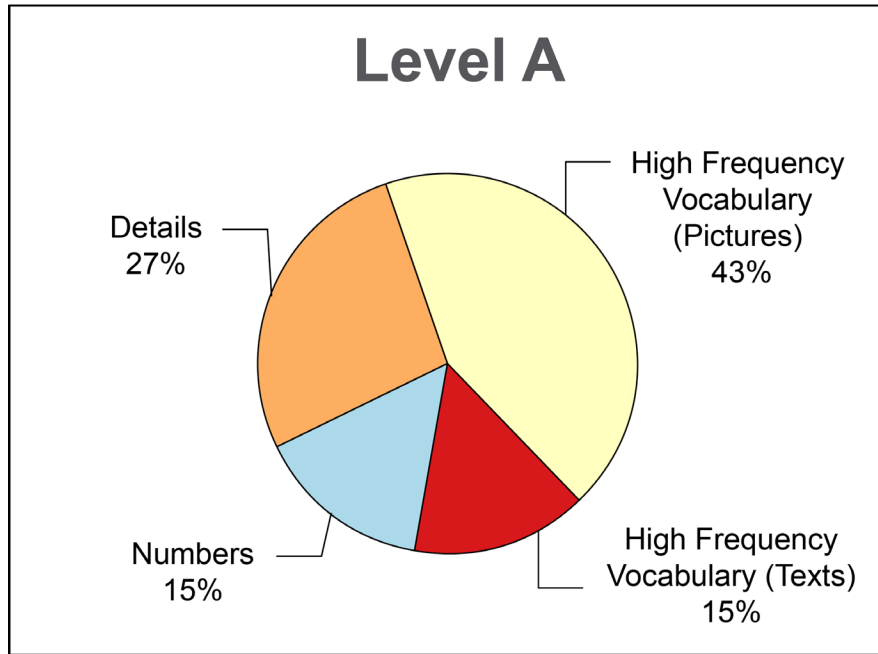


The CASAS Reading STEPS series is an assessment of reading comprehension for English as a Second Language (ESL) learners. This document provides information about the content coverage of each set of parallel forms in the test series.

Reading STEPS is aligned to the [English Language Proficiency Standards \(ELPS\) for Adult Education](#) and the [National Reporting System's \(NRS\) Education Functioning Level Descriptors for English as a Second Language \(ESL\)](#). The blueprints on the following pages show the content coverage of the forms organized into content areas. These content areas are *High-frequency Vocabulary (Pictures)*, *High-frequency Vocabulary (Texts)*, *Numbers*, *Vocabulary*, *Details*, *Main Idea*, *Inference*, and *Point of View and Supporting Evidence*. Under each content area is additional information about the specific content covered. Each content area was designed to be descriptive and concise to help people of various backgrounds in English language education understand what the series is assessing.

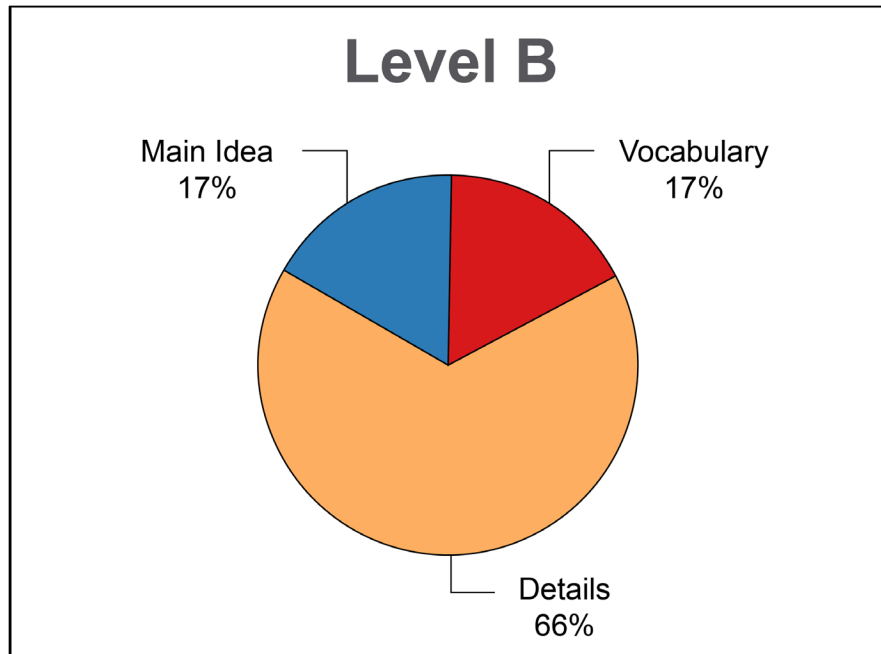
Additionally, CASAS has provided an alignment of the content areas to the ELPS for each level. The ELPS cover the modalities of *reading*, *listening*, *speaking*, *writing*, and *language*. Since Reading STEPS is an assessment of reading comprehension, Reading STEPS assesses the standards that relate to the *reading* modality.



*NRS Educational Functioning Levels*  
Levels 1 and 2

*English Language Proficiency Standards*  
Level 1

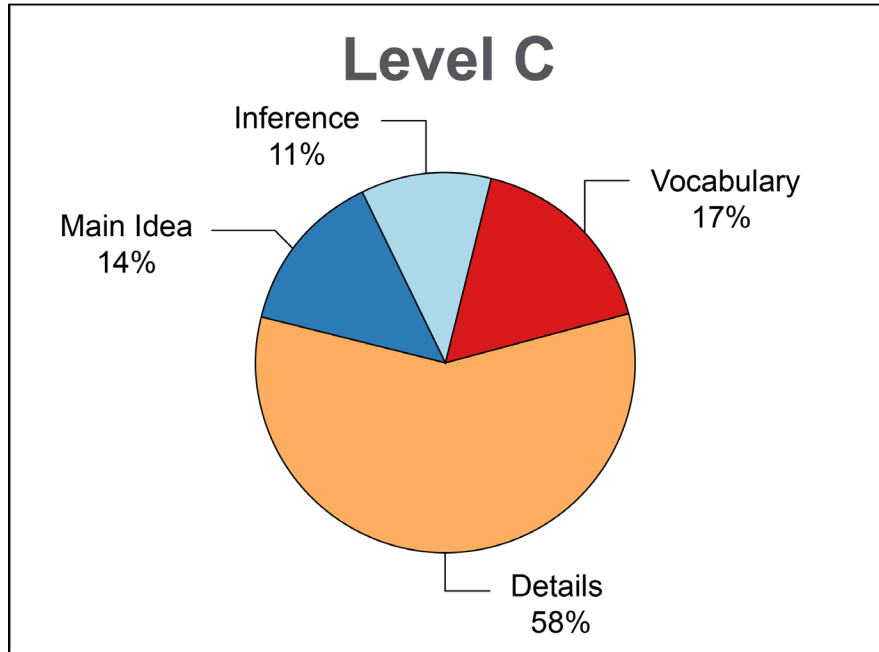
Content Areas	ELP Standard	% of test items
<b>High-frequency Vocabulary (Pictures)</b> Photos Symbols	8	43%
<b>High-frequency Vocabulary (Texts)</b> Words on forms Abbreviations	8	15%
<b>Numbers</b> Time Number words Money and prices Number formatting	8	15%
<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	27%



*NRS Educational Functioning Levels*  
Levels 2 and 3

*English Language Proficiency Standards*  
Levels 1 and 2

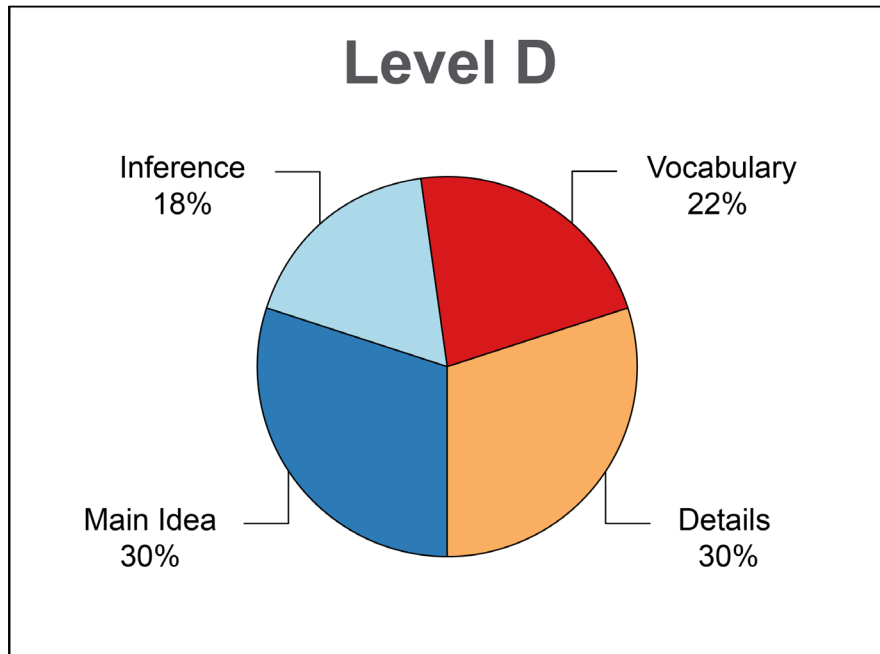
Content Areas	ELP Standard	% of test items
<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand high-frequency words	8	17%
<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	66%
<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic Identify an author's purpose	1	17%



*NRS Educational Functioning Levels*  
Levels 3 and 4

*English Language Proficiency Standards*  
Levels 2 and 3

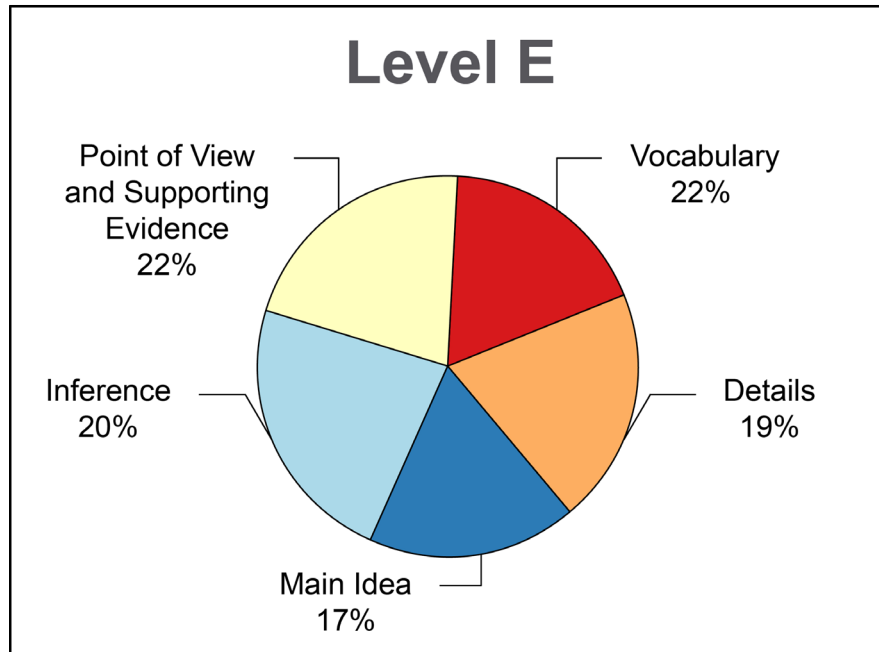
Content Areas	ELP Standard	% of test items
<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand high-frequency words Understand academic vocabulary	8	17%
<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	58%
<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic Identify an author’s purpose	1	14%
<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	11%



*NRS Educational Functioning Levels*  
Levels 4 and 5

*English Language Proficiency Standards*  
Levels 3 and 4

Content Areas	ELP Standard	% of test items
<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic vocabulary Understand words with multiple meanings	8	22%
<b>Details</b> Retell key details Locate/Compare details	1	30%
<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic Identify an author’s purpose Identify an author’s point of view	1, 6	30%
<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	18%



*NRS Educational Functioning Levels*  
Levels 5 and 6

*English Language Proficiency Standards*  
Levels 4 and 5

Content Areas	ELP Standard	% of test items
<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic vocabulary Understand words with multiple meanings	8	22%
<b>Details</b> Retell key details Locate/Compare details	1	19%
<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic Identify an author’s purpose	1	17%
<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	20%
<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify an author’s point of view Identify supporting evidence	6	22%