

PARCC QUESTION FORMAT Ib: If Part “A,” Then Support in Part “B” – VOCABULARY

By Far the Most Prevalent Question Format Used for All Grade Levels for a LAT (Literary Analysis Task)

These questions involve vocabulary acquisition in the Part A, then Part B format construction

Part A Question: A word selected from the provided passage is the prompt. The student is asked to match the word to one of four possible synonyms.

- a. Synonym
- b. Synonym
- c. Synonym
- d. Synonym

Comments: This is a little like playing “Trivial Pursuit” in that you don’t know what level of complexity is being used. However, the key to this question type is for the student to look at the *context* in which the word is used and its relevance to the “central meaning” of the text.

Another variation is to ask the student to select a word based on evidence (i.e. text) from the content. The student, instead of being asked to select a synonym, they are required to pick the most appropriate word(s) (possibly *more than one*) from a list of four to six. In narrative texts, the correct word(s) most often refers to some aspect of a character in the story, such as personality, feeling, or relationship with another character.

Part B Question: The student is provided with cited texts drawn from the content, one of which corresponds to the correct choice in Part A.

- a. Cited phrase from passage
- b. Cited phrase from passage
- c. Cited phrase from passage
- d. Cited phrase from passage

Comments: This can be formulated as an **EBSR** type question (**Evidence Based Selected Response**). The student should look at the answer chosen in Part A and check it against the phrases provided in Part B and see if they line up.

This can also be framed as a **TECR** type (**Technology Enhanced Constructed Response**) where the student, in this variation, selects, drags, and pastes a sentence from the passage into a text box, perhaps more than one.

PRACTICE: The “context” that surrounds an unfamiliar word will give clues as to the meaning by referencing either a descriptive or an action a character takes. The challenge here is the possibility that the student has no frame of reference in their life experience with which determine meaning.