

# NEW YORK STATE MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

## **TITLE: ELA Regents Prep Expanded Lessons**

**DESCRIPTION:** The expanded lessons provide more content instruction and practice of ELA skills, in addition to test-taking skills. Each lesson has a Student handout and its own Educator Guide with answers and advice embedded into the individual student lesson. These materials are intended to help you prepare a student to take the NYS Common Core English Language Arts Regents Exam.

To help you plan sessions, this Facilitator Guide provides general information about the Regents Exam, along with an overview of the focus for each lesson. For each lesson, this Facilitator Guide identifies any additional supplies or files you will need for the lesson.

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**ELA REGENTS PREP SERIES:** NYS-MEP Resource Library also has a 4-Session option for students who have a short time to prepare for the ELA Regents Exam. The 4-Session version concentrates on test-taking skills needed for taking the ELA Regents Exam.

**REGENTS PREP SERIES:** The NYS-MEP continues to build a series of Regents Prep materials, available in the Resource Library on the [www.nysmigrant.org](http://www.nysmigrant.org) website.

## **FACILITATOR GUIDE**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELA REGENTS EXAM**

The exam itself has three sections, which are **not** weighted evenly. The majority of points (85%) are earned in the first two sections of the exam.

Part 1, **Reading Comprehension**, is designed to test how well students understand what they read. Students will be asked to read three unconnected passages, and then answer a total of twenty-four multiple-choice questions about them. One passage will be prose fiction\*, one will be poetry, and the third will be nonfiction prose. Usually, about 40% of the questions deal with the first and the final passage, with only 20% asking about the poem.

\*One exam had a selection from a memoir (i.e. nonfiction) for the first passage, but this has not been repeated.

Part 2, **Argument**, asks students to write an essay defending a claim. Students must use specific evidence from at least three of the four texts provided. They will be given a topic question and four relevant passages. The complete list of past Part II topic questions has been compiled and included in these materials.

The final section of the exam, Part 3, is the **Text-Analysis Response** portion. Students will be provided with a passage, which may be fiction or nonfiction, and asked to write two to three paragraphs analyzing how the author uses a specific technique to develop the central idea of the text. The genre of the passage has varied over the years since the current test was introduced in 2014. Originally, nonfiction was most common, with one speech and several memoir/diary selections. Since 2017, however, fiction has held sway, with the passage most frequently being taken from a short story or novel.

SECTION	Part 1: Reading Comprehension	Part 2: Argument	Part 3: Text Analysis
SUGGESTED TIME	60 min.	90 min.	30 min.
TEXTS TO READ	3 texts; ~2,600 words total; literary text, poem, and informational text	4 texts; ~2,600 words total; 4 informational texts	1 text; ~1,000 words; either a literature text or an informational text
TASK	Respond to 24 <b>multiple-choice</b> <b>questions.</b>	Write a <b>source-based</b> <b>argument</b> using the texts as their sources. Students <b>must</b> specifically cite at least three of the texts.	Write a <b>2-3 paragraph</b> <b>expository essay</b> identifying the text’s central idea and explaining the author’s use of one writing strategy in developing this central idea.
RAW VS WEIGHTED POINTS	24   24	6   24	4   8

## OVERVIEW OF LESSONS 1 – 6 AND SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR EACH LESSON

### Lesson 1 – Literary Elements & Techniques Part 1 (approximately one hour)

The goal is to reinforce students' understanding of the literary terms that will be used throughout the ELA Regents Exam, especially in Parts 1 and 3 of the NYS ELA Regents Exam.

**Educator Note:** Lessons 1-3 provide expanded practice of “*Session 1: Literary Elements & Techniques*,” from the shorter, “ELA Regents Prep in Four Sessions.”

#### Lesson 1 Supplies

- Educator Key
- Student Lesson Handout
- **Supporting English Learners:** NYSED Guide of Literary Terms & Devices for Language Arts: Follow the link to the Bilingual Glossaries, <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/resources/glossaries> and then scroll to the very bottom to find the Guide of Literary Terms and Devices.
  - This Guide provides a definition and example for each term, in a bilingual format, with the terms in English in one column and the target language in the second column. It is currently available in 22 languages, including Arabic, Haitian, Karen, Nepali, Somali, and Spanish.

### Lesson 2 – Literary Elements & Techniques Part 2

Lesson 2 continues to work with literary elements using poems and articles to strengthen these skills.

#### Lesson 2 Supplies

- Educator Key
- Student Lesson Handout
- Sample article and questions from the newsela website
  - There are six (6) copies of the same sample article, but they are written at different reading levels and in different languages.
    - The three reading levels are: Gr 3, Gr 6, and Gr 8
    - The two languages are English and Spanish.
  - Select the one(s) that work for your students.

**Educator Note:** Exercise 6 uses an article, questions, and answers from <https://newsela.com>. See Page 4 in this Facilitator Guide for directions about subscribing to NEWSELA (news ela). These directions also how to change the reading level of its articles, and how to change the language to Spanish.

After you subscribe, the website will send you one email a day with the latest news articles, so you don't have to search the website unless you want to. You can always change the reading level. Many, but not all, articles are available in Spanish.

### **Lesson 3 – Literary Elements & Techniques Part 3**

Lesson 3 moves students to apply some of the concepts they practiced in the earlier lessons. Now applying these techniques to denser reading, as well as when the elements, such as symbolism, are not as obvious.

#### **Lesson 3 Supplies**

- Educator Key
- Student Lesson Handout

### **Lesson 4 – Tips for Multiple Choice & Newsela**

Identifies strategies for answering multiple-choice questions, and uses news articles and quizzes from the Newsela website. These articles can be less difficult to read than the past Regents Exams, so are useful to meet the student at their reading level to practice, and then gradually move students to working with more difficult reading.


**Educator Note:** Lessons 4 – 6 provide expanded practice of the reading comprehension of “Session 2: Exam Overview & Strategies for Part 1 (Reading Comprehension)” from the shorter ELA Regents Prep in Four Sessions.

#### **Lesson 4 Supplies**

- Educator Key
- Student Lesson
- YouTube access to watch 1:38 minute clip using the “50-50” choice from “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yh3u5h0syg>
- Newsela Sample 1 – Predator Birds at Hotels (Lexicon 720; Grade 4)
- Newsela Sample 2 – Cherokee Nation Seat in Congress (Lexicon 940; Grade 6)
- Newsela Sample 3 – Magnetic pouches that lock students’ phones (Lexicon 950; Grade 6)
- Newsela Sample 3s – fundas magnéticas que bloquean los teléfonos (Lexicon 940; Grade 6)

**Educator Note:** These sample articles are from the Newsela website. Subscribe to Newsela for more high interest articles that you can adjust for reading level. See directions below.

- Website: <https://newsela.com>
- Create a log in (for free)

- You will receive one email with 4-7 current news articles
- Click on the link for an article
- Have your user name and password handy – sometimes you need it to read the whole article print.
- Use the tab that starts as “MAX” or a number, to select different reading levels.
  - The number is the Common Core reading level known as “Lexicon.”
  - This number prints on the article when you print or download it.
- The Text Level (grade level) appears near the top of the article on screen.
  - This does NOT show when you print or download the article.
- Next to the Lexicon level, you will find the language box. Click on “English” to see if the article has “Spanish” for a choice.
  - If it does, click on “Spanish,” then select the Lexicon/reading level for Spanish.
- Choose the article and quiz
  - (FYI – the choice that includes answers doesn’t seem to download)
- After you select the printer icon to print, you will have the option to download and save articles, in addition to printing them.  
(Click the download icon  at the top of the page. After it opens, you can save it.)

## Lesson 5 – Exam Overview & Part 1 Practice

Reviews the three sections of the ELA Regents Exam. Students use a past ELA Regents Exam to practice strategies for Section I: Reading Comprehension, where students need to read three different texts and answer multiple-choice questions about the reading. The lesson focuses on strategies for reading to answer the multiple-choice questions.

### Lesson 5 Supplies

- Educator Key
- Student Lesson Handout
- Annotated January 2019 ELA Regents Exam
  - Model/example of how students might mark questions and reading passages to focus on answering the questions
- June 2019 ELA Regents Exam per student (**Note:** save the student copy(ies) to use again with Lesson 6)
- June 2019 Part 1 Answer Key (**Note:** save this printout to use again with Lesson 6)

## Lesson 6 – Unfamiliar Vocab & Part 1 Practice

Practice figuring out the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary words and continue practice with multiple-choice questions from the ELA Regents Exam.

### Lesson 6 Supplies

- Educator Key
- Student Lesson Handout
- **YouTube** access to watch 8:43 minute video with five tips for using context clues to define an unfamiliar word. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0auqQ82551Y>
- From Lesson 5-
  - Students' copy of June 2019 ELA Regents Exam (to use Part I, Passage C)
  - June 2019 Part I Answer Key

### Lesson 6 Resource

You don't need the link to "*E Reading Worksheets*" to use this lesson as the problems are embedded in the lesson, but you might find it useful for future use with your students.

- ***E Reading Worksheets*** – The link below takes you directly to the worksheets for context clues, at different skill levels.
- The website has worksheets for other ELA skills as well.
- The website is free to use, but has many ads that take you to other sites.

<https://www.ereadingworksheets.com/free-reading-worksheets/reading-comprehension-worksheets/context-clues-worksheets/>

**Note:** Lesson 6 ends with Part C and a task for students to select the past ELA Regents Exam with the question they want to answer in the next lesson. This makes a good transition to "*Session 3: Argumentative Writing*," from the shorter ELA Prep materials, titled, "ELA Regents Prep in Four Sessions," where that past ELA Regents Exam will be put to use.

### ***To continue preparation for the ELA Regents Exam***

Use Sessions 3 and 4 from, "ELA Regents Prep in Four Sessions," found on the NYS Migrant website, at <https://www.nysmigrant.org/resources/library/ELAregentsprep/4sessions>

**Session 3** has strategies for Part 2 of the ELA Regents Exam, writing an argument. Students will learn about, and then practice the expected steps in argumentative writing. Students will use the question they selected from *Lesson 6, Part C of the Expanded Lessons*.

**Session 4** has strategies for Part 3 of the ELA Regents Exam. This uses text analysis. Students learn about the required steps needed to explain how the author uses a specific technique to develop their central idea.

### **ADDITIONAL WEBSITE RESOURCES**

**Past Regents Exams** [nysedregents.org/hseia](https://nysedregents.org/hseia)

**learningwithmslee (home page)**

[youtube.com/channel/UCEQxrd3QSF3TLXFblxqTGFg](https://youtube.com/channel/UCEQxrd3QSF3TLXFblxqTGFg)

A series of videos dealing with each section of the ELA Regents & offering a number of helpful tips & strategies for success. The upload section scrolls left and right. Look for the sideways arrow to see more.

The videos are mostly in English, but each has useful visuals. One video, “ELA CC Regents – Part 2 Directions Explanation,” has a Spanish interpretation in addition to the English.

**Literary Elements & Devices** [literarydevices.net](https://literarydevices.net)

You can search for any literary term you might run across, to find a definition and description about using it. It can be difficult to work around the multiple advertisements on the website.