Study Profile: STAAR English III Reading – THEA Reading (★ ★ ⯪ ☆ ☆)

The STAAR English III reading – THEA reading external validity study is designed to establish empirical links between performance on the STAAR English III Reading assessment and performance on the THEA reading test.

Motivation (★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆)

This analysis was based on a single group of students who took both the STAAR English III reading and the THEA reading assessments in 2010 or 2011. Data from STAAR derive from a stand-alone field test administered in 2011 and are linked to motivated THEA reading scores in corresponding years.

Representativeness (★ ★ ★ ★ ☆) and Sample Size (★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆)

Grade Levels
All English III Reading Examinees Versus Those Linked to THEA Scores

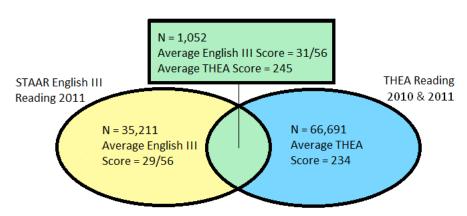| Group	Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12		Missing		Total
All English	1	0%	85	0%	1,448	4%	33,936	94%	786	2%	7	0%	36,263
Linked	0	0%	0	0%	76	7%	961	91%	15	1%	0	0%	1,052

Demographic Characteristics
All English III Reading Examinees Versus Those Linked to THEA Scores

Group	Female		Economically Disadvantaged		African American		Hispanic		White		Other	
All English	18,727	52%	16,304	45%	4,815	13%	15,359	42%	13,906	38%	2,183	6%
Linked	630	60%	339	32%	41	4%	435	41%	558	53%	18	2%

Summary of STAAR English III Reading and THEA Reading Achievement
Linked and Unlinked Groups

STAAR English III Reading 2011

THEA Reading 2010 & 2011

N = 1,052
Average English III Score = 31/56
Average THEA Score = 245

N = 35,211
Average English III Score = 29/56

N = 66,691
Average THEA Score = 234

Average THEA Reading Scores Based on Students' STAAR Performance

Satisfactory Academic Performance	Advanced Academic Performance
256	283

Correlation (★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆)

Correlation between STAAR English III reading and THEA reading = **0.55**

Content Overlap (★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆)

There is some (approximately 41%) content/skills overlap between the STAAR English III reading assessment and the THEA reading test.

Assessment Characteristics

Assessment Characteristic	STAAR English III Reading	THEA Reading
Purpose	Created to determine mastery of the English III Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the state-mandated curriculum.	Created for use by Texas institutions of higher education to evaluate the reading skills that entering freshman-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges
Assessment Type	A criterion-referenced assessment	A criterion-referenced assessment
Content	• Measures understanding and analysis of literary, informational, and cross-genre texts • Includes fiction, poetry, drama, literary nonfiction, expository, persuasive, media literacy, and procedural texts • Essential skills include using vocabulary in context, making complex inferences and conclusions, analyzing author's craft, and understanding purpose.	• Measures skill level in reading comprehension • Short expository, persuasive, and procedural passages are used to test reading comprehension • Core skills include using vocabulary in context, identifying main ideas and details, making inferences and conclusions, and analyzing author's craft and purpose. • Addresses approximately 41% of the content assessed on the STAAR English III assessment, primarily in reading comprehension
Item Format	40 items total: 38 multiple choice items and 2 short answer items	40 multiple choice items total
Administration	• Administered in March, July, and November • Administered by school personnel • Administered online and on paper • Four hour time limit	• Administered in February, April, June, July and October; administered on demand via THEA Quick Test administrations • Administered on paper and online at designated institutions • Administered by trained supervisors and proctors at an approved location (typically school staff administering the test at their school) • Five hour time limit (students take one, two, or three sections of the test within the five hour session)
Performance Standards	Performance standards established and implemented in spring 2012	The minimum score needed to pass the THEA reading assessment is 230 (scale score range is 100-300).