

## SECTION 4

# THE TEST BLUEPRINT

This section of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) Study Guide provides the test blueprint for the reading and writing subtests.

## VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT™

### TEST BLUEPRINT

Reading Comprehension and Analysis  
Writing Knowledge and Proficiency

#### SUBTEST I—READING COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

**0001 Understand the meaning of words and phrases.**

- Use context clues to determine the meaning of a word with multiple meanings.
- Use the context of a paragraph or passage to determine the meaning of words or phrases.
- Identify synonyms or antonyms for words in a passage.

**0002 Understand the main idea and supporting details in written material.**

- Identify the main idea of a paragraph or passage.
- Establish the sequence of events or steps presented in a passage.
- Recognize information, ideas, and details that support the main idea of a paragraph or passage.
- Recognize a writer's expressed or implied purpose for writing (e.g., to persuade, to describe).

**0003 Analyze the relationship among ideas in written material.**

- Recognize cause-and-effect relationships in a passage.
- Analyze relationships between ideas in opposition (e.g., pro and con) or in agreement (e.g., reasons to support a claim).
- Draw conclusions from information stated or implied in a passage.

**0004 Use critical-reasoning skills to evaluate written material.**

- Interpret a passage to determine the writer's opinion, point of view, or position on an issue.
- Analyze the stated or implied assumptions on which the validity of an argument depends.
- Analyze the logical structure of an argument and identify instances of faulty reasoning.
- Distinguish between fact and opinion in written material.

**0005 Apply skills for summarizing, outlining, and visually representing written materials and for interpreting information presented in graphic form.**

- Identify an accurate summary, outline, or graphic representation of information presented in written material.
- Interpret information presented in charts, graphs, or tables.
- Select graphic forms (e.g., bar graphs, line graphs, pie charts, tables, timelines, graphic organizers) to present information contained in written material.

**SUBTEST II—WRITING KNOWLEDGE AND PROFICIENCY**

**0006 Understand the influence of purpose and audience in written communication.**

- Identify written material consistent with a specific purpose or audience (e.g., a business letter, a speech to a skeptical audience).
- Adapt writing (e.g., in terms of sentence structure or vocabulary) for different purposes or audiences.

**0007 Apply principles of unity, focus, and development in writing.**

- Recognize examples of well-developed writing.
- Make revisions that improve the unity and focus of a paragraph or passage.
- Identify information, statements, or details presented in a paragraph or passage that are off topic.
- Select supporting material consistent with the argument or main idea of a paragraph or passage.

**0008 Apply principles of organization in writing.**

- Recognize effective organization in a written passage.
- Reorganize sentences or paragraphs to achieve an effective sequence of ideas.
- Identify appropriate transitional words or phrases (e.g., "however," "as a result," "moreover") to help readers understand the organization of ideas.

**0009 Apply principles of sentence and paragraph construction in writing.**

- Recognize effective topic sentences.
- Recognize wordiness and redundancy in sentences and paragraphs.
- Identify sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

**0010 Apply correct usage in Standard English.**

- Recognize the standard use of verbs (e.g., subject-verb agreement, verb tense).
- Recognize the standard use of pronouns (e.g., pronoun-antecedent agreement; the use of possessive pronouns; the use of the relative pronouns *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*, and *that*, and the use of the demonstrative pronouns *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*).
- Recognize the standard use of modifiers (e.g., adverbs, adjectives, comparatives, superlatives).
- Recognize the correct use of commonly misused words (e.g., *their/there/they're*, *to/too*).

**0011 Apply knowledge of mechanical conventions in Standard English.**

- Identify and correct examples in which incorrect or extraneous punctuation has been used (e.g., commas, periods, exclamation points, apostrophes, quotation marks, semicolons joining clauses, colons to begin a list) or necessary punctuation has been omitted.
- Apply standards for capitalization.
- Identify misspelled words in a sentence or passage.

**0012 Improve ineffective writing by analyzing and revising sentences containing problems related to grammar and usage, construction, and mechanics.**

- Revise sentences to correct problems relating to grammar and usage (e.g., syntax, pronoun-antecedent agreement, subject-verb agreement, misplaced modifiers).
- Revise sentences to correct problems relating to sentence construction (e.g., sentence fragments, run-on sentences).
- Revise sentences to correct problems relating to mechanics (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization).

**0013 Produce a written summary of a given informational or persuasive passage.**

- Organize information into an effective summary of the main ideas of an informational passage, capturing the author's perspective and point of view.
- Organize information into an effective summary of the key arguments and supporting details of a persuasive passage, capturing the author's perspective and point of view.
- Demonstrate effective paragraph and sentence structure.
- Demonstrate command of mechanics, grammar, and usage according to the conventions of Standard English.

**0014 Prepare a developed composition on a given topic using language consistent with a given audience and purpose.**

- Employ effective organizational strategies consistent with the topic and purpose of writing.
- Incorporate effective thesis statements, topic sentences, transitions, and conclusions.
- Establish and maintain a specific focus through supporting illustrations and examples.
- Support an argument with effective logic.
- Employ vocabulary consistent with the audience and purpose of the writing sample.
- Demonstrate effective paragraph and sentence structure.
- Demonstrate command of mechanics, grammar, and usage according to the conventions of Standard English.