

Examining text complexity with the Lexile® Framework for Reading



Each November, Korean pupils seeking entrance to university, take the high stakes College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) managed by the Korea Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation. In 2015 around 630,000 students took the exam.

It is common practice for two versions of the CSAT to be produced for each year's administration. The Ministry of Education identifies the versions as representing two sentence patterns (Odd Type and Even Type) with the same content in varying order. This design was developed to prevent pupils from sharing information.

The CSAT for English, taken in 2013 was an anomaly, in that it was the first and only year that the CSAT for English was produced at two levels: Type A (Easier Type) and Type B (More Difficult Type).

The table below illustrates how the Lexile® Framework for Reading can provide information about the text challenge presented by the English CSAT in the test administration years 2008 through 2015. The fourth column highlights the variation of text complexity

within the test forms through the minimum and maximum Lexile measures associated with the items. The fifth column shows the overall text complexity of each test, which has generally been consistent over time.

The Lexile® Framework for Reading is a scientific approach to measuring reading ability and the text demand of reading materials. The Lexile Framework includes a Lexile measure and the Lexile scale. A Lexile measure represents both the complexity of a text, such as a book or article, and an individual's reading ability. Lexile measures are expressed as numeric measures followed by an 'L' (for example, 850L), and are placed on the Lexile scale. The Lexile scale is a developmental scale for measuring reader ability and text complexity, ranging from below 200L for beginning readers and beginning reader materials to above 2000L for advanced readers and materials. Knowing the Lexile measures of both a reader and a text helps to predict how the text matches the reader's ability; whether it may be too easy, too difficult or just right. All Lexile products and services rely on the Lexile measure and Lexile scale to match reader with text.

Administration Year	School Year	Test	Item Lexile Range (Min-Max)	Overall Test Lexile Measure
2008	2009	CSAT English Test	550L-1700L	1170L
2009	2010	CSAT English Test	720L-1430L	1140L
2010	2011	CSAT English Test	720L-1670L	1170L
2011	2012	CSAT English Test	720L-1560L	1180L
2012	2013	CSAT English Test	650L-1730L	1180L
2013	2014	CSAT English Test Form A	620L-1400L	1050L
2013	2014	CSAT English Test Form B	890L-1530L	1220L
2014	2015	CSAT English Test	710L-1540L	1160L
2015	2016	CSAT English Test	690L-1770L	1180L