

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment™

TEST BLUEPRINT

Subtest	Range of Objectives
I. Reading Comprehension and Analysis	0001–0005
II. Writing Knowledge and Proficiency	0006–0014

Copyright © 2005 by National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES®)

"Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment," "VCLA," and the "Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment" logo are trademarks of the Virginia Department of Education and National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES®).

"NES®" and its logo are registered trademarks of National Evaluation Systems, Inc.™

VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT™

TEST BLUEPRINT

Reading Comprehension and Analysis

Writing Knowledge and Proficiency

SUBTEST I—READING COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

0001 Understand the meaning of words and phrases.

- Use context clues to determine the meaning of a word with multiple meanings.
- Use the context of a paragraph or passage to determine the meaning of words or phrases.
- Identify synonyms or antonyms for words in a passage.

0002 Understand the main idea and supporting details in written material.

- Identify the main idea of a paragraph or passage.
- Establish the sequence of events or steps presented in a passage.
- Recognize information, ideas, and details that support the main idea of a paragraph or passage.
- Recognize a writer's expressed or implied purpose for writing (e.g., to persuade, to describe).

0003 Analyze the relationship among ideas in written material.

- Recognize cause-and-effect relationships in a passage.
- Analyze relationships between ideas in opposition (e.g., pro and con) or in agreement (e.g., reasons to support a claim).
- Draw conclusions from information stated or implied in a passage.

0004 Use critical-reasoning skills to evaluate written material.

- Interpret a passage to determine the writer's opinion, point of view, or position on an issue.
- Analyze the stated or implied assumptions on which the validity of an argument depends.
- Analyze the logical structure of an argument and identify instances of faulty reasoning.
- Distinguish between fact and opinion in written material.

**VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT™
TEST BLUEPRINT**

0005 Apply skills for summarizing, outlining, and visually representing written materials and for interpreting information presented in graphic form.

- Identify an accurate summary, outline, or graphic representation of information presented in written material.
- Interpret information presented in charts, graphs, or tables.
- Select graphic forms (e.g., bar graphs, line graphs, pie charts, tables, timelines, graphic organizers) to present information contained in written material.

SUBTEST II—WRITING KNOWLEDGE AND PROFICIENCY

0006 Understand the influence of purpose and audience in written communication.

- Identify written material consistent with a specific purpose or audience (e.g., a business letter, a speech to a skeptical audience).
- Adapt writing (e.g., in terms of sentence structure or vocabulary) for different purposes or audiences.

0007 Apply principles of unity, focus, and development in writing.

- Recognize examples of well-developed writing.
- Make revisions that improve the unity and focus of a paragraph or passage.
- Identify information, statements, or details presented in a paragraph or passage that are off topic.
- Select supporting material consistent with the argument or main idea of a paragraph or passage.

0008 Apply principles of organization in writing.

- Recognize effective organization in a written passage.
- Reorganize sentences or paragraphs to achieve an effective sequence of ideas.
- Identify appropriate transitional words or phrases (e.g., "however," "as a result," "moreover") to help readers understand the organization of ideas.

0009 Apply principles of sentence and paragraph construction in writing.

- Recognize effective topic sentences.
- Recognize wordiness and redundancy in sentences and paragraphs.
- Identify sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

**VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT™
TEST BLUEPRINT**

0010 Apply correct usage in Standard English.

- Recognize the standard use of verbs (e.g., subject-verb agreement, verb tense).
- Recognize the standard use of pronouns (e.g., pronoun-antecedent agreement; the use of possessive pronouns; the use of the relative pronouns *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*, and *that*; and the use of the demonstrative pronouns *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*).
- Recognize the standard use of modifiers (e.g., adverbs, adjectives, comparatives, superlatives).
- Recognize the correct use of commonly misused words (e.g., *their/there/they're*, *to/too*).

0011 Apply knowledge of mechanical conventions in Standard English.

- Identify and correct examples in which incorrect or extraneous punctuation has been used (e.g., commas, periods, exclamation points, apostrophes, quotation marks, semicolons joining clauses, colons to begin a list) or necessary punctuation has been omitted.
- Apply standards for capitalization.
- Identify misspelled words in a sentence or passage.

0012 Improve ineffective writing by analyzing and revising sentences containing problems related to grammar and usage, construction, and mechanics.

- Revise sentences to correct problems relating to grammar and usage (e.g., syntax, pronoun-antecedent agreement, subject-verb agreement, misplaced modifiers).
- Revise sentences to correct problems relating to sentence construction (e.g., sentence fragments, run-on sentences).
- Revise sentences to correct problems relating to mechanics (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization).

0013 Produce a written summary of a given informational or persuasive passage.

- Organize information into an effective summary of the main ideas of an informational passage, capturing the author's perspective and point of view.
- Organize information into an effective summary of the key arguments and supporting details of a persuasive passage, capturing the author's perspective and point of view.
- Demonstrate effective paragraph and sentence structure.
- Demonstrate command of mechanics, grammar, and usage according to the conventions of Standard English.

**VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT™
TEST BLUEPRINT**

0014 Prepare a developed composition on a given topic using language consistent with a given audience and purpose.

- Employ effective organizational strategies consistent with the topic and purpose of writing.
- Incorporate effective thesis statements, topic sentences, transitions, and conclusions.
- Establish and maintain a specific focus through supporting illustrations and examples.
- Support an argument with effective logic.
- Employ vocabulary consistent with the audience and purpose of the writing sample.
- Demonstrate effective paragraph and sentence structure.
- Demonstrate command of mechanics, grammar, and usage according to the conventions of Standard English.