

Thank you for taking an interest in K-12 education in our state, and particularly the assessments we use to see how well students are achieving Washington's academic standards in reading, mathematics and writing.

In 1993, the state legislature tasked educators, parents and community members with the important work of improving the educational outcomes for all schoolchildren. The goal: To ensure that every student achieves a minimum level of knowledge and skills in key subject areas before graduating from high school.

The work began with setting uniform academic expectations across *all* schools in Washington and then developing assessments that specifically measure how well schools and students are meeting those goals.

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) asks students to respond to multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions – all of which are written by Washington educators – that directly relate to the state's academic standards. By linking the tests to the standards, we can accurately gauge how well we are improving our schools and helping students be prepared for their futures.

Introduction

This manual, *Scoring My WASL*, is designed specifically for parents and students who want to take and then score the practice WASL in reading and mathematics.

The tests that are given each spring are scored by a group of trained professionals, including Washington teachers. In order to provide you with an accessible way to score this practice WASL, we've attempted to simplify the regular scoring process.

The manual includes a multiple-choice answer key with A, B, C or D responses. Each of these questions is worth one point. Questions noted on the key by an "SA" or "ER" require the student to explain in writing his or her answer. These short-answer (SA) or extended-response (ER) questions are worth two and four points, respectively.

Because students must provide a written answer to short-answer and extended-response questions, scoring requires the use of a scoring "rubric" (rule) to explain all of the elements that should be included in an answer in order to earn partial or full credit. Students respond to these questions in a variety of ways, so the scoring rubric is complemented by multiple examples of student work and how each was scored.

Trained WASL scorers refer to actual student responses from previous tests that have already been scored (known as "anchor papers") when they score a question.

For each short-answer and extended-response question, we have provided multiple anchor papers for that question – several for each score that can be earned. Each anchor paper includes an "annotation" at the bottom of the page – a specific explanation of why the student response earned that score. Use these to guide your own scoring of short-answer and extended-response questions.

The scoring rules and anchor papers for each item are posted on our practice WASL page. Look there to download PDF files for each two-point and four-point item under the "Scoring My WASL" section.

Use the "Raw Score to Achievement Level" table on the following pages to approximate how performance on the practice WASL compares to the WASL given each year in reading and mathematics.

To learn more about the WASL and Washington's assessment system, please visit the OSPI Web site throughout the year: www.k12.wa.us.

Mathematics Practice WASL Answer Key

Release	Strand	Key
1	Algebraic Sense	B
2	Number Sense	C
3	Geometric Sense	D
4	Measurement	SA*
5	Probability and Statistics	B
6	Algebraic Sense	B
7	Geometric Sense	A
8	Algebraic Sense	SA
9	Makes Connections	A
10	Communicates Understanding	SA
11	Probability and Statistics	SA
12	Algebraic Sense	B
13	Communicates Understanding	ER*
14	Makes Connections	A
15	Geometric Sense	C
16	Measurement	A
17	Solves Problems/Reasons Logically	ER
18	Probability and Statistics	B
19	Geometric Sense	B
20	Makes Connections	SA
21	Number Sense	C
22	Measurement	D
23	Geometric Sense	D
24	Measurement	SA
25	Number Sense	A
26	Geometric Sense	D
27	Algebraic Sense	SA
28	Number Sense	SA
29	Number Sense	C
30	Solves Problems/Reasons Logically	B
31	Solves Problems/Reasons Logically	ER
32	Probability and Statistics	B
33	Algebraic Sense	A
34	Measurement	SA
35	Number Sense	SA
36	Measurement	D
37	Makes Connections	B
38	Makes Connections	C
39	Communicates Understanding	ER
40	Solves Problems/Reasons Logically	SA
41	Probability and Statistics	B
42	Probability and Statistics	A

* Shaded rows identify short-answer (SA) and extended-response (ER) items

Scoring Rubrics and Anchor Papers – Mathematics

The scoring rubrics and anchor papers for each of the short-answer and extended-response mathematics questions have been broken out item-by-item on our High School Practice WASL Web page. Please visit that page when you are ready to score these items.

Please note that the released items that comprise the practice WASL in mathematics have been used on multiple operational WASL exams over time.

The items in the anchor and practice sets are actual scanned responses from students from these various years. Because of their use over time, you may see differences in how these items are presented in each scanned response and against the practice test (e.g. page number, item number, layout of question).

Raw Score to Achievement Level for the High School Mathematics WASL Practice Test

Raw Score (Total Points)	Achievement Level
0 to 23	Level 1 "Well Below Standard"
24 to 34	Level 2 "Below Standard"
35 to 49	Level 3 "Meets Standard"
50 to 65	Level 4 "Exceeds Standard"

Students earning scores that place them in **Level 1** are considered to have little or no understanding of the mathematical skills assessed by the WASL.

Those students who score at **Level 2** demonstrate a basic understanding of math.

Level 3 and Level 4 performing students are meeting or exceeding the state's academic expectations in mathematics.

Reading Practice WASL Answer Key

Item Number	Strand	Answer Key or Item Type
1	Ideas and Detail – Informational Text	B
2	Ideas and Detail – Informational Text	C
3	Ideas and Detail – Informational Text	C
4	Ideas and Detail – Informational Text	SA*
5	Critical Thinking – Informational Text	B
6	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	A
7	Critical Thinking – Informational Text	SA
8	Critical Thinking – Literary Text	C
9	Ideas and Detail – Literary Text	SA
10	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Literary Text	D
11	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Literary Text	A
12	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Literary Text	B
13	Ideas and Detail – Literary Text	D
14	Ideas and Detail – Literary Text	C
15	Critical Thinking – Literary Text	SA
16	Critical Thinking – Informational Text	A
17	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	SA
18	Ideas and Detail – Informational Text	B
19	Ideas and Detail – Informational Text	B
20	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	C
21	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	D
22	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	ER*
23	Critical Thinking – Literary Text	C
24	Ideas and Detail – Literary Text	A
25	Ideas and Detail – Literary Text	SA
26	Ideas and Detail – Literary Text	C
27	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Literary Text	A
28	Critical Thinking – Literary Text	A
29	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Literary Text	C
30	Critical Thinking – Literary Text	SA
31	Ideas and Detail – Informational Text	C
32	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	B
33	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	A
34	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	SA
35	Analysis, Interpretation, Synthesis – Informational Text	B
36	Critical Thinking – Informational Text	SA
37	Critical Thinking – Informational Text	ER

* Shaded rows identify short-answer (SA) and extended-response (ER) items

Scoring Rubrics and Anchor Papers – Reading

The scoring rubrics and anchor papers for each of the short-answer and extended-response reading questions have been broken out item-by-item on our High School Practice WASL Web page. Please visit that page when you are ready to score these items.

Please note that the released items that comprise the practice WASL in reading have been used on multiple operational WASL exams over time.

The items in the anchor and practice sets are actual scanned responses from students from these various years. Because of their use over time, you may see differences in how these items are presented in each scanned response and against the practice test (e.g. page number, item number, layout of question).

Raw Score to Achievement Level for the High School Reading WASL Practice Test

Raw Score (Total Points)	Achievement Level
0 to 19	Level 1 “Well Below Standard”
20 to 26	Level 2 “Below Standard”
27 to 34	Level 3 “Meets Standard”
35 to 52	Level 4 “Exceeds Standard”

Students earning scores that place them in **Level 1** are considered to have little or no understanding of the reading skills assessed by the WASL.

Those students who score at **Level 2** demonstrate a basic ability of essential reading skills.

Level 3 and Level 4 performing students are meeting or exceeding the state’s academic expectations in reading.