

# Georgia Milestones Quick Fact Sheet

ELA Grades 3-12

First District RESA

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## Springing Into ELA Milestones

*The time has come...the new assessment format and landscape are here!*

*FDRESA ELA consultants are providing this Quick Fact document as a supporting tool for teachers and leaders as they prepare.*

## What's New?



“Georgia Milestones represents a significant change...for our state. This opportunity allows us to recalibrate, ...and refocus on teaching and learning...”

~Melissa Fincher, GaDOE  
Deputy Superintendent of  
Assessment and Accountability

# Format of the ELA Milestones

## NUMBER, TYPES, AND VALUE OF ITEMS:

- ◆ 44 items contribute to a possible 55 total points toward the final score
- ◆ 40 selected response = 1 point each
- ◆ 4 constructed response = 2, 4, or 7 points each

### 1. Selected Response (Multiple Choice)

- ◆ 50 items
- ◆ 40 match the CCGPS standards for the grade and contribute to proficiency score
- ◆ 10 of these do not match the CCGPS standards for the grade and DO NOT count toward the proficiency score (will be used for norm-referencing only)

### 2. Constructed Response

- ◆ 4 items
- ◆ All items are in response to text read as a part of the test; all constructed response items will be scored by actual educators using rubrics specific to the task.

### Short Answer

- ◆ 2 items, 2 points each
- ◆ These prompts require expository responses, either informative or argumentative
- ◆ 1 item based on narrative text and is more extensive: 4 points
- ◆ This prompt requires a narrative response, perhaps rewriting an ending, creating a short sequel, or writing the “introduction” to a short story that reflects information read in text (similar to a book cover blurb giving setting, characters, and conflict)

### Extended Writing Response

- ◆ 1 item
- ◆ Based on two paired texts, to replace the former writing assessment: 7 points
- ◆ This prompt requires an expository response, either informative or argumentative (opinion for grades 3-5)

The rubric measures two trait areas:

Idea Development, Organization and Coherence (4 points)

Language Usage, Grammar, Conventions (3 points)

**6 Field test items which do not count toward any score.**

**Total number of items on test: 60**



## Test Sections and Time Allowances

### Day One:

#### Section 1

- ◆ Mostly multiple choice plus perhaps one short answer item or narrative item (field test items and norm referenced items may be included)
- ◆ 60 minutes with an additional 10 minutes available if needed (70 minutes maximum)

#### Section 2

- ◆ Mostly multiple choice plus perhaps one short answer item or narrative item (field test items and norm referenced items may be included)
- ◆ 60 minutes with an additional 10 minutes available if needed (70 minutes maximum)

### Day Two:

#### Section 3

- ◆ Paired passages to read plus
- ◆ One multiple choice item that examines one of the two passages
- ◆ One multiple choice item that examines the other passage
- ◆ One multiple choice item that compares the two passages
- ◆ One short answer item that compares some feature of the two passages
- ◆ One extended response that requires analysis of the two passages, per the prompt
- ◆ 70 minutes with TWO additional 10-minute extensions if needed (90 minutes maximum)



## Helping Students Prepare

### Extended Writing Response

- ◆ Give students timed practice to prepare. They are not expected to produce a polished paper--more like a first draft.
- ◆ Practice with “Warm up” items and use the details from those questions to support the essay.
- ◆ Structure for response: Opening sentence restates and answers the prompt but students must go on to second, third, fourth, sentences to explain and give examples. Consider using a thesis statement structure which supports students as they restate and answer the prompt: {Something} {does something} because {reasons}. Evidence from the text will provide details to include in a fully developed response.
- ◆ Use student or adult generated writing samples to help students see the various elements in the scoring categories contained in the Assessment Guides from GaDOE.

### Short Constructed Response

- ◆ Utilize tools such as RACE and teach students to include at least two details in their responses.
- ◆ Practice writing short, one or two sentence responses to prompts and compare/contrast a prompt that requires a longer response versus one that requires a short response.
- ◆ Give students timed practice to help them manage the time and space issues they will encounter with short constructed response.

### Narrative Constructed Response

- ◆ Give students opportunities to practice with sample texts/ prompts from the Assessment Guides.
- ◆ Create a rubric that matches the specific task they are given rather than to use the one that is provided--it includes all narrative elements and is too generic. For example: if prompt asks them to rewrite the ending, pull rubric items pertaining to writing an ending or solution to the problem. Or, if they are to develop a dialog between characters, pull rubric items related to dialog and character development.

### Important Reminder

**\*\*Check the GaDOE Assessment website often for up-to-date information:**

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>

## Keyboarding and Technology Use

- ◆ Utilize the practice site and provide students opportunities to type regularly. Be sure to let students get comfortable typing in the appropriate boxes.
- ◆ Blank paper will be provided for online administration, collected, then shredded (no one will read the pre-writing paper).
- ◆ Students will need lots of opportunities to practice with keyboarding and to become familiar with the tools that are going to be provided. For example, paired passages will be tabbed at the top of the screen so they can click back and forth between the texts as they read and respond.



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## Suggested Resources

### Link to GaDOE Assessment Guides for EOC (high school courses)

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-End-of-Course-Assessment->

### Link to GaDOE Assessment Guides for EOG (Grades 3-8):

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-End-of-Grade-Assessment->

### Achieve the Core:

[www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org)

### Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Performance Tasks

<http://readingandwritingproject.org/resources/assessments/reading-writing-assessments>

### EngageNY:

<https://www.engageny.org/ccss-library/released%20test%20ELA?solsort=score%20desc>

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