

Summary of TASC Reading Item Specifications

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/tasc-test-and-item-specifications>

Emphasis	Text type	Standard	Question Stem
High	Informational	Cite evidence to support analysis of text, including inferences	Which detail from the text best supports the idea that... Which statements from the text best support this belief? Which details from the text best explains how...
High	Informational	Determine central idea of a text analyze development over course of a text	How is the central idea reinforced in Paragraph 7? Which quotation from the text best supports the central idea? Which statements best expresses the central idea of the text?
High	Informational	Determine 2 or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development	Which statement best summarizes the central idea of both texts? Which main idea from the text dos this excerpt most clearly support? Which 2 central ideas are discussed in the text?
High	Informational	Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events	Which of these is most likely the author's purpose for comparing ideas in Paragraphs 5 & 6? Why does the author include this sentence in the text?
High	Informational	Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events	How does the author develop the connection between the 2 ideas in Paragraphs 6 & 7? Which statements from the text best explains....?
Medium	Informational	Determine word meanings including figurative, connotative, technical	How does the author's repeated use of ...impact the overall tone of the text? How is the phrase...used in the sentence?
Medium	Informational	Analyze how an author uses or refines the meaning of a key term in the course of the text	Which statement best describes the effect of the phrase...? How does the meaning of ...change over the course of the text? Which word is the best synonym for...as it is used in the sentence?
Medium	Informational	Analyze how an author's ideas are developed by particular sections of text	How do the first 3 paragraphs of the text help develop the author's position? How do these sentences contribute to the development of the author's claim that...
Medium	Informational	Analyze the effectiveness of an argument and clarity of points	How does the structure of the text best help clarify the author's purpose/argument? What is the author most likely trying to show in paragraphs 2 & 3?
Medium	Informational	Determine an author's point of view of purpose and how the author uses rhetoric to advance that purpose	
Medium	Informational	Determine how rhetoric is particularly	Which statement best describes the effect of repetition throughout the text?

		effective to advance a point of view or purpose	With which of these statements would the author of the text most likely agree? Which sentence expresses a viewpoint in the text?
Medium	Informational	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple meaning words in context	What is the meaning of ...as it is used in the sentence? Which words provide clues about the meaning of...?
Medium	Informational	Demonstrate knowledge of figurative language	What does the phrase ...suggest? What is the narrator's most likely reason for using this phrase in the sentence?
Medium	Literary	Cite evidence to support analysis of the text, explicit & implicit, including where the text leaves matters uncertain	Which central idea do these statements best support? Read these sentences from the text..which inference is supported from the excerpt? Why does feel excited at the beginning of the text? Which inference is supported from the excerpt? What question does the author leave unanswered at the end of the story?
Medium	Literary	Determine a theme or central idea and analyze its development	Which statement best states the central idea of the poem? Which of these would be most important to include in a summary of...? Which of these statements would make the best topic for a summary of...?
Medium	Literary	Determine how 2 or more themes of central ideas are developed in a text	Which statement best expresses how the two themes in the text are developed?
Medium	Literary	Analyze how complex characters develop in a text	Which event most affects the way the character changes? Explain how the speaker's viewpoint shifts from the beginning to the end of the poem Which of these words best describes at the end of the text?
Medium	Literary	Analyze the impact of the author's choices about developing or relating elements	What effect does the author's description of...have on the development of ...? What is significant about's reaction to...?
Medium	Literary	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text including figurative meanings	Which words from the poem best support the idea that...? What does the phrase ... suggest in this sentence? What is the effect of the use of the word ... on the tone of the text? How does the repeat word....affect the meaning of the sentence? What meaning does the phrase....suggest in these sentences?
Medium	Literary	Determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases in context	What is the meaning of ... as it is used in the sentence? Which words provide clues about the meaning of ...?
Medium	Literary	Demonstrate knowledge of figurative language	What does the phrase....suggest? What is the narrator's most likely reason for using [this phrase] in the sentence rather than [this phrase]?

		and nuances	What word best describes [character's] attitude toward [character]?
Low	Informational	Integrate information from different formats to address a question	What idea from the txt do these diagrams/photos help to clarify?
Low	Informational	Delineate and evaluate the argument in a text	Which of these claims does the author support in the text? How does the author support the central claim in Paragraph 4?
Low	Informational	Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal US texts—Supreme court decisions and presidential speeches	Explain how the document supports the author's claim of...? Which statement best describes the author's primary premise?
Low	Informational	Analyze seminal US documents of historical significance ¹	How is the theme of ...addressed In the text? Which theme is developed in the text by using the examples of ... and ...? How does the author's use of symbolism help the text's argument?
Low	Literary	Analyze how text elements (flashback, pacing, beginning and endings) choices create effects	Which statement best describes how the order of events creates tension between the characters? Which statement best describes the function of this paragraph? How does the author make the beginning of the story appealing? How does the chronological structure contribute to a reader's understanding of?
Low	Literary	Analyze a point of view of cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the US	Which statement best describes the narrator's perspective on...?
Low	Literary	Distinguish what is explicitly stated from what is really meant, as in the use of satire, sarcasm, irony or understatement	How does the use of understatement contribute to the reader's understanding of the narrator's perspective? What does this excerpt reveal about the narrator's perspective?
Low	Literary	Analyze how an author draws on an earlier work (How an author draws from Shakespeare, for example)	Explain how the author's retelling of the story affects the reader's view of the main character

¹ Preamble to Constitution; Bill of Rights; Declaration of Independence; Lincoln's Inaugural Address; Washington's Farewell Address; the Gettysburg Address; Roosevelt's Four Freedom's speech; King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail