



ICAM Content Specifications

Grade 8 Reading

11/12/01

ICAM Content Specifications: Eighth-Grade Reading

Module: Comprehending Literature

Form: X or Y

Description: This assessment module consists of a total of 11 multiple-choice questions and two open-ended questions that are scored using a 5-point (0 to 4) focused-holistic rubric.

Benchmarks	Points Possible
1.1 Understands themes, main ideas and supporting details in literary texts	4
1.2 Understands author's purpose, intent, or viewpoint and connects the author's purpose, form, and style to the content of the text	1 – 2
1.3 Summarizes and paraphrases content in literary texts, including the relationships among concepts and details	8
1.4 Makes inferences and predictions, and draws conclusions about story elements (e.g., plot, setting, theme, characters, symbols, missing details, cause-and-effect relationships)	4 – 5
1.5 Uses context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words or phrases	1
Total Points:	19

ICAM Content Specifications: Eighth-Grade Reading

Module: **Comprehending Academic Texts**

Form: **X or Y**

(i.e., reading to learn new information)

Description: This assessment module consists of a total of 11 multiple-choice questions and two open-ended questions that are scored using a 5-point (0 to 4) focused-holistic rubric.

Benchmarks	Points Possible
2.1 Understands main ideas and supporting details in academic texts	3 – 4
2.2 Understands author’s purpose, intent, or viewpoint and connects the author’s purpose, form, and style to the content of the text	3
2.3 Summarizes and paraphrases content in academic texts, including the relationships among concepts and details	8
2.4 Makes inferences and predictions, and draws conclusions about information in academic texts	3 – 4
2.5 Uses context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words or phrases	1
Total Points:	19

ICAM Content Specifications: Eighth-Grade Reading

Module: **Comprehending Functional Texts**
(i.e., reading to learn how to do something)

Form: X or Y

Description: This assessment module consists of a total of 11 multiple-choice questions and two open-ended questions that are scored using a 5-point (0 to 4) focused-holistic rubric.

Benchmarks	Points Possible
3.1 Understands main ideas and supporting details in functional texts	4
3.2 Understands author's purpose, intent, or viewpoint and connects the author's purpose, form, and style to the content or organization of the text	3
3.3 Summarize and paraphrases content in functional texts	8
3.4 Makes inferences and predictions, and draws conclusions about information in functional texts	4
Total Points:	19

ICAM Content Specifications: Eighth-Grade Reading

Module: Literary Elements & Techniques

Form: X or Y

Description: This assessment module consists of a total of 11 multiple-choice questions and two open-ended questions that are scored using a 5-point (0 to 4) focused-holistic rubric.

Benchmarks	Points Possible
4.1 Understands author's purpose, intent, or viewpoint and connects the author's purpose, form, and style to the content of the text	1 – 2
4.2 Identifies specific literary and poetic devices an author uses	3
4.3 Understands elements of plot/events; theme/main idea/recurring themes; time/setting; characterization; and dramatic, poetic, and rhetorical devices	5 – 6
4.4 Knows the defining characteristics of a variety of literary forms and genres	1
4.5 Describes or compares and contrasts the qualities and/or motives of characters	8
Total Points:	19