

# North Carolina Thinking Skills

## Question Stems-Reading Comprehension

### Connections

Go beyond the text. Apply knowledge of links and connections from text to text or from the text to the world. (5% of assessment questions)

- **Knowing** questions focus on clarifying, recalling, naming, and listing
  - Which resources would be most likely to give you more information about...?
- **Organizing** questions focus on arranging information, comparing similarities/differences, classifying, and sequencing
  - Which experience is most similar to... 's experience in the selection?
  - In what way are these selections the same?
  - Which experience is most similar to the author's?
  - What modern symbol can be used to compare... to...?
  - How are... and... similar?
- **Applying** questions focus on prior knowledge to solve a problem
  - A theme of both selections might be....
  - What other things cause...?
- **Analyzing** questions focus on examining parts, identifying attributes/relationships/patterns, and main idea
  - Which experience most likely helped the author write this...?
  - How do you think... felt after...?
  - What are some effects that people experience because of this...?
  - People who ... would most likely have which characteristics?
  - Who would most likely need...?
- **Generating** questions focus on producing new information, inferring, predicting, and elaborating with details
  - How would this experience help... the next time s/he...?
  - How do you think this experience will change in the future?
  - Which is an example of an activity that would result in...?
  - Which would most people who share this author's opinion believe?
  - What are some other ways... could have...?
- **Integrating** questions focus on connecting/combining/summarizing information, and restructuring existing information to incorporate new information
  - Which relationship is most similar to the relationship below? X:Y (based on personal knowledge, initial relationships from text, others from outside experience)
  - ...'s relationship to... is most like....
- **Evaluating** questions focus on reasonableness and quality of ideas, criteria for making judgments, and confirming accuracy of claims
  - What is the most likely reason... instead of...?

- What part of this selection could be true in real life?

## **Critical Stance:**

Evaluate the author's craft. Analyze by determining the impact of literary elements/word choice/purpose/decisions, comparing and contrasting, and evaluating the accuracy of information and ideas. **(25% of assessment questions)**

- **Knowing** questions focus on clarifying, recalling, naming, and listing
  - Which words used in the selection were designed to arouse emotion? Which emotion?
- **Organizing** questions focus on arranging information, comparing similarities/differences, classifying, and sequencing
  - How is... different from...?
  - What do... and... have in common?
  - Which word would have been a better word choice in this sentence?
- **Applying** questions focus on prior knowledge to solve a problem
  - What are some specific elements of this author's style?
  - What technique does the author use to create an effect? (a dramatic beginning, short quick sentences, long sentences, repetition)
  - This is an example of...? (technical language, dialect, informal speech, formal speech)
  - What supporting evidence does... give for her/his argument?
  - What is the impact of the organization of the selection?
  - Why does the author use flashbacks?
  - What generalization does the author probably want you to make about...?
  - In the statement..., why is the word... in (quotation marks, italics, bold, etc.)?
- **Analyzing** questions focus on examining parts, identifying attributes/relationships/patterns, and main idea
  - How does... change from the beginning to the end of the selection? (Also considered an interpretation)
  - What is the effect of beginning the selection with... (simile)?
  - Based on the information in the selection, which relationship is most similar to the relationship below? X:Y (based on the selection and all relationships found in the text)
  - The way that this character is described suggests that s/he is ....
  - What technique does the author use to make his selection colorful? (precise details, short sentences, dialect, figurative language)
  - The author alludes to....
  - ... is a symbol of what?
  - What is the message of this ironic selection?
  - What is ...'s attitude to...?
  - What is the most likely reason the... is included in the selection?
  - What is the impact of the author's word choice?
  - What is the impact of the use of a propaganda technique?
  - Which statement is the main idea of paragraph...?
  - What evidence reflects the author's biases?

- Why does the author compare... to...?
- Why did the author choose this title?
- Why does the author use... as a symbol for...?
- What could the author have added that would make his/her position stronger?
- How is the selection organized?
- Why did the author choose to use dialect in this selection?
- What effect does... have on the selection?
- What is the purpose of comparing... to...?
- In what way does the author of this selection best help the reader to understand...?

**Generating** questions focus on producing new information, inferring, predicting, and elaborating with details

- How does... justify his/her position?
- What impact does the author's use of foreshadowing have on the selection?
- In what way could the author make... more believable?
- Why does the author most likely (include...?) (begin/end the selection by saying...?) (mention...?)

- **Integrating** questions focus on connecting/combining/summarizing information, and restructuring existing information to incorporate new information

- How are ...'s and ...'s feelings at the end of this selection similar?
- What are some things the author does to make sure this selection... (entertains, informs, persuades, etc.)?
- Which details offer support of the author's suggested solution?
- What are some details the author uses to help you visualize the images in the selection?

- **Evaluating** questions focus on reasonableness and quality of ideas, criteria for making judgments, and confirming accuracy of claims

- Which ... does the author believe is the most important reason for...?
- Which details are most relevant to the author's point of view?
- What could the author have added to make her/his opinion more valid?
- Which detail is irrelevant to the author's judgment?
- With which statement would the author most likely agree?

# Cognition

Develop an initial understanding. Identify purpose, main ideas, supporting details, vocabulary in context, parts of books. **(30% of assessment questions)**

- **Knowing** questions focus on clarifying, recalling, naming, and listing
  - Based on the context of paragraph ..., what does... mean? (vocabulary in context)
  - Which best describes...? (clearly stated in the selection)
  - What metaphor does the author use to compare... to...?
  - Which word would best be substituted for the word... in paragraph/line...?
  - When and where did this event occur?
  - What is the selection supposed to help you do?
  - What does the word... mean in paragraph...?
  - Which clue helped you determine the meaning of the word... as it is used in this selection?
  - What is the purpose of guidewords?
  - How is the text organized?
  - When the author uses the word..., which meaning does s/he want you to associate with it?
  - What is the plot of this selection?
  - How would you describe...?
  - What is another meaning for the word...?
  - What is the purpose of the stage directions?
  - What kind of source would you use to find information about...?
  - What is the rhyme scheme?
  - Who is the speaker in this selection?
- **Organizing** questions focus on arranging information, comparing similarities/differences, classifying, and sequencing
  - Which detail best completes the graphic organizer?
  - The author compares... to...?
  - What are some words the author uses that are clues to his/her feelings?
  - What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source?
  - What are the characteristics of this specific genre that make it different from others?
- **Applying** questions focus on prior knowledge to solve a problem
  - What is the purpose of the ... subheading in the selection?
  - Which is an example of figurative language?
  - Which details support her/his opinion?
  - What is the extended metaphor the author uses?
  - What did the author want you to consider as you read this selection?
- **Analyzing** questions focus on examining parts, identifying attributes/relationships/patterns, and main idea
  - Why does the selection include illustrations/a list of materials, etc.?

- What is the main idea of the selection? (purpose, summary)
- What piece of information is missing from the selection?
- What is the author's purpose?
- Which are the most important reasons for...?
- What is the author's message?
- Which is the best statement of the theme of this selection?
- What significance does the title have?
- What is the main problem or conflict in the selection?
- What does... symbolize in this selection?
- If this skit was performed, what costumes would the characters wear?
- **Generating** questions focus on producing new information, inferring, predicting, and elaborating with details
  - What can you tell from the dialogue about...?
  - Why did the author write this selection?
- **Integrating** questions focus on connecting/combining/summarizing information, and restructuring existing information to incorporate new information
  - Why did the author write this selection?
  - Based on the information in the selection, how would you describe...?
  - Which is the best summary for this selection?
  - What is the author's general attitude about...?
  - What are the multiple effects of...?
  - What does the author think about this topic?
- **Evaluating** questions focus on reasonableness and quality of ideas, criteria for making judgments, and confirming accuracy of claims
  - Which is the most important reason for...?

# Interpretation

Dig deeper. Clarify, explain by making inferences, drawing conclusions, making generalizations and predictions, determining meaning of figurative language. **(40% of the assessment questions)**

- **Knowing** questions focus on clarifying, recalling, naming, and listing
  - During the selection, the mood changes from... to....
  - Which word means the same as...?
  - Based on the selection, which is the best definition of...?
  - Which words can the author use that has a more positive connotation?
  - How did the plot develop?
  - What does... think about...?
  - What is... (part of the selection) supposed to help you do?
  - How did... feel at the end of this selection?
  - Why did...?
- **Organizing** questions focus on arranging information, comparing similarities/differences, classifying, and sequencing
  - How is... different from...?
  - Which detail belongs in the empty circle?
  - People who... are most likely to have which characteristics?
  - How are... (e.g., a modern fable) and... (e.g., an ancient fable) different?
- **Applying** questions focus on prior knowledge to solve a problem
  - What is the tone/mood of this selection?
  - How did... solve the problem?
  - What will be the result of this step in the directions?
  - In what ways are these ideas important to the topic/theme?
  - How does the setting impact the mood or tone?
  - Why does the author compare this problem to...?
  - How does the author's use of... (irony, humor, personification) contribute to...?
  - Which... is an example of...?
  - How is informational text organized differently from narrative text?
  - What are strategies for reading...?
  - What is the result of...?
  - In which part of the selection does the author give information about what happened before the selection began?
- **Analyzing** questions focus on examining parts, identifying attributes/relationships/patterns, and main idea
  - What is the significance of ...'s decision to...?
  - What was the significance of ...?
  - Which statement about... is supported by the selection?
  - Which best describes...? (not clearly stated in the selection)
  - Which quotation from the selection tells the most about...?

- This character could be described as...?
- What is the main problem?
- What caused this event/problem?
- Which detail explains the significance of...?
- What is the significance of the author's statement that...?
- Which particular group is the author targeting?
- What caused... to...? Use information from the selection to support your answer.
- Which... does the author offer as evidence of the effect of...?
- What has been the effect of ...'s decision, actions, etc.?
- What mood does the author create? How?
- What is most likely true about...?
- In which situation would you use this ...?
- What is most likely the reason...?
- Which is the most important information about... given in the selection?
- What lesson should... have learned from his/her experience with...?
- What is the lesson that the reader can learn from this selection?
- According to the selection, how does ... affect...?
- What is the main message of this selection?
- What is the main reason...?
- Which characteristics are given to...?
- Why was... important to...?
- **Generating** questions focus on producing new information, inferring, predicting, and elaborating with details
  - What conclusion about ... can be made from...?
  - What might be inferred from the fact that...?
  - Where might the author have gotten the idea for this selection?
  - What is another viable solution to this problem?
  - What might be another cause that is suggested but not clearly stated?
  - What will most likely happen? ...next? if...?
  - What could you infer about the author from this information?
  - With which opinion would the author probably agree?
  - If..., what else would be true?
  - What was most likely the situation at the beginning of the selection?
  - What is the selection meant to explain?
  - What does the final paragraph/stanza suggest about...?
  - Which... best expresses ...'s attitude toward ... as shown in the beginning of the selection?
- **Integrating** questions focus on connecting/combining/summarizing information, and restructuring existing information to incorporate new information
  - How would the mood change if the setting were...?
  - How would ...'s actions be different if the setting were...?
  - Which group of people might this problem impact most?
  - Why is this information significant to this topic?
  - What can a reader tell about... from...?
- **Evaluating** questions focus on reasonableness and quality of ideas, criteria for making judgments, and confirming accuracy of claims
  - What could the author add to this selection to help you understand it better?
  - Which theme best fits the story?

- Which facts and details that support the author's view are relevant?
- Which statement is true?
- Which... is most important in this selection?

## North Carolina Thinking Skills Question Stems-Math

- **Knowing** questions focus on clarifying, recalling, naming, and listing
  - Which illustrates...?
  - Write... in standard form....
  - What is the correct way to write the number of... in word form?
- **Organizing** questions focus on arranging information, comparing similarities/differences, classifying, and sequencing
  - Which shows... in order from...?
  - What is the order...?
  - Which is the difference between a... and a...?
  - Which is the same as...?
  - Express... as a...?
- **Applying** questions focus on prior knowledge to solve a problem
  - What was the total...?
  - What is the value of...?
  - How many... would be needed for...?
  - Solve....
  - Add/subtract....
  - Find....
  - Evaluate....
  - Estimate....
  - Graph....
- **Analyzing** questions focus on examining parts, identifying attributes/relationships/patterns, and main idea
  - Which tells...?
  - If the pattern continues,....
  - Which could...?
  - What rule explains/completes... this pattern?
  - What is/are missing?
  - What is the best estimate for...?
  - Which shows...?
  - What is the effect of...?
- **Generating** questions focus on producing new information, inferring, predicting, and elaborating with details
  - What number does... stand for?
  - What is the probability...?
  - What are the chances...?
  - What effect...?

- **Integrating** questions focus on connecting/combining/summarizing information, and restructuring existing information to incorporate new information
  - How many different...?
  - What happens to... when...?
  - What is the significance of...?
  - How many different combinations...?
  - Find the number of..., ..., and ... in the figure below.
- **Evaluating** questions focus on reasonableness and quality of ideas, criteria for making judgments, and confirming accuracy of claims
  - Which most accurately...?
  - Which is correct?
  - Which statement about... is true?
  - What are the chances...?
  - Which would best...?
  - Which would... the same...?
  - Which statement is sufficient to proven...?

## **North Carolina Thinking Skills Question Stems- Science**

**Knowing** questions focus on clarifying, recalling, naming, and listing

Which illustrates...?

A... is an example of...?

From where do... get...?

**Organizing** questions focus on arranging information, comparing similarities/differences, classifying, and sequencing

Which shows... in order from...?

What is the order...?

Which is the difference between a... and a...?

Which is the same as...?

Express... as a...?

How would... compare to...?

Which sequence...?

One similarity is...

**Applying** questions in this category focus on prior knowledge to solve a problem

What was the total...?

What is the value of...?

How many... would be needed for...?

Find....

Graph....

**Analyzing** questions focus on examining parts, identifying attributes/relationships/patterns, and main idea

Which tells...?

If the pattern continues,....

Which could...?

What is/are missing?

Which shows...?

What is the effect of...?

What most likely caused...?

What is the main purpose...?

What is the principle role of...?

This information indicates that....

Base you answer on....

According to the diagram,....

**Generating** questions focus on producing new information, inferring, predicting, and elaborating with details

What is the probability...?

What are the chances...?

What effect...?

What can you correctly conclude...?

What would probably happen if...?

The best inference that can be made from... is...?

**Integrating** questions focus on connecting/combining/summarizing information, and restructuring existing information to incorporate new information

How many different...?

What happens to... when...?

What is the significance of...?

What does the experiment show?

What relationship exists between...?

Which has both... and...?

What conclusion does... support?

**Evaluating** questions focus on reasonableness and quality of ideas, criteria for making judgments, and confirming accuracy of claims

Which most accurately...?

Which is correct?

Which statement about... is true?

What are the chances...?

Which would best...?

Which would... the same...?

Which statement is sufficient to prove...?

What evidence is there that...?

Which is the most logical conclusion?

## **North Carolina Thinking Skills Question Stems-Social Studies**

**Knowing** questions focus on clarifying, recalling, naming, and listing

What was a result of...?

Which situation was the immediate cause of...?

Which... is the best differentiation between... and...? (foils are definitions)

**Organizing** questions focus on arranging information, comparing similarities/differences, classifying, and sequencing

When comparing..., what statement can be made about...?

Which heading (phrase) best completes the partial outline below?

What caused... to...?

Which event was most inconsistent with...?

Which best explains the difference between...?

In general, what is the difference between...?

Which describes...? is the best description of...?

What does this statement demonstrate about...?

Which best describes the similarities between...?

Which belief is shared by... and...?

What is one way in which... and... are similar?

The issue of... was settled by which...?

In what order do the above elements... take place during...?

**Applying** questions focus on prior knowledge to solve a problem

What key activity does this illustration depict?

What event is portrayed in the illustration above?

In what document can... be found?

Who said, "..."?

Using the map above, what direction would one go in order to travel from...to...?

Using the map above, where would you go to find...?

The illustration above appeared in response to which...?

Above is an editorial cartoon from... that was intended to illustrate which...?

Which is a primary source of information about...?

According to the statements above, which constitutional amendments are under discussion?

Using the map above, what was the largest city in...?

Which word describes/refers to...?

Which word is a synonym for...?

How can the information in this chart be applied to... today?

What evidence is there that...?

How do... apply to...?

What does the problem of... show?  
 According to the graph above, what does this evidence indicate?  
 Which term means...?  
 In what way has... impacted...?  
 Using the map above, which city is located closest to... ...?  
 Which is the cause of...?  
 What was one reason for the development of...?  
 Which speaker refers to...?  
 ...is an example of...?  
 The main disagreement between... revolved around...?  
 Which generalization is best supported by...?  
 In..., what is the main political goal of...?  
 (a), (b), and (c) are examples of what?  
 (a), (b), and (c) came primarily from...?  
 Which ... completes this statement...?  
 Which statement reflects the philosophy of...?  
 With which ... are... most closely associated?

## **Analyzing** questions focus on examining parts, identifying attributes/relationships/patterns, and main idea

Which factor had the largest impact on...?  
 What was a main cause of...?  
 The most significant feature was...?  
 Which... was responsible for... as shown in the map above?  
 Why was... significant?  
 In the selection, what did... mean?  
 What was one impact of...?  
 Which generalization concerning... is most clearly supported by the information provided by the graph?  
 In the quote above, why does the author state that...?  
 This is a political cartoon of.... What does the artist want to express?  
 The picture above is an example of.... These... were intended to do...?  
 Why was this poster used during...?  
 Why did...? Why was...?  
 How has... affected...?  
 How did... change the way in which...?  
 What is the function of...?  
 Which advantages did... have over...?  
 What challenges do... face in...? (foils list attributes)  
 Which best explains the challenges... faced in...?  
 What are the components of...?  
 During..., which term was created?  
 Which idea during... validated...?  
 Which is an accurate analysis of...?  
 What would be a good title for the timeline above?  
 Which event was a cause of the other three events?  
 What is the reason for...? ...major reason...? ...primary reason...?  
 What was the main idea of this cartoon?  
 ...was largely the result of...?  
 Which concept is illustrated in this diagram?  
 Which statement would most likely be spoken by... and not by...?

According to the map above, which generalization about... is most accurate?  
 In..., which aspect of society has been most heavily influenced by...?  
 Which values are most closely associated with...?  
 Which political idea would the author of this statement most likely support?  
 Which Supreme Court case is correctly matched with the issue it addressed?  
 In this poem, the poet is expressing an opinion about...?  
 Which patterns exist in...?  
 Which... characterized...?  
 What was the main purpose of...?  
 What was one effect of...?  
 The... in the cartoon above represents...?  
 Which best depicts the effect of... and its impact on...?  
 Which best explains the effects... has had on...?  
 What was a major result of...?  
 ...has been characterized by...?  
 Which is the main reason why...?  
 Which theory explains why...?  
 According to the selection above, what was the biggest difference between...?  
 Which speaker describes most clearly the political situation that actually occurred after...?  
 Which conditions are most characteristic of...?  
 Why did... make this statement?  
 ...changed political thinking because it supported the idea of what?  
 What does... symbolize?  
 Which concept is illustrated in these statements?  
 Which philosophy had the greatest influence on...?  
 What was the purpose of...?

## **Generating** questions focus on producing new information, inferring, predicting, and elaborating with details

What is the following statement describing for...?  
 What might... in the illustration above represent?  
 What can be inferred from this statement?  
 Which statement explains the importance of...?  
 Which inference motivated... to...?  
 Which ... best explains the reason why...?  
 (a), (b), and (c) are major world problems that indicate a need for...?  
 (a), (b), and (c) are methods most often used by whom?  
 Why was... a major contribution to the development of...?  
 These rules reflect what policy?  
 The economic success of... will most likely lead to which...?  
 What would be an expected result of...?  
 What would result if...?  
 Which is the best prediction of what would happen if...?  
 What would the most likely reason be for...?  
 Which statement about the civilizations... can best be inferred by the information on the map above?  
 In the cartoon above, there are.... What idea might this represent?  
 This cartoon implies...?

**Integrating** questions focus on connecting/combining/summarizing information, and restructuring existing information to incorporate new information

The passing of (a), (b), and (c) did which...?  
This cartoon, which reflects the period from... to..., suggests which...?  
What challenges have many... faced in recent years?  
Which... is the best generalization about the information in the chart on forms of...?  
Which statement best generalizes...? ...describes...?  
...might not have been so eager to do which... if...?  
Which of these best summarizes why...?  
Which was an immediate result of...?  
What are two ways that... affected...?  
The geography of... has generally led to which...?  
(a), (b), and (c) were all significant to their societies because they established what?  
(a), (b), and (c) share a belief in which...?  
(a), (b), and (c). These most closely reflect which idea?  
In..., the primary goal of... has been to do what?  
During..., what was the most notable action taken by...?  
Which two speakers disagree most with each other about...?  
Supreme Court decisions in (a), (b), and (c) established which important legal precedent?  
The partial outline below concerns.... Which entry would be most appropriate for line I.?  
What is the author of this statement advocating?  
Which characteristic of... is part of...?  
What was the main obstacle to solve the problem shown in the cartoon?  
What is a valid conclusion that can be drawn from this quotation?  
What relationship exists between... and...?  
The history of... and the policy of... both illustrate a belief in which...?  
Which conclusion is supported by the information provided on the map?  
Using the map above, what conclusion can be made concerning...?  
What general statement can be made about...?  
Which... might have occurred if... had...?  
What conclusion can be drawn from the statement...?

**Evaluating** questions focus on reasonableness and quality of ideas, criteria for making judgments, and confirming accuracy of claims

Which best describes...?  
Which statement best describes...? best explains why...? best expresses the main idea of...?  
Which statement is correct about...?  
Which statement is true concerning...?  
This quotation presents a justification for which...?  
Data from this graph support the conclusion that... did which...?  
How did... justify... to bring about change?  
Which is the best interpretation of the information in the chart above?  
What was the significance of...?  
Which statement about... is an opinion?  
Which is a valid conclusion about... in...?  
Which statement about the effects of... is most logical?  
This quotation best expresses the major goal of which...?  
Which statement concerning... is most accurate?  
This selection describes the decision... to do which...?

This map best illustrates which concept?

Which conclusion can best be drawn from these statements?

Which event is directly responsible for the inclusion of this statement about...?

Which best completes the statement...?

Which statement is true regarding... in the circular flow model?

Which speaker best represent the attitudes of...?

Which statement provides the best evidence that...?

This poem presents a justification for which...?