

# MTEL Foundations Of Reading Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What term describes the process of converting printed words into their spoken forms using letter-sound knowledge?**
  - A. Phonics**
  - B. Decoding**
  - C. Orthography**
  - D. Morphemes**
- 2. Which of the following best describes the rime of a word?**
  - A. The beginning sound**
  - B. The ending sound**
  - C. The part that includes the vowel**
  - D. The entirety of the syllable**
- 3. What does the term orthography refer to?**
  - A. Phonetic symbols**
  - B. Writing system of language**
  - C. Grammar rules**
  - D. Language comprehension**
- 4. What is the primary focus of the Foundations of Reading test?**
  - A. To assess knowledge of artistic abilities**
  - B. To assess knowledge of reading and writing processes**
  - C. To evaluate mathematical understanding**
  - D. To evaluate physical education skills**
- 5. What process do students use to apply sound-symbol relationships while reading and writing?**
  - A. Phonic Analysis**
  - B. Semantic Mapping**
  - C. Decoding**
  - D. Comprehension Strategies**

- 6. What is an example of a diphthong?**
- A. Skittles**
  - B. York**
  - C. Mounds**
  - D. Twix**
- 7. What type of comprehension involves the ability to assess the quality of a text?**
- A. Literal Comprehension**
  - B. Critical Comprehension**
  - C. Inferential Comprehension**
  - D. Evaluative Comprehension**
- 8. What role does assessment play in reading instruction?**
- A. To determine initial reading levels only**
  - B. To inform instruction by identifying strengths and weaknesses**
  - C. To grade students on their performance**
  - D. To create standardized tests for all students**
- 9. What is an "informational text"?**
- A. A type of narrative writing**
  - B. A genre that aims to inform or explain a topic**
  - C. A form of poetry**
  - D. A type of fictional writing**
- 10. What term describes a text that primarily uses known letter-sound relationships for phonetic decoding?**
- A. Complex Texts**
  - B. Irregular Texts**
  - C. Decodable Texts**
  - D. Phonetic Texts**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. B
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What term describes the process of converting printed words into their spoken forms using letter-sound knowledge?**

**A. Phonics**

**B. Decoding**

**C. Orthography**

**D. Morphemes**

The term that accurately describes the process of converting printed words into their spoken forms using letter-sound knowledge is decoding. Decoding involves translating the visual information of letters and words into sounds, which is a crucial skill in reading. Through this process, readers apply their understanding of phonics, which is the relationship between letters and sounds, enabling them to sound out and articulate words they encounter in print. This skill is fundamental for developing reading fluency, as it allows learners to pronounce words independently, paving the way for comprehension. While phonics relates to the instruction and understanding of these letter-sound relationships, decoding specifically refers to the practical application of that knowledge in reading. Understanding orthography, which involves the correct spelling of words and how writing systems represent sounds, and morphemes, the smallest units of meaning in a language, do not directly relate to the act of translating written words into spoken language.

**2. Which of the following best describes the rime of a word?**

**A. The beginning sound**

**B. The ending sound**

**C. The part that includes the vowel**

**D. The entirety of the syllable**

The rime of a word is correctly described as the part that includes the vowel and any subsequent sounds within the syllable. It focuses on the vowel sound and what follows it, distinguishing it from the onset, which is the beginning consonant sound or sounds before the vowel. For example, in the word "cat," the rime is "at," which contains the vowel "a" and the consonant "t" that follows it. This component is essential in phonics instruction as it helps students with word recognition and phonemic awareness by allowing them to identify patterns in different words that share the same rime, such as "bat," "rat," and "mat." In contrast, the other options, which emphasize either the beginning sounds or suggest the entirety of the syllable, do not accurately capture the essence of what a rime represents within phonology. The focus on just the ending sounds also misses the inclusion of the vowel that is central to understanding rimes. Thus, identifying the rime as the part that includes the vowel is crucial for literacy development and understanding of language structure.

### **3. What does the term orthography refer to?**

- A. Phonetic symbols**
- B. Writing system of language**
- C. Grammar rules**
- D. Language comprehension**

The term orthography refers specifically to the writing system of a language, which includes the conventions of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. It encompasses the rules and patterns that govern how letters and symbols are used to represent sounds and words in written form. Understanding orthography is crucial for literacy, as it provides the framework within which language is represented in text. For example, different languages have unique orthographic systems that influence how words are spelled and structured. This affects not only reading and writing but also supports the development of phonological awareness, enabling learners to connect sounds with their written representations. Overall, orthography is foundational for effective written communication and literacy development.

### **4. What is the primary focus of the Foundations of Reading test?**

- A. To assess knowledge of artistic abilities**
- B. To assess knowledge of reading and writing processes**
- C. To evaluate mathematical understanding**
- D. To evaluate physical education skills**

The primary focus of the Foundations of Reading test is to assess knowledge of reading and writing processes. This encompasses a range of skills essential for literacy, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, fluency, and comprehension. Understanding these components is crucial for educators as they prepare to teach reading effectively. The test aims to ensure that educators have a solid foundation in how reading and writing develop so they can support students in becoming proficient readers and writers. By focusing on these processes, the test contributes to identifying skilled educators who can foster literacy among learners, leading to improved educational outcomes.

**5. What process do students use to apply sound-symbol relationships while reading and writing?**

- A. Phonic Analysis**
- B. Semantic Mapping**
- C. Decoding**
- D. Comprehension Strategies**

The process that students use to apply sound-symbol relationships while reading and writing is phonic analysis. This method involves breaking down words into their component sounds (phonemes) and matching these sounds with their corresponding letters or groups of letters (graphemes). This connection is fundamental in helping students decode written text—converting printed language into spoken words—and in encoding their spoken language into written text. Phonic analysis supports early readers in understanding how sounds correlate with letters, enabling them to read unfamiliar words by sounding them out. It is an essential skill for developing literacy, as it lays the groundwork for more advanced reading and writing abilities. This type of analysis is integral to phonics instruction and is often a core component of reading curricula aimed at fostering proficiency among students. Other options relate to different aspects of literacy that, while important, do not directly focus on the sound-symbol relationships at the foundation of reading and writing skills.

**6. What is an example of a diphthong?**

- A. Skittles**
- B. York**
- C. Mounds**
- D. Twix**

A diphthong is a complex vowel sound that begins with one vowel sound and glides into another within the same syllable. In this case, the correct choice showcases a combination of vowel sounds that exemplifies this characteristic. In the word "Mounds," the vowel sound represented by "ou" is a classic example of a diphthong. It starts with the vowel sound /aʊ/ and moves to a slightly different position as it is pronounced, creating a blend that is typical of diphthongs. This creates a fluid sound that is distinct from a simple vowel, which would maintain a single position in the mouth without gliding to another sound. The other choices do not contain diphthongs. For instance, "Skittles" contains simple vowel sounds rather than a gliding combination, "York" has a single vowel sound, and "Twix" also features a straightforward vowel. Thus, "Mounds" is the clear choice demonstrating the definition of a diphthong.

**7. What type of comprehension involves the ability to assess the quality of a text?**

- A. Literal Comprehension**
- B. Critical Comprehension**
- C. Inferential Comprehension**
- D. Evaluative Comprehension**

Evaluative comprehension refers to the skill of assessing and critiquing the quality, credibility, and relevance of a text. It goes beyond mere understanding of facts or ideas presented within the text and requires the reader to analyze various elements such as the author's purpose, the effectiveness of arguments, and the overall message conveyed. Readers engaging in evaluative comprehension ask questions about the text's validity, perspective, and reliability, which plays a crucial role in developing critical thinking skills. This is distinct from other forms of comprehension such as literal comprehension, which focuses on understanding explicit content and details, or critical comprehension, which may involve some analytical thinking but does not necessarily require evaluation of quality. Inferential comprehension involves drawing conclusions based on implicit information in the text rather than judging the text itself. Thus, evaluative comprehension specifically centers on the assessment and judgment of the text's effectiveness and merit.

**8. What role does assessment play in reading instruction?**

- A. To determine initial reading levels only**
- B. To inform instruction by identifying strengths and weaknesses**
- C. To grade students on their performance**
- D. To create standardized tests for all students**

Assessment plays a critical role in reading instruction by informing educators about students' strengths and weaknesses. This deep understanding allows teachers to tailor instruction to meet the individual needs of each student, effectively supporting their reading development. By using various forms of assessment—such as formative assessments, informal observations, or diagnostic tests—teachers can identify specific areas where a student may be excelling or struggling. For instance, if a student demonstrates strong phonemic awareness but has difficulty with comprehension, the teacher can devise targeted instructional strategies that focus on building comprehension skills. This targeted approach not only enhances student learning but also fosters a more personalized and effective reading instruction framework. By continuously assessing students' progress, educators can adjust their teaching methods, ensuring that each child's reading journey is both supportive and challenging. While assessments can serve various purposes, such as grading or creating standardized tests, their primary value in reading instruction is to guide and enhance learning based on individual student needs.

## 9. What is an "informational text"?

- A. A type of narrative writing
- B. A genre that aims to inform or explain a topic**
- C. A form of poetry
- D. A type of fictional writing

An informational text is a genre specifically designed to convey factual information and explanations about a particular topic. This type of writing often includes features such as headings, subheadings, bullet points, graphs, and charts that help organize the information and make it accessible to the reader. The primary purpose of an informational text is to inform or educate the audience about subjects ranging from science and history to technology and health. By focusing on facts, evidence, and explanations, informational texts are valuable in educational contexts as they help develop critical thinking and comprehension skills. This genre contrasts with narrative or fictional writing, which aims to tell a story or evoke emotions rather than provide factual information. Thus, the choice that correctly defines informational text emphasizes its role in aiming to inform or explain a topic.

## 10. What term describes a text that primarily uses known letter-sound relationships for phonetic decoding?

- A. Complex Texts
- B. Irregular Texts
- C. Decodable Texts**
- D. Phonetic Texts

The term that describes a text primarily using known letter-sound relationships for phonetic decoding is "Decodable Texts." These texts are specifically designed to support early readers in applying their understanding of phonics. They consist of words that students can sound out based on their knowledge of phonetic rules and regular letter-sound correspondences. Decodable texts play a crucial role in helping children practice and reinforce their reading skills. They typically include vocabulary that aligns with the phonetic patterns that students have been taught, enabling children to build confidence as they decode and comprehend the text. This aligns with the principles of systematic phonics instruction, which emphasizes the teaching of letter-sound relationships as a foundation for reading development.