

## What are test blueprints?



A test blueprint provides the plan for what a test will measure and guides all subsequent steps of test construction. Just as an engineer creates a diagram - or blueprint - to outline the details of a building project, a test blueprint serves as a guide for test construction and provides an outline of the content and skills to be measured on a state summative test. A test blueprint contains information about an individual test, including the number of points on the test, and how the learning standards are grouped in order to report the test results.

## What information is shared through a test blueprint?

### Reporting Categories

Learning standards are placed into reporting categories and these categories define how test data is reported for a test. Each test has three to five reporting categories. Reporting categories represent groups of similar student skills or learning standards assessed within each grade and subject.

### Depth of Knowledge/Cognitive Demand

Depth of Knowledge/Cognitive Demand refers to the complexity of thinking skills required to successfully complete a task. Complexity relates to the level of thinking and/or the abstractness of the task, as opposed to difficulty of the question (amount of time, effort, or work required). Depth of Knowledge is used for ELA, Math, and Social Studies and Cognitive Demand is used for Science.

### Proportion of Content

Blueprints show the learning standards in each reporting category for each test. They also show the range of points included in each reporting category and for Depth of Knowledge/Cognitive Demand for each test.

Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Level	Approximate Portion of Test
1 (Recall)	9 – 16 points
2 (Skills/Concepts)	23 – 33 points
3 (Strategic Thinking)	5 – 13 points

Cognitive Demand (CD) Level	Approximate Portion of Test
<b>T</b> = Designing Technological/Engineering Solutions Using Science Concepts	6 – 11 points
<b>D</b> = Demonstrating Science Knowledge	
<b>C</b> = Interpreting and Communicating Science Concepts	28 – 32 points
<b>R</b> = Recalling Accurate Science	17 – 21 points

## How can test blueprints be used in the classroom?

**Designing Curriculum**  
Create your local instructional calendar

Identify standards that can be grouped together into units of instruction based on a common topic, theme, or concept. Determine the amount of local instructional time to spend on each unit.

**Planning Instruction**  
Dig Deep into Learning Standards

Plan instructional activities that allow all students to engage in rigorous grade level content at different levels of cognitive complexity.

**Creating Local Assessments**  
Assess Content in the Classroom

Design local assessments based on units of instruction that assess rigorous grade level content at different levels of complexity.