

## Test of Essential Academic Skills— Reading

### Course Overview

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) – Reading is a comprehensive collection of reading skills designed to give you a deeper understanding of how to read and interpret information and stories. This course teaches you reading skills such as how to understand stories, distinguish facts from opinions, and visualize what you read.

In this course, you will learn how to use mental images, ask questions, find answers, and monitor your comprehension of expository text. You will study text aids, locate information within a text, and learn to do your best on a reading test. You will also devise strategies to read literature, social sciences, and science. In addition to online components, this course also includes offline learning activities that focus on improving your understanding about the various reading concepts and strategies taught in the course.

### Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Use what you know to help you understand stories and information.
- Distinguish facts from opinions and whether claims are questionable or believable.
- Ask and answer questions to understand stories and information.
- Find what is important in stories and information and summarize it.
- Use all your strategies to make sure you understand what you read.
- Explore 10 or 20 vocabulary words, some of which you may or may not know.
- Visualize literature and expository text while you read to help you read better.
- Choose parts of a text that need to be read first in order to understand it better. Use text aids to write pre-reading questions.
- Locate information within a text by asking questions about the text.
- Prepare for review by using highlighting or underlining, taking notes, and building tables.
- Create a plan to remember what you read more effectively.
- Explore strategies to answer three kinds of questions you will see in a standardized test.
- Find examples of contextual information and themes as reflected in the content.

- Explore some word parts that are common in the social sciences.
- Evaluate the quality of facts that support the stated opinion.
- Recognize historical allusions in what you read.
- Enrich your understanding of history by using both expository text and narrative resources.
- Create a timeline to help you study history.
- Use rules to build your scientific vocabulary.
- Combine information from science texts and visual aids.
- Choose a reading strategy to learn and understand information in science texts.
- Make inferences about literature and expository text.
- Read between the lines in stories and other kinds of information.

## **General Skills**

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Slides.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email, and participate in discussion boards.

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Student Orientation, found at the beginning of this course.*

## **Credit Value**

Test of Essential Academic Skills— Reading is a 0.5-credit course.

## **Course Materials**

- Notebook
- Computer with internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

# Course Description

## Unit 1: Paragraph Comprehension

### Summary

In this unit, you will use what you know to help you understand stories and read more fluently. You will study how to distinguish facts from opinions and whether claims are questionable or believable. In this unit, you will also learn to ask and answer questions to understand stories and to find what is important in stories and other kinds of information. You will also learn to summarize stories and information, as well as visualize images in your mind to read better. Additionally, you will study how to use all your reading strategies to make sure you understand what you read. Finally, you will learn 10 or 20 vocabulary words, which you may or may not know.

## Unit 2: Passage Comprehension

### Summary

In the beginning of the unit, you will learn to use visualization to help you read better. You will use all available reading strategies to make sure you understand what you read. You will choose the parts of a text that should be read first in order to understand it better. Further in the unit, you will use text aids to write pre-reading questions, and then ask questions about the text to find information in the text. You will be able to prepare for review by using highlighting or underlining, taking notes, and building tables. You will integrate the skills learned, such as finding the resources in a passage, asking questions, finding answers, and preparing for review. Additionally, you will create a plan to remember what you read more effectively, and study strategies for answering the three kinds of questions that you will see in a standardized test. Through the activities in the unit, you will find examples of contextual information and themes as reflected in the content, and use the prescribed strategy for reading literature. You will expand the strategy for learning words from word lists by placing literary terms in the additional context of a category. Further, you will study some word parts that are common in social sciences, as well as study how to evaluate the quality of facts that support the stated opinion. You will use the reading strategies on non-textbook passages, and recognize historical allusions in what you read. You will see how using both expository text and narrative resources can enrich your understanding of history, and make timelines to help you study history better. In the latter part of the unit, you will study how to use rules to build your scientific vocabulary, and combine information from science texts and visual aids. Finally, you will choose a reading strategy to learn and understand information in science texts. You may need access to a dictionary for some of the activities in this unit.

## Unit 3: Inferences/Conclusions

### **Summary**

In this unit, you will study making inferences about literature and expository text. You will also learn how to read between the lines in stories and other textual information.