
LAS Links Scale Scores, Raw Scores and Reference Group Average (RGA)

The main reporting scores of LAS Links Forms C and D are Scale Scores for the main language domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) as well combined scores (Overall, comprehension, Oral, Literacy, Productive). In addition to these scores, the LAS Links Forms C and D Interpretation Guide provides tables that allow local scoring, tabulation and interpretation of scale scores as well as number correct scores, also referred to as raw scores. These raw scores are provided for the Language Content Strand reporting category. LAS Links Forms C and D use the following Language Content Strands at each the Domains to facilitate interpretation:

- 1) Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication
- 2) Foundations Skills (for Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade Span 2-3)
- 3) Academic – Language Arts, Social Studies, and History
- 4) Academic – Mathematics, Science, and Technical Subjects

The language Content Strand information helps educators understand students' abilities using the language for different school purposes. Unlike scale scores, the raw scores can only be compared between students on the same test form for the same Language Content Strand category. As limited test items are available in each Language Content Strand category, it is highly recommended that users apply these scores primarily for low-stakes instructional decisions, and base their decisions on a triangulation of evidence from multiple sources, such as teacher classroom observations and student performance on assignments, in conjunction with the use of the reported Language Content Strand scores.

LAS Links provides users an opportunity to compare students' Language Content Strand scores against a fixed reference group index which is called reference group average (RGA). RGA is similar to the statistic of class average that has been typically used to interpret a student's relative raw-score performance in a given class. The major difference between the two indices is that the class average is dynamic and dependent on performance of the local class, whereas RGA is fixed and was derived based on performance from the LAS Links Forms C and D field testing sample. There is a fixed RGA value per Language Content Strand category for each grade span level (K, 1, 2–3, 4–5, 6–8, and 9–12). Teachers may use the RGA to compare a student's performance against the field testing sample (which serves as the reference group) to see if it is below or at/above the RGA on a given Language Content Strand category. Such information, in combination with that based on the class average, may provide teachers a more complete picture about a student's strengths and weaknesses on relevant Language Content Strands and help teachers target instruction accordingly. Similar to the class average, the RGA is intended for low-stakes formative uses only. See illustration below that exemplifies the RGA representation. In this case, Speaking, Social, Interpersonal, Instructional Communication, the RGA is 8. Because the student obtained more than 8 points (PO=13), it performs above the expected average performance of the student sample used in the LAS Links Field Testing.

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Language Context Strands	Speaking			Listening			Reading			Writing		
	RGA	Points Obtained	Points Possible	RGA	Points Obtained	Points Possible	RGA	Points Obtained	Points Possible	RGA	Points Obtained	Points Possible
Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	8	13 ▲	13	6	5	8	11	10	14	8	7	10
Foundational Skills	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Language Arts, Social Studies, History	12	7	14	4	4	6	6	4	8	8	4	11
Mathematics, Science, Technical Subjects	12	7	14	5	4	6	6	4	8	9	4	11
Academic*	22	14	28	9	8	12	12	8	16	17	8	22

Following is a table that includes the RGA for each grade or grade span that can be used in combination with the total Points Obtained found in the Interpretation Guide. Note that these values mark the reference point that tells if a student's score on a given Language Content Strand category is *below* or *at/above* the RGA.

Reference Group Average by Grade or Grade Span

Domain	Language Content Strand	Kdg	Gr 1	Gr Span 2_3	Gr Span 4_5	Gr Span 6_8	Gr Span 9_12
Listening	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	6	6	7	6	7	5
Listening	Academic - Language Arts, Social Studies, History	4	4	4	4	4	4
Listening	Academic - Mathematics, Science and Technical Subjects	4	4	5	3	4	5
Reading	Foundational Skills	8	9	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reading	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	5	7	7	9	9	9
Reading	Academic - Language Arts, Social Studies, History	N/A	2	3	4	4	4
Reading	Academic - Mathematics, Science and Technical Subjects	N/A	2	4	4	4	5
Speaking	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	7	9	11	11	10	11
Speaking	Academic - Language Arts, Social Studies, History	6	11	11	9	9	10
Speaking	Academic - Mathematics, Science and Technical Subjects	5	11	11	11	10	11

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Domain	Language Content Strand	Kdg	Gr 1	Gr Span 2_3	Gr Span 4_5	Gr Span 6_8	Gr Span 9_12
Writing	Foundational Skills	7	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	3	5	6	8	7	7
Writing	Academic - Language Arts, Social Studies, History	N/A	4	8	6	5	6
Writing	Academic - Mathematics, Science and Technical Subjects	N/A	4	7	6	5	7