ELA Grade 3 BSA 2017-18 Item Guide

Below are examples of the question stem for the item in each standard where students had the most difficulty. The most common error made by students is included.

Item Types: Multiple Choice, Multiselect, and EBSR (Evidence Based Selected Response – 2 part items)

Reading Standards for Literature

RL.1.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.	
Item Type	Multiselect
Stem	*Which **two** sentences from the passage show why (character) believes that _____?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select two sentences from the text to support an inference, 32% answered correctly. Most common error: choosing a sentence from the text that did not support the inference.

RL.1.2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*Part B: Which paragraph supports the answer to Part A?*
Most Common Error	In a two-part item, when asked to support the answer to Part A, 51% answered correctly. Most common error: 26% chose D, a response that did not support Part A.

RL.1.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*How do (character's) actions affect events in the story?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select a response showing how a character's actions affected events in the story, 42% answered correctly. Most common error: 25% chose C, a response that did not show an effect of the character's actions.

RL.2.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language. L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*What is the meaning of the word _____ as it is used in this sentence from the passage?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select the meaning of a word based on its context, 38% answered correctly. Most common error: 33% chose D, a meaning not supported by context.

RL.2.5: Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*What do paragraphs ___ and ___ add to the passage?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select a response showing how specific paragraphs add to the text as a whole, 46% answered correctly. Most common error: 36% chose C, which was not an impact of the specific paragraphs.

RL.2.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*How does (a character) feel after he _____?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select a character's point of view, 46% answered correctly. Most common error: 37% chose A, which did not represent the point of view of the character.

RL.3.7: Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*What does the Illustration add to the passage?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select the correct explanation of what an illustration adds to the text, 53% answered correctly. Most common error: 23% chose C, an incorrect explanation of what the illustration added based on the passage

RL.3.9: Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).

Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*Passages 1 and 2 are compared in the Venn diagram below. Which of the following should be placed in the middle section of the Venn diagram based on these passages?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select an event that two passages had in common, 36% answered correctly. Most common error: 31% chose A, an event that happened in only one passage and did not belong in the center section of the Venn diagram.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

RI.1.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.	
Item Type	Multiselect
Stem	*Which **two** of the following complete the table below?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select two details that would be included in a table based on information in the passage, 47% answered correctly. The most common error was choosing a detail that would not be included in the table.

RI.1.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.	
Item Type	Multiselect
Stem	*Part B: Read these sentences from the section _____.* *{sentences from text}* *Which **two** sentences support the answer to Part A?*
Most Common Error	In a two-part item, when asked to support the answer to Part A, 19% answered correctly. The most common error was choosing a response that did not support Part A.

RI.1.3: Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*Based on information in the passage, which sentence completes the table?*
Most Common Error	When asked to complete a "Cause/Effect" table by selecting the cause, 47% answered correctly. Most common error: 23% chose B, a sentence that did not cause the effect listed in the table.

RI.2.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area. **L.3.5:** Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*Read this sentence from the passage.* *(sentence)* *Why does the author use the phrase _____ instead of _____ in this sentence?*
Most Common Error	When asked to choose the correct nuance in word meaning, 49% answered correctly. Most common error: 25% chose C, a response that did not reflect the correct distinction for the phrase.

RI.2.5: Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.	
Item Type	Example 1: Multiple Choice Example 2: Multiselect
Stem	*Example 1: Which of the following can be found in the text box "_____"?* *Example 2: Under which **two** heading in the passage would you find information about _____?*
Most Common Error	In Example 1, when asked to select information found in a text feature, 22% answered correctly. Most common error: 40% chose A, information that was not found in the text feature. In Example 2, when asked to choose the section in the passage that would contain a detail, 34% answered correctly. The most common error was choosing an incorrect section.

RI.2.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*With which statement would the author of this passage agree?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select a statement with which the author would agree, 51% answered correctly. Most common error: 18% chose D, a response that did not reflect the author's point of view.

RI.3.7: Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*What does the map add to the text of the passage?*
Most Common Error	When asked to use information from a map and the text to answer a question, 43% answered correctly. Most common error: 31% chose D, which was not what the map added.

RI.3.8: Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*How are the sentences in paragraph __ connected?*
Most Common Error	When asked to select the connection between paragraphs, 42% answered correctly. Most common error: 22% chose B, an incorrect connection.

RI.3.9: Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.	
Item Type	Example 1: Multiple Choice Example 2: Multiselect
Stem	*Example 1: Passages 1 and 2 are compared in the Venn diagram below. Which statement should be placed in the Venn diagram based on information in these passages?* *Example 2: Which **two** facts about _____ should be placed in the middle of the Venn diagram based on these two passages?*
Most Common Error	In Example 1 when asked to select a detail that two passages had in common, 22% answered correctly. Most common error: 31% chose B, a response that was common to both. In Example 2 when asked to select two facts that should be placed in the center of a Venn diagram, 21% answered correctly. The most common error was to select a response that was not common to both and did not belong in the center section of the Venn diagram.

Language Standards

L.1.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. **e.** Form and use regular and irregular verbs.	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*Select the response that makes the sentence correct.* *(irregular verbs)*
Most Common Error	When given a sentence requiring students to select the past tense of an irregular verb, 55% answered correctly. Most common error: 27% chose A, the present tense.

L.1.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. **d.** Form and use possessives.	
Item Type	Multiple Choice
Stem	*Select the response that makes the sentence correct.* *(Example 1: singular possessives, Example 2: spelling)*
Most Common Error	Example 1: When given a sentence requiring students to select the singular possessive (dog's), 39% answered correctly. Most common error: 33% chose D, the plural of the noun (dogs). Example 2: When asked to choose the correct spelling of a word, 23% chose the correct spelling. Most common error: 54% chose D, a common misspelling of the word.

Grade 3 ELA Summary Statements

- Out of 60 items on the Grade 3 BSA, there were 11 items with a percent correct less than 40%. There were 6 Multiselect items and 6 pairs of EBSR items.

Multiselect items:
- Students had difficulty with 5 of the 6 Multiselect items. When asked to select **two** responses, the most common error was selecting one or more responses that were incorrect. In order for the student to earn credit for the item, both correct responses – and only the correct responses – must be selected.

EBSR (Evidence Based Selected Response Items):
- Generally students did slightly better on Part A, making an analysis or inference than they did on Part B where they were required to support the answer in Part A.

Comparing texts:
- RL.3.9 (compare/contrast themes, settings, plots) and RI.3.9 (compare/contrast important points and key details): Students had difficulty with 4 of the 6 items for this standard. When students were asked to identify a similarity, the most common error was choosing a response that applied to only one text, not what was common to both.

Supporting an Inference:
- When asked to select a quote from the passage or a sentence to support an inference, the most common error was selecting a detail or quote that did not support the inference.
    - RL.1.1 (select quote or detail to support inference= 1 item)
    - RL.1.2 and RI.1.2 (select detail or quote to support = 1 item)

Using text features in informational text:
- Students had difficulty with 2 of the 3 items where they needed to use text features (e.g., sidebars, maps, photos) to answer the question.
    - RI.2.5 (use text features to locate information = 2 items)