literary or one informational per session	50 %	30 points
Short*	At least one literary and informational per session	50 %	30 points
		100 %	60 points

Approximate Length of Passages

Grade Level	Long Passage (number of words)*	Short Passage (maximum word length)*
Grade 3	350-800	350
Grade 4	400-850	400
Grade 5	450-850	450
Grade 6	450-900	450
Grade 7	450-950	450
Grade 8	500-1,000	500
High school	550-1,200	550

*While every attempt is made to adhere to the word count, the final decision in the passage selection process is based on extensive reviews by content experts and bias panels, as well as a careful analysis of the sophistication of language, complexity of concepts, and readability of each passage.

Number of Items to Release Annually: one long and two short passages (per grade)

Grades	Release
3 – 8 and 10	25 MC 1 CR

2008 Test Development Schedule

May 13 and May 14.....Content Review..... Helena, Montana

May 15 Bias Review Helena, Montana

July 23 and July 24..... Test Selection Review..... Helena, Montana