# End-of-Course English II Test
# North Carolina Test Specifications

**Purpose of the Assessments**

- The End-of-Course (EOC) English II Test measures students' reading proficiency on the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* (NC*SCoS*) for English Language Arts, adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education in June 2017.

- NC State Board of Education Policy Requirements Regarding End-of-Course Assessments (TEST-003) directs schools to use the results from all operational EOC assessments as at least twenty percent (20%) of the student's final course grade.

- Test results will be used for school accountability under the accountability model and for federal reporting purposes.

**Curriculum Cycle**

- June 2017:   North Carolina State Board of Education adoption of the NC*SCoS* for English Language Arts

- 2017–2018:   Item development for the EOC English II Test

- 2018–2019:   Administration of embedded field test items for the EOC English II Test

- 2019–2020:   First operational administration of the EOC English II Test (Edition 5)

**Standards**

- The NC*SCoS* for English Language Arts is divided into 4 strands: reading; writing; speaking and listening; and language. The EOC assesses only reading standards.

**Developing Tests**

- North Carolina educators were recruited and trained to write new items. The diversity among the item writers and their knowledge of the current standards was addressed during recruitment. Trained North Carolina educators also review items and suggest improvements, if necessary. The use of North Carolina educators to develop and review items strengthens the instructional validity of the items.

- For an in-depth explanation of the test development process see State Board Policy Multiple-Choice Test Development (TEST-013) or reference the Test Development Process: Item, Selection, and Form Development document.

**Prioritization of Standards**

- Members of the NCDPI/Test Development Section invited North Carolina educators to collaborate and develop recommendations for a prioritization of the standards, indicating the relative importance of each standard, the anticipated instructional time, and the appropriateness of the standard for a multiple-choice or constructed response item format. Subsequently, curriculum and test development staff from the NCDPI met to review the results from the teacher panels and to develop weight distributions across

the domains for each grade level. *Table 1* describes the range of total items that will appear on the test.

Table 1. Weight Distributions for EOC English II

| Strand | English II |
|---|---|
| Reading for Literature | 35–39% |
| Reading for Informational Text | 42–46% |
| Language | 9–13% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

Table 2. EOC English II Item by DOK Distribution

| | DOK 2 | DOK 3 |
|---|---|---|
| EOC English II | 60–75% | 25–40% |

## Cognitive Rigor and Item Complexity

- Test items have been designed, developed, and classified to ensure that the cognitive rigor of the operational test forms align to the cognitive complexity and demands of the *NCSCoS for English Language Arts* reading standards. These items will require students to not only recall information but also apply concepts and skills, make decisions, and explain or justify their thinking.

## Testing Structure and Test Administration Time

- Included in the total item counts are embedded field test items that will not be included in the score but will be used for purposes of developing future test forms.

Table 2. Number of Operational, Field Test, and Total Items for EOC English II

| Course | Operational | | Field Test | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Selections | Items | Selections | Items | Selections | Items |
| **EOC English II** | 6 | 51 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 60 |

- Based on analysis from item-completion timing data, the NCDPI estimates it will take 150 minutes for most students to complete the EOC English II Test. The NCDPI requires all students be allowed ample opportunity to complete the test. The maximum amount of time allowed is 240 minutes, except for students with documented special needs requiring accommodations, such as *Scheduled Extended Time*. Refer to the *North Carolina Test Coordinators' Policies and Procedures Handbook* for additional information.

## Types of Items and Supplemental Materials

- The EOC English II Test will consist of four-response-option multiple-choice items, technology-enhanced items (online mode only), and constructed response items.

- The EOC English II Test will include four constructed response items. One constructed response item is an embedded field test item and will not be included in the student's score but will be used for purposes of developing future test forms. Three constructed response items are operational and will be included in the student's score. For 2020–21, a Lexile linking study will replace the embedded constructed response item and multiple-choice items on some forms.

- The EOC English II constructed response items will be short answer and can typically

be answered well in a paragraph or less. These short answer items will be worth two points each. In online mode, students will have a 1,000-character limit for their responses. In paper/pencil mode, students will write their responses on the lines provided on the answer sheet. Students must not write beyond the end of the lines or in the margins. Words written in the margins or unlined areas of the answer sheet will not be scored. Students must not add more lines to the answer sheet. Words written on extra lines will not be scored. Scorers review for only the specific criteria as stated in the item. Additional information not required in the answer does not increase the student's score.

- All students must be provided blank paper.

- An English II released form is available on the [EOC webpage](#) and to schools through NCTest, the NCDPI's online testing platform. The released form for EOC English II Test is built using the same operational test specifications. A single released form may not reflect the full breadth and depth of grade-level assessed standards, but it reflects the range of difficulty found on any EOC operational test form.
  - o Released items and forms may be used by Public School Units to help acquaint students with items. These materials must not be used for personal or financial gain.

**Test Cycle and Delivery Mode**
- The EOC English II Test must be administered during the last five (5) days (4x4/semester courses/summer school) or the last ten (10) days (traditional yearlong schedule) of the instructional period. According to North Carolina State Board of Education Policy [Requirements Regarding End-of-Course Assessments](#) (TEST-003), students who are enrolled for credit in courses in which EOC assessments are required shall take the appropriate assessment at the completion of the course. Refer to the *[North Carolina Test Coordinators' Policies and Procedures Handbook](#)* for additional information.

- The EOC English II Test will be administered through NCTest, the NCDPI's online testing platform. Paper/pencil versions of all online tests, including required online administrations, are available for technology hardship situations and for students with disabilities who need to test in the paper mode for accessibility.

- Schools must ensure every student participating in an online test for the North Carolina Testing Program completes the Online Assessment Tutorial for the associated test at least once at the school before test day. The tutorial provides students the opportunity to practice the mechanics of navigating through the testing platform, to become familiar with the tools, and to respond to the sample items. Refer to the *[North Carolina Test Coordinators' Policies and Procedures Handbook](#)* for additional information.

- The EOC English II Test is provided only in English. Native language translation versions are not available. North Carolina [G.S.§115C-81.45(a)](#) requires all teachers and principals to conduct all classes other than foreign language classes in English.

**Additional Resources**
- Score reports will be delayed due to Standard Setting.

- Achievement Level Descriptors were finalized during Standard Setting in July 2020

and were presented to the State Board in August 2020, adopted in September 2020, and are posted to the EOC webpage.

- A sample Individual Student Report for EOC English II will be available on the NCDPI Individual Student Report (ISRs) webpage after State Board approval of the Achievement Level Descriptors.

**English II Standards Assessed**
*Table 3* shows the standards that are assessed on English II.

*Table 3. EOC English II Assessed Standards*

| English II Standards |
| :---: |
| **Reading for Literature** |
| RL.1 |
| RL.2 |
| RL.3 |
| RL.4 |
| RL.5 |
| RL.6 |
| **Language** |
| L.4 |
| L.5.a |
| **Reading for Informational Text** |
| RI.1 |
| RI.2 |
| RI.3 |
| RI.4 |
| RI.5 |
| RI.6 |
| RI.8 |