

RELA
Benchmark
#1

Fall 2020

Test Administrators
Manual

2020-2021

Grades
6-8

RELA Grades 6-8 Test Examiner’s Manual

PGCPS Benchmark—Test 1

Test Description

The RELA Benchmark #1 consists of a mix of selected response and constructed response items, administered over two test sessions.

Test	Number of Items	Session 1	Session 2 (1 CR)
Grade 06 RELA	12	45 minutes	45 minutes
Grade 07 RELA	13	45 minutes	45 minutes
Grade 08 RELA	13	45 minutes	45 minutes

Testing Cautions: Coaching Prohibited.

Make sure that all students understand the directions for taking the test. The Test Examiner or the proctors **may** assist the students with the mechanics of test taking, such as helping students find the correct place in the online test or how to use accessibility features online. **However**, no one should provide assistance that will inadvertently or otherwise indicate an answer; this is a test, not a learning activity. Do not indicate the correct response to any question with the exception of sample questions if applicable.

Testing Accommodations

Testing accommodations for Special Education students, English Language Learner (ELL) students, and students with disabilities covered under Section 504 must be approved and documented according to the procedures and requirements outlined in the document, *The Maryland Assessment Accessibility & Accommodations Policy Manual (July, 2017)*. No accommodations may be made for students merely because they are members of an instructional group. Any accommodation must be based on individual needs and not on a category of disability area, level of instruction, environment, or other group characteristics. Accommodations that are available will be loaded to the Pearson platform from those entered in MDIEP. Please refer to this link for additional resources - <https://tinyurl.com/y6pcmbvt>.

Testing Environment

When in a school, provide a testing location that has comfortable seating, sufficient workspace, and good lighting. Make sure there is sufficient room for the Test Examiner to walk around desks while observing students. The room should be adequately ventilated and free from distracting noises. Post a “Testing: Do Not Disturb” sign on the door to prevent interruptions.

When testing virtually it is important to reduce distractions as much as possible for the student.

Prohibited Aids *(Please instruct students to put away all such material prior to testing)*

- All instructional material that provide definitions or examples of concepts and terms should be put away during testing.
- Standard published English language dictionaries and thesauruses

Resources Links for Troubleshooting

Pearson Support Page - <https://pgcps.mdassessments.com/support/>

Internal Assessment Resource Page - <https://tinyurl.com/y6pcmbvt>

Note for Teachers – Pearson will score the selected response items, but you will need to score the students’ written responses within the Pearson Access platform using the embedded scoring rubrics found on this platform. Please refer to the Internal Assessment Resource Page for directions on scoring.

Directions for Testing using TestNav

SAY

Today, you will be taking the Reading English Language Arts Benchmark #1 for _____ [Grade 06/Grade 07/Grade 08 (*select appropriate grade*)] _____ (session 1/session 2). You will be opening the TestNav app on your computer now. Please click the button labeled student portal on the left side of the TestNav menu. Next select the Prince George’s County Public Schools from the drop-down menu and click continue. On the next, screen please click on the light blue button labeled PGCPS.

Allow students time to follow these steps.

SAY

Does anyone have any questions?

SAY

Day/Session 1: Please read the 1st text selection and answer the questions. Then, read the second text selection and complete the questions.

Day/Session 2: Please reread the second text selection from Day/Session 1 again then complete the essay.

Remember, read all directions and questions very carefully and choose the best answer for each question. If you are not sure about an answer, do the best you can, but don’t spend too much time on any one question. This test includes two days/sessions that you will complete during two testing sessions. Once you submit section 1 you will not be able to return to this section.

Please remember that, during the testing session, you may not talk to anyone and you may not have any assistance with this assessment.

Each item refers to a reading passage. Be sure to read the text selections to help you choose the correct answer.

Are there any questions?

Pause to see if students have questions.

SAY

You will have 45 minutes to complete the session.

SAY

To ensure your ability to complete the online Benchmark #1 test we will now exit our Zoom/Google Classroom. If you encounter any problems testing, I will be waiting on the Zoom/Google Classroom site to help you.

Pause for any last minute questions.

SAY

When you sign in please select the test labeled _____. [**Grade 06 RELA/ Grade 07 RELA/ Grade 08 RELA** (*insert appropriate test name*)]. You may now sign off Zoom/Google Classroom. **Do Your Best!**