



INTERPRETING RGA IN THE ACADEMIC STRAND SCORES

The Language Content Strand information helps educators understand students' abilities using the language for different school purposes... LAS Links provides users an opportunity to compare students' language Content Strand scores against a fixed reference group index which is called the Reference Group Average (RGA).

The main reporting scores of LAS Links 2nd (Forms C and D) and 3rd (Forms E and F) Editions are Scale Scores for the language domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) as well combined scores (Overall, Comprehension, Oral, Literacy, and Productive). In addition to these scores, the LAS Links 2nd and 3rd Edition Interpretation Guides provides tables that allow local scoring, tabulation, and interpretation of scale scores and number correct scores, which are also referred to as raw scores. These raw scores are provided for the Language Content Strand reporting category. LAS Links 2nd and 3rd Editions use the following Language Content Strands in each Domain to facilitate interpretation:

- Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication
- Foundations Skills (for Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade Span 2-3)
- Academic – Language Arts, Social Studies, and History
- 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 the 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 field testing samples. 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 test form's 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 the illustration below for an example of the RGA representation as it is displayed on the Student Report. In this grade 2 student's case, in the Speaking domain in Language Arts, Social Studies, History, Language Content Strand, the RGA is 7. Because the student obtained 7 points (PO=7), this student performed at the expected average performance of the student sample used in the LAS Links Field Testing. Domains in which the student has met or exceeded the RGA in each Academic Strand Area is marked with a triangle.

Student Report												
Academic Report	Speaking			Listening			Reading			Writing		
	Points Obtained	Points Possible	RGA	Points Obtained	Points Possible	RGA	Points Obtained	Points Possible	RGA	Points Obtained	Points Possible	RGA
Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	7	11	7▲	5	8	6	4	10	3▲	1	10	5
Academic	11	20	13	6	12	8	6	20	13	0	22	12
Foundational Skills	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	6	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Language Arts, Social Studies, History	7	10	7▲	2	6	4	3	7	4	0	11	6
Mathematics, Science, Technical Subjects	4	10	6	4	6	4▲	0	7	5	0	11	6
Total Score	18			11			10			1		

N/A = Not Applicable INV = Test Invalidation RGA = Reference Group Average ▲ = Student achieved at or above the RGA

For detailed information on the RGA for each grade or grade span that can be used in combination with the total Points Obtained, please refer to the LAS Links Interpretation Guide based on the test form used.

