Smarter Balanced Summative Blueprint Change 2018–19

Smarter Balanced has updated the summative blueprint for the 2018–19 school year for both English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. These updates were reviewed and approved by Smarter Balanced consortium member states including Washington. The updated ELA and math blueprints are posted on the Smarter Balanced Summative Development and Design webpage in the Summative Test Blueprints section and are also posted on the WCAP Portal.

The blueprint changes do not change the content that the test measures. The updated blueprint reduces the total number of items administered to students, including fewer hand-scored items, which are typically more time-consuming for students to complete.

Changes to the ELA summative blueprint:

- **Claim 1**—Reading:
  - The total number of CAT items for the Reading claim remains the same.
  - Grades 3, 4, and 5 only—short-answer items are removed from the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT).

- **Claim 2**—Writing:
  - There is no change to the Performance Task (PT) full write.
  - Evidence for the Writing claim continues to come from both the trait scores for the PT full write and the CAT items.
  - The total number of CAT items for the Writing claim is reduced from 10 items to 6 items.
  - Grades 3, 4, and 5 only—brief write items are removed from the CAT.

- **Claim 3**—Listening: No changes.

- **Claim 4**—Research:
  - The total number of PT items for the Research claim is reduced from 3 items to 1 item.
  - The total number of CAT items for the Research claim is increased from 6 to 8.

Even with these changes to the ELA blueprint, it is important for students to engage in a variety of writing activities in the classroom, starting at early grades. Classroom instruction based on standards engages students in activities where they write about what they have read, using evidence from texts to present analyses, defend claims, and present clear information. To prepare for future academic success, and for students to be truly college and career ready, regular classroom practice in these skills should continue to be a high priority.
Smarter Balanced Summative Blueprint Change FAQ 2018–19

In response to questions generated since the announcement that the Smarter Balanced Assessment blueprint is changing, we have generated answers to frequently asked questions.

Q: Will the interims be updated to reflect the changes to the summative test blueprint for 2018–19?

A: Although the blueprints for the summative tests have changed for 2018–19 testing, there are no changes to the interims at this time. The interims are designed for instructional use to support learning and teaching. Future interim development is currently under way. Smarter Balanced is developing Focused Interim Assessment Blocks, which will have a more targeted scope in terms of content and also continue to support classroom use of interims.

Q: Can we still use the interims even though they include constructed response items no longer included on the summative assessment?

A: Yes! The interims are intended to support and inform classroom instruction aligned to the standards. Interim constructed response items can provide valuable information to inform student learning. Because the alignment to the standards remains the same, all interims can be used as another way to practice skills and inform instruction. Constructed response items continue to be used on the Performance Task (PT) portion of the summative assessment for both math and ELA at all grades.

Q: Will performance on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment be comparable to previous years?

A: The summative test continues to measure the same content; therefore, performance on the summative test remains comparable across years. The content of the summative assessment continues to be grounded in the standards. The ELA standards expect students to engage in a variety of writing activities in all grades, specifically writing about what they read, using evidence and elaboration strategies, and demonstrating knowledge of standard conventions.

Q: The high school blueprints say 11th grade, but students test in 10th grade. Are there different blueprints for 10th grade testing?

A: The blueprints used for 10th grade testing are the same as 11th grade for both math and ELA. Based on educators’ recommendations during the work to align the summative assessment to 10th grade, it was determined there was no need to change the blueprint. More information about that work is available in the online Grade 10 Mathematics and ELA Testing and Content document.

Q: How will changes to the Smarter Balanced ELA blueprint impact testing time?

A: Since this is the first year the change will be implemented, we cannot predict how or if testing times will change. Districts should follow the same timelines as last year to ensure that students have sufficient time to test.