

TCTA Questions about STAAR Redesign

The questions below were submitted by registrants for Tuesdays with TCTA: STAAR Redesign

1. When will grading rubrics for the extended constructed response be available?
A: Expect this information to be posted to the STAAR Redesign [webpage](#) in mid-October
2. Do you have resources to assist teachers in the classroom to prepare the students? If so, where can I find said resources?
A: There are educator resources, like new item type samplers, online practice tests, video overview of accommodations, and more on the STAAR Redesign [webpage](#).
3. Where can I find a rubric for short constructed responses?
A: See the response to question 1
4. If writing is required for 3rd grade (or any grade level), will speech-to-text be an accommodation?
A: Yes, writing is required on all RLA tests, and speech-to-text will be available for students that qualify for that accommodation.
5. What resources are available with the new question types?
A: There are educator resources, like new item type samplers, online practice tests, video overview of accommodations, and more on the STAAR Redesign [webpage](#).
6. I would like to know more about the scoring of the short answer questions and the ELAR constructed response.
A: See the response to question 1
7. Why are the pictures NOT in color if the tests are going to stay online?
A: Portraying images in black and white make the images more accessible.
8. Why is this transition to online and a redesigned test happening immediately after the pandemic?
A: The timing for the transition to online and the redesign were components of HB 3906, which was adopted in 2019. However, districts have been planning since then for the transition.
9. What will the extended constructed response piece on the English I and English II EOCs entail?
A: The English I and English II EOCs will not change for the December administration. Information about the changes for the spring 2023 EOC administration will be forthcoming in the new year.
10. We create our CFA's out of Released STAAR Tests. Is there going to be a resource to create questions in the new STAAR 2.0 format?
A: This spring's STAAR tests will be released in fall 2023.
11. How will you all ensure that ALL students will be able to complete the RLA test?
A: Districts must allow students the entire school day, if necessary, to complete the summative assessment. Districts can request an additional day for students who require that accommodation.
12. Can students still take STAAR on paper if their 504 or IEP recommends it?
A: Yes, if a student needs an accommodation that cannot be provided in an online format and this need is documented in the student's IEP or 504 plan, they may test on paper.
13. What is being provided to schools to prepare students for these changes?
A: There are educator resources like new item type samplers, online practice tests, video overview of accommodations, and more on the STAAR Redesign [webpage](#).

14. How can I help my math students be successful with an online math test?
A: The online practice tests for math are a good resource to help students become familiar with the online testing platform.
15. When will educators see more sample questions in their content areas?
A: Educators can see new question types for all grade levels and content areas on the full length practice tests and new item type samplers.
16. How can I help my intervention students prepare for the new test?
A: All students should receive ample exposure to the new item types, either through regular high-quality classroom instruction and formative testing or by taking the online practice test.
17. Are the new question types included in the Interim tests we give students to prepare them for the Spring STAAR?
A: Yes, all new item types are included on STAAR Interim Assessments except for constructed response items.
18. How will this new test better assist students with major disabilities?
A: The online platform is robust with accommodations and accessibility features for students. Teachers should provide ample opportunities for students to take the online practice tests so they can familiarize themselves with the accommodations they may need.
19. Where can we see examples of new math question types?
A: The [guide](#) for new question type sampler for Math may be a good resource.
20. I would like to know more about the writing portion of STAAR. What will the short and extended constructed responses look like?
A: This information will be posted around the middle of October on the [STAAR Redesign webpage](#).
21. We don't have laptops for the students to practice or to take the test. How would this impact their performance?
A: You should consult with your district IT department. Districts have been developing their respective transition plans to online testing, including the acquisition of technology products.
22. How will this affect students who have failed the former STAAR assessments? Will this help them or hurt them?
A: The redesigned STAAR test will align more closely with effective classroom instruction, and the new item types will give students new ways to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
23. Has TEA released rubrics for the constructed response items?
A: See the response to question 1.
24. What is in place to assure the technology works? What are the supports for schools (tech)?
A: You should consult your district or campus IT staff regarding local technology capabilities. The online testing platform is designed to bear the load of simultaneous testers. Last spring, more than 1 million students were testing online at the same time without any issues.
25. What will be the character limit for short answer and literary analysis?
A: Student responses will be limited to a maximum of 475 characters for short constructed response and 2,300 characters for extended constructed response questions. Punctuation counts toward the maximum number of characters, but spaces do not. Please see the STAAR Redesign FAQ, question #30, at <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/staar-redesign-faq.pdf>.

26. What does the Literary Analysis rubric look like?

A: Extended constructed response essays will be scored using a 5-point rubric (informational or argumentative rubric based on the mode of writing). The rubric will include two main components—organization and development of ideas and language conventions.

The organization and development of ideas component will score responses on aspects such as:

- **quality and development of the central idea/controlling idea/thesis/claim**
- **organization**
- **use of supporting evidence**

The language conventions component will score responses on aspects such as:

- **grammar usage**
- **spelling**
- **sentence construction**

More information about constructed response questions, including rubrics and sample student responses, will be available in Fall 2022. Please see the STAAR FAQ, question #29, at <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/staar-redesign-faq.pdf>.