

RUBRIC - PARCC QUESTION FORMAT I: If Part “A,” Then Support in Part “B” - TEXT

By Far the Most Prevalent Question Format Used for All Grade Levels

These questions almost always reference “main idea” and “key details” from the content, except in the vocabulary variation.

Part A Question: The student is asked to identify the main idea, theme or purpose from the content (usually 300-600 words), both for informational or narrative content. The student is given four choices to select an answer.

- a. Choice
- b. Choice
- c. Choice
- d. Choice

Part B Question: Student is required to select *one or more* choices of selected text from the content that reflect the choice made in Part A. The choices can range from four to eight in number.

- a. Selected text in quotes (“
- b. Selected text in quotes (“
- c. Selected text in quotes (“
- d. Selected text in quotes (“
- e. Selected text in quotes (“
- f. Selected text in quotes (“

Task Description: Student must be able to **identify** (*establish by key feature or characteristic*) the **main idea** (*informational = the author’s main thought or what the author wants the reader to know or understand*) or **theme** (*narrative = a unifying aspect or what the author wants the reader to learn*) in a given passage. Student must then provide one or more excerpts of text drawn from the passage that **support** (*backs up*) the determination the student makes regarding main idea or theme. Student may also be required to describe how events are related to each other. When a narrative is provided, such a description may refer to setting or character.

PERFORMANCE

EXCELLENT

PROGRESSING

NEEDS WORK

Student understands the meaning of each key term noted in the task description above	Student can explain and <i>demonstrate</i> the <i>meaning</i> of each term and provide examples.	Student can provide an adequate definition of each term relevant to Common Core usage.	Student does not know or can only provide a synonym or an approximation of the term’s definition
Student cites specific excerpts from the passage that supports the answer in Part A.	Student can <i>explain how</i> each excerpt reflects the theme or main idea of the text.	Student can only provide an “educated guess” as to why they selected each excerpt.	Student is unable to provide relevant excerpts or no more than one.

PRACTICE: Select a short passage of text such as a poem, portion of a narrative and have the student **analyze** the text (*break down into constituent parts*) in order to comply with the prompt, “To identify the **theme**.” OR, with informational text, select an article from a local or school newspaper and have to the student **identify** the **main idea** or point the journalist is trying to convey. Further, the student can also **evaluate** (the accuracy) the information contained in the article, especially if the student is familiar with the subject of the article.