The TABE Reading test presents items which include highly practical and life skills stimuli. TABE content consists of business and personal communication, instructive text, and informational materials presented in new visual formats, such as web pages and internet advertisements.

TABE Levels D and A focus on more complex literary text, including poetry and drama. The mix of genre and the textual complexity enables TABE to offer a comprehensive range of testing objectives while maintaining a focus on the characteristics of the student population it serves.
Reading

Level L
Level L screens examinees for pre-reading skills (such as letter recognition, visual reversal, listening comprehension, and recognizing signs) and for beginning reading skills (such as reading simple words, sentences, phrases, and paragraphs). In this example, the test administrator reads instructions aloud.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognize Letters</td>
<td>These items measure the ability to recognize letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Interpret Graphic Information</td>
<td>Recognizing signs is a pre-reading skill that is practical for home and work life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Recall Information</td>
<td>This format measures the ability to determine which picture corresponds to written information.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SAY: Find the letter D. Fill in the circle below the letter D.

1  D  P  B  O
   ○  ○  ○  ○

SAY: Look at the letter in the box. Now find the letter that is exactly the same as the letter in the box.

2  A  V  A  W  H
   ○  ○  ○  ○

SAY: Find the sign that means place trash here . . . place trash here.

3  ○  ○  ○

SAY: Read the sentence. Find the picture that goes with the sentence.

4  Anita works on a boat.

   ○  ○  ○
This passage is about an American writer named Lorraine Hansberry. Read the passage. Then do Numbers 1 through 4.

**Lorraine Hansberry (1930–1965)**

“I wish to live because life has within it that which is good, that which is beautiful, and that which is true. Therefore, since I have known all of these things, I have found them to be reason enough and—I wish to live.”

—Lorraine Hansberry

Lorraine Hansberry was a famous writer who was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1930. Before becoming a writer, Hansberry studied at the University of Wisconsin. She moved to New York City in 1950 and worked for Freedom, a newspaper for African Americans. Hansberry finished writing her first play, *A Raisin in the Sun,* in 1959. The play, based on Hansberry’s own life, tells the story of an African American family. The family moved to a Chicago neighborhood where they were a minority. *A Raisin in the Sun* was the first play written by an African American woman to be performed on Broadway. Hansberry was only thirty-four years old when she died in 1965. In 1970, Hansberry’s letters, plays, and articles were put together in a book called *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black.*

1. Hansberry’s family moved into a neighborhood where they were a minority. What proof is there that this may have been an important event in Hansberry’s life?

   - She wrote about it in a play. **A**
   - She wrote about it in letters. **B**
   - She wrote about it in a book. **C**
   - She wrote about it in a newspaper. **D**

2. According to the passage, which of these words best describes Lorraine Hansberry?

   - shy **F**
   - talented **G**
   - exciting **H**
   - unhappy **J**

3. The passage says that Lorraine Hansberry was “a famous writer.” Famous means about the same as

   - well paid **A**
   - well known **B**
   - intelligent **C**
   - interesting **D**

4. When did Hansberry move to New York City?

   - after writing her first play **F**
   - after her play was performed on Broadway **G**
   - after studying at the University of Wisconsin **H**
   - after working for a newspaper called *Freedom* **J**

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**Lorraine Hansberry Passage**

The items written for this biographical passage measure prose literacy.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Construct Meaning</td>
<td>Constructing meaning that extends beyond specific details is an important reading skill that demonstrates advancement beyond basic recall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Words in Context</td>
<td>This format measures the ability to determine which picture corresponds to written information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Recall Information</td>
<td>The ability to recall key information from a passage is a relevant skill for all readers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Weather Page
These items measure the ability to interpret graphic information in a format that emulates real-life publications.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Interpret Graphic Information</td>
<td>Finding specific information from a graphic stimulus is a skill all readers can apply to their daily lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Construct Meaning</td>
<td>Constructing meaning that extends beyond specific details is an important reading skill that demonstrates advancement beyond basic recall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evaluate/Extend Meaning</td>
<td>This item measures the ability to interpret graphically presented information and then to use that information to make judgments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Recall Information</td>
<td>The ability to recall key information from a passage is a relevant skill for all readers.</td>
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According to the map, today’s high temperature in Key West, Florida will be:
A 59°F
B 60°F
C 62°F
D 66°F

How will Monday’s weather be different from Saturday’s weather in West Palm Beach?
F Monday will be sunny; Saturday will be rainy.
G Monday will be cloudy; Saturday will be sunny.
H Monday’s low temperature will be lower than Saturday’s low temperature.
J Monday’s high temperature will be lower than Saturday’s high temperature.

According to the map, which of these statements is true?
A The lowest temperature shown is for Fort Myers.
B The temperatures in Miami and Key West are about the same.
C The temperatures are highest in West Palm Beach.
D The high temperature in Orlando is higher than the high temperature in St. Petersburg.

Which part of this weather page gives the predicted high and low temperatures for Sunday?
F the map
G the regional forecast
H the five-day forecast
J the key
Julia went to the Post Office to mail a package. She used this form to comment on the service. Read the Consumer Service Card. Then do Numbers 1 through 6.

**Consumer Service Card**

**Use of an authentic stimulus provides measurement of document literacy.**

**Item** | **Objective** | **Description**
--- | --- | ---
1 | Interpret Graphic Information | The ability to interpret information presented graphically is a useful skill for all readers.
2 | Evaluate/Extend Meaning | A good reader is able to read information and then apply that knowledge to new situations.
3 | Recall Information | Recalling instructions is a practical skill all readers use.
4 | Construct Meaning | Constructing meaning that extends beyond specific details is an important reading skill that demonstrates advancement beyond basic recall.

1. Which line in the “Did It Involve” column would Julia check if she received a letter that was dirty and badly torn?
   - A Delay
   - B Damage
   - C Mislivery
   - D Window Services

2. Why might the U.S. Postal Service want customers to complete this card?
   - A to simplify the mailing process
   - B to encourage faster delivery of the mail
   - C to gain information about customer satisfaction
   - D to thank customers for using the postal service

3. Julia’s mail did not get forwarded to her new address. When she fills out the bottom of the card, what other information should she provide?
   - A her old address
   - B her place of work
   - C her husband’s name
   - D her old phone number

4. According to the instructions, what should Julia do after she fills in her address on the back of the card?
   - F mail the card
   - G sign her name
   - H remove the top copy
   - J print the information firmly

5. Why might the U.S. Postal Service want customers to complete this card?
   - A to simplify the mailing process
   - B to encourage faster delivery of the mail
   - C to gain information about customer satisfaction
   - D to thank customers for using the postal service

6. The hours are shown in the “Customer Phone” box because these are the hours during which
   - F customers are most likely at work
   - G post office employees deliver mail
   - H the customer should phone in complaints
   - J the post office might phone the customer