

What 17-year-olds know and can do in reading

As shown in the item map below, 17-year-olds with a score of 276 were likely to recognize the main point of a scientific passage. Seventeen-year-olds with a score of 316 were likely to be able to find specific information in a highly detailed schedule. Students at age 17 with a score of 387 were likely to provide text-based descriptions of the key steps in a process.

Age 17 NAEP Reading Item Map

Scale score	Question description
500 //	
399	Extend the information in a short historical passage to provide comparisons (CR - ages 9 and 13)
387	Provide a text-based description of the key steps in a process (CR)
356	Make an inference to recognize a non-explicit cause in an expository passage (MC - age 13)
354	Provide a description that includes the key aspects of a passage topic (CR - ages 9 and 13)
350	
348	Infer and provide a moral based on a short tale (CR - ages 9 and 13)
341	Provide an example of language and explain its effect on the reader (CR - age 13)
337	Provide relevant information about the subject of a biographical sketch and explain why it is important (CR - ages 9 and 13)
329	Recognize a supporting detail from a scientific description (MC)
319	Provide an example to illustrate the author's device for creating a mood (CR - age 13)
316	Read a highly detailed schedule to locate specific information (MC - age 13)
300	
292	Provide a description that reflects the main idea of a science passage (CR - ages 9 and 13)
281	Infer the meaning of a supporting idea in a biographical sketch (MC - ages 9 and 13)
281	Use understanding of a poem to recognize the best description of the poem's speaker (MC)
276	Recognize the main point of a scientific passage (MC - age 13)
273	Recognize an explicitly stated purpose in a process description (MC - age 13)
269	Recognize the meaning of a word as used in a document (MC - age 13)
265	Recognize a causal relation in a historical description (MC - age 13)
258	Generalize from details to recognize the meaning of a description (MC - ages 9 and 13)
250	Recognize the main purpose of a description of a process (MC - ages 9 and 13)
250	
248	Summarize the main ideas in an expository passage to provide a description (CR - ages 9 and 13)
230	Support an opinion about a story using details (CR - ages 9 and 13)
224	Recognize an explicitly stated reason in a highly detailed description (MC)
216	Recognize a character's feeling in a short narrative passage (MC - age 13)
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CR Constructed-response question MC Multiple-choice question

NOTE: Ages in parentheses indicate a cross-age question. The position of a question on the scale represents the scale score attained by students who had a 65 percent probability of successfully answering a constructed-response question, or a 74 percent probability of correctly answering a four-option multiple-choice question. For constructed-response questions, the question description represents students' performance rated as completely correct. Scores associated with the three performance levels reported for age 17 are boxed.