

CRITICAL VOCABULARY
FOR
PROFICIENT PERFORMANCE
On The
Kentucky Core Content Test
Based on State and National Standards

Compiled by –
Harrison County Teachers
Georgetown College PreService Teachers
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Participating in the
Goals 2000 Grant Project

Project:
BEST
(BUILDING EDUCATION SUPPORT TEAMS)

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Reading Vocabulary (Primary-Grade 4):

Explain: (Complete)	-information (letters / speeches/ advertisements)	-fact / opinion
-meaning		
-sequence	-practical / workplace (memos / schedules)	intertext /(Use)
-character actions		-directions
Describe:	-cultural perspectives	-specialized vocabulary
-character	-journals	-illustrations
-plot	-whole text	-literature
-setting	-antonyms	
-solution	-homonyms	
-problem	-compound words	
-passage	-text features	
Demonstrate:	-content clues	
-characteristics of	-main ideas	
-literature (articles / manuals / reference materials)	-details	
	-sequence	
	-cause / effect	

Reading Vocabulary (Middle School):

synonyms	informative	similes
antonyms	persuasive	metaphors
homonyms	fact / opinion	personification
short stories	comparison	hyperbole
novels	prefixes	summarize
essays	suffixes	argument / supporting
poetry	scan / skim	details
plays	predictions	expert opinion
scripts	conclusions	testimonial
characterization	generalizations	statistics
setting	reflect	band wagon
plot	evaluate	bias
theme	real world issues	misinformation
point of view	analyze	
cause and effect	explain	
compare / contrast	foreshadowing	
sequence	imagery	
supporting details	figurative language	

Reading Vocabulary (High School):

Organizational Aids

• *bullets*

• *bold face type*

• *italics*

• *indentation*

Specialized Vocabulary

confirm/revise
predictions
paraphrase
formulate opinion
conflict
resolution
word choice
style
content
literary elementary
excerpt
locate
evaluate
apply
realistic purpose
interpret
literal meaning
non-literal meaning
jargon
dialect

analyze
literary genres
characterization
setting
point-of-view
plot
 whole text
structure
 whole text
theme
conflict
resolution
symbolism
irony
analogies
figurative language
illustration
chart
list
table

graph
table of contents
index
glossary
heading
caption
cause and effect
comparison and contrast
sequence
generalization
persuasion
evidence
author's position
argument
essential information
practical / work place
materials
literary element
propaganda

Writing - P-4:
General Writing:

purpose
audience
topic
focus
explanation
sensory details
spelling
punctuation

tone
voice
analyzing
main ideas
elaboration
reflection
noun
verb

capitalization
documentation
ideas
transitions
closure
sentences
varied
word choice

Reflective Writing

letter to reviewer
reflection
selection
goal
growth

writing process (prewriting, drafting,
revising, editing,
publishing)

influences
strategies

Personal Writing:

life experiences
personal narrative (personal writing
memoir
sensory details

first person point-of-view
thoughts
feelings
dialogue

Literary Writing

poems
short story
scripts
character
and rhyme
events

comedy
rhythm
stage directions
descriptive language
personification
similes

metaphors
descriptions
suspense
horror

Transactive Writing

Variety of forms
transactive
information
engage
clarify
justify purposes

explanation
author's purpose
effective conclusion
well organized
facts, examples, reasons
comparisons

anecdotes
descriptive detail
charts
diagrams

Writing (Middle / High School):

purpose		diagrams
audience	Writing Process	
suitable tone	Prewriting	Literary Writing
voice	Drafting	understatement
relevant elaboration	Revising	aside
unity	Editing	metaphor
coherence	Publishing	comedy
context		suspend
transition	Personal writing	horror
effective closure	memoir	parody
concrete / sensory	personal essay	
details	narrative	Transactive Writing
documentation citing	first person point of	letters
	view	speeches
Reflective Writing	dialogue	editorials
	irony	articles
Letter to Reviewer	anecdote	proposal
	brochures	

Math Vocabulary for CATS

Math (Elementary P- 5):

whole numbers	operations	division
fractions	addition	odd
mixed numbers	subtraction	even
decimals	multiplication	composite

multiples
factors
place value
expanded form
magnitude
order
compare
symbols
denominators /
numerators
estimate
quantities

integers
fractions
decimals
percents
proportions
equivalent
two-dimensional
three-dimensional
data
organize
mean
median
outliner
cluster
stem / leaf
box / whiskers
variable
equation
estimate
positive

irrational numbers
arithmetic & geometric
sequences & series
matrices
reciprocals
absolute value
exponents
roots
factorials
scalar multiplication
explicit formula
combinations
permutations

LCM
>, <, =
equivalent
commutative
associative
identity / zero
property
geometric
point
ray
line
segment

Math (Middle School):

negative
per unit
rate of change
square roots
squaring
customary unit of
measure
metric unit
inverse
rate, time, and distance
scale drawing
graph bar
line plot
predict
model
multiples
prime numbers
composite numbers
factors – GCF
LCD

Math (High School):

identity
inverse
commutative
associative
distribute
closure
reflexive
symmetric
transitive
ratio
proportion
transformations
translations

side
edge
face
vertices
radius
diameter
angle
acute
right
obtuse_

convert order of
operations
commutative
associative
distributive
rays, points, lines
angles, segments, plane
congruence
symmetry
similar
side
face
vertex
regular
irregular
perimeter
area
circumference
square

rotations
reflections
dilations
betweenness
parallelism
perpendicularly
linear pairs
vertical angles
supplementary angles
complimentary angles
corresponding angles
alternative int. angles
slope

trigonometry ratios
2-D

3-D
Pythagorean

relationships
congruence

Life Science:
living, non-living &
once living
characteristics
Basic Needs:
Animals:
air, water, food, space
Plants:

Science (Elementary P-4)

air, water, nutrients,
light
Structures [(functions
(distinct) in growth,
survival, reproduction)]
Life Cycle: life, growth,
development,
reproduction, death

resemble / offspring
appendages
interactions
ability
generations
depend
survived
adaptations
detrimental

beneficial
aquatic
fossils
organisms
evidence
sustain
movement
Earth surface (erosion,
weathering, landslide,
volcanic eruptions,
earthquakes)
Weather / Seasons
(wind direction &
speed)
precipitation
apparent path
cycle
light (reflect, refract,

absorb)
conduction
electricity (circuit,
conducting path,
electrical current)
circuit (light, heat,
sound, magnetic
effects)
magnets (attract / repel)
Earth materials (rocks,
soils, water, gases of
the atmosphere)
minerals (color, texture,
hardness)
capacity
resources
nonrenewable /
renewable/ recycled
resources

observe
properties (size, mass,
shape, color,
temperature, magnetism,
reactions)
substances
measure (metric rulers,
balances,
thermometers)
materials
classify
States of matter (solid,
liquid, gas)
heating / cooling
position (relative
location)
motion
force (push / pull)
vibration (sound / pitch)

Physical Science:

Grades 5 through 7 (assessment at grade 7):

Properties and Changes of Matter

solid, liquid, gas (states
of matter)
freezing point
melting point
sublimation
evaporation
condensation
physical properties
(density, boiling point,
solubility)
flammability

Chemical Properties

compounds
chemical reactions
reactions
elements
electrons
protons
neutrons
subatomic particles
synthesis
decomposition

Motions and Forces
Newton's Laws of
Motion
relative position
motion
speed
graph
inertia
Force = Mass x
Acceleration
Action
Reaction
force
simple machines
gravity
friction
momentum
pressure
acceleration
Transfer of Energy
energy
heat
light
electricity

sound
transmission
refraction
absorption
scattering
reflection
electrical circuits
**Earth and Space
Science**
lithosphere
crust
mantle
dense core
plate tectonics
landforms
constructive forces
destructive forces
crustal deformation
volcanic eruption
deposition of sediment
weathering
erosion
lava
magna

rock cycle
metamorphic
sedimentary
igneous
soil
weathered rocks
decomposed organic
material
chemical composition
texture
water cycle
evaporation
condensation
precipitation
run-off
transpiration
universal solvent
atmosphere
water vapor
atmosphere
megosphere
troposphere
stratosphere
ionosphere
weather
climate
El 'Nino
La' Nino
barometric pressure
front (cold & warm)
high pressure
low pressure
wind speed
temperature
hurricane
cyclone
tsunami
tornado
lightning
thunder
Earth's History
catastrophes
asteroid
comets
fossils
ordivician
Jurassic

mold
cast
trace
petrification
Earth in the Solar System
asteroids
comets
star
solar system
day
rotation
year
phases of the moon
Luna
eclipses
revolution
waxing
waning
cresant
gibbous
full
new
solar eclipse
lunar eclipse
penumbra
umbra
gravity
tides
water cycles
winds
ocean currents
season
Structure and Functions in Living Systems
tilt
levels of organization
cells
tissue
organs
systems
organisms (bacteria,
protists, fungi, plants,
animals)
ecosystems
monerans

nucleus
nucleolus
mitochondria
lysosomes
centrioles
ribosomes
endoplasmic reticulum
cytoplasm
chlorophyll
cell wall
cell
nuclear membrane
cells
single cells
multi-cellular
reproduction (mitosis,
meiosis)
specialized cells
Regulation and Behavior
adaptation
survival of the fittest
internal stimulus
environmental stimulus
behavioral response
Reproduction and Heredity
reproduction
asexually
sexually
sex cells
egg
sperm
genes
chromosomes
heredity
punic square
probability
dominant
recessive
allele
homogeneous
heterogeneous
phenotype
genotype
Diversity and Adaptations of

Organisms
biological evolution
adaptation
survival
extinction
Populations and Ecosystems
population
biotic factors
ecosystem
plants
microorganisms
producers

consumers
decomposers
food webs
transfer of energy
sunlight
chemical energy
photosynthesis
carrying capacity
limiting factors
abiotic factors
biotic
prey
predators

populations
niches
symbiotic factors
comensalism
mutualism
parasitism
parasitic host
competition
scientific method
purpose
research

Science-Process (High School):

hypothesis
testable
theory
technique
logic

evidence
investigation
empirical
conceptual
skepticism

subject to change (adj.)
natural hazard
local issue
national issue
global issue

Physical Science (High School):

matter
atoms
properties
mass
electrical charge
nucleus
electrons
electric force
protons
neutrons
isotopes
element
nuclear distances
nuclear forces
particles
energy
atomic interactions
fission
fusion
nuclei
temperature
pressure
star
chemical property
physical property
periodic table

bond
transferred electron
shared electron
compound
constituent
solid
liquid
gas
rigid
conducting
insulating
semi-conducting
superconductors
resistance
flow of electrons
cell
chemical reaction
released energy
consume energy
concentration
temperature
catalysts
net force
motion
Laws of Motion
gravity

universal force
exerts
electrical force
charges
repel
magnetism
electromagnetic
electrical motors
generators
kinetic energy
field
heat
manifestation
random
vibrations
ions
molecule
atomic motion
universe
waves
sound
seismic
frequency
relative motion
radio waves
microwaves

infrared radiation
visible light
ultraviolet radiation
X-rays
gamma rays
accelerated
charged object
Earth
internal energy
external energy
Sun
primary

decay
radioactive isotopes
gravitational energy
convection
circulation
mantle
crustal plates
atmosphere
ocean currents
global climate
dynamic process
rotation

static conditions
mountain ranges
geo chemical
essentially
reservoirs
organisms
limestone
carbon
carbonate
carbon dioxide

Earth Science (High School):

techniques
estimate
nebular
dust
eruptions
time scale
evidence
bacteria
evolution
composition
oxygen
nitrogen
“Big Bang”
dense
nervous system,
digestive system
secrete
animal
monitor
behavior
behavioral
innate
learned
stimulus
species
genus
family, order, phylum
evolve, evolution
natural selection
reproductive
success
adaptive logic

density
analogous
generation (1)
generation (2)
Life Science
membrane
concentrated
mixture
constituents
synthesize
protein
catalysts
enzymes
functions (n)
germ
virus
nucleic acid
heredity
encoded
replicate
transmission (genetic)
trait
chromosome
sexual, asexual
offspring
female
male
gamete
chromosome pair
DNA
mutations
spontaneous

regulation
expressions of genes
coordinate
plant
chloroplasts
photosynthesis
microorganisms
solar
environment
multi-cellular
specialized
tissues
organs

germ cell
potential
variation
finite
niche
ancestors
descendants
biological classifications
hierarchy
subgroups
fundamental
analysis
chemical process
cycle (water, nitrogen)
ecosystems
herbivores
carnivores
decomposers

cooperate (ecological)
compete (ecological)
interrelationship
interdependency
populations
prediction
human being
deliberate
inadvertent
conservation

dynamic, dynamics
global stability
irreversible
living systems
derive
tendency
disorganized state
covalent
absorb

sugar, fat, etc.
phosphate, carbonate,
etc.
ATP, ADP
cellular respiration
communities
dissipation
conservation

History

(P-5th Grade):

-Primary & Secondary
Sources

-Native American
cultures in Kentucky

*shelter

*food

*family organization

-State / National Flags,
monuments / buildings,
Patriotic songs, poems,
Gettysburg Address

-Communication,
innovations / inventions
transportation,
recreation, traditions

Education for Kentucky & Americans*clothing

*gender roles

*religion values

*language

*tools

Geography (P-5th Grade):

What is geography?

What does it mean to adapt?

types of maps & how to use them

regions- land & water

spatial factor decisions

populations (gathering)

latitude / longitude
populations (gathering)
resources humans needs - food, clothing,

etc.
perspectives on use of land

Government & Civics

(P-5th Grade):

-government
*national
*state
*local
-Democracy
-Importance of
Constitution
& Bill Rights

-branches
*legislature
*judicial
*executive
-Roles of government &
citizens
-Offices
*governor

*mayor
*president
-Purpose of roles & laws
local

Economics

(P-5th Grade):

goods and services
wants and needs
supply and demand
opportunity costs
availability of goods

definition of consumer
large and small systems
financial institutions
free enterprise
profit

scarcity
barter
production
distribution
consumption

Culture & Society:

language
music
art
dress

food
stories
holidays
customs

beliefs

history

Society:

religion
human needs
family
school
clubs
teams
cooperation

conflict / competition
arguments / disagree
stereotypes / prejudice
tools of compromise/

Social Studies (Middle & High School):

****Denotes the content which is to be covered at both levels. High School content would be more challenging.***

democratic principles
justice
equality
responsibility
freedom

totalitarian
citizens
Historical documents*
economic systems --*
compare revenues (HS)

economic institutions
-*-- stock (HS)
supply and demand
mandates (HS)
laws and government

citizen responsibilities*
markets &
mandates (HS)
financial
cooperatives
monarchies (HS)
scarcity of resources*

incentives(HS)
dictatorship (HS)
production, distribution,
& consumption (MS)
constituents (HS)
checks and balances (HS)

economic principles*
individual rights (HS)
productive resources*
opportunity cost*

Social Studies (Middle and High School):

entrepreneur *
physical features(MS)
resources(MS)
migrate(MS)
gender (MS)
race(MS)
secondary sources(MS)
artifacts(MS)
time lines(MS)
Reconstruction(MS)
natural resources(MS)
“great convergence”
agrarianism

civilizations and empires
Feudalism
nation states
investments
interdependence
economic sanctions
environmental &
humanitarian issues
centralization vs.
dispersion
urban areas
markets & industry
human migration

primary resources
cause and effect
multiple causation
global effects
Progressive Movement
imperialism
isolationism
capitalism
urbanization
political corruption
alliances
globalization of the
economy

Arts & Humanities (Elementary):

Dance Vocabulary:

Two types of movement:

- 1) locomotor (run, walk, etc.)
- 2) non-locomotor (bend, twist, etc.)

Three elements of dance:

- 1.) space (shape, level, direction, pathways,
- 2.) time (beat, tempo)
- 3.) force (energy)

Three purposes of dance:

- 1.) ceremonial
- 2.) recreational
- 1.) artistic

Drama Vocabulary:

Four elements of drama: 1.) plot 2.)character 3.)theme 4.)spectacle

Four elements of production: 1) costume 2.)scenery 3.) props 4.)sound

Miscellaneous Terms

dialogue
monologue
conflict
improvisation
mimicry

pantomime
role playing
storytelling
script
scenario

myths
legends
folktales

Six elements of performance:

- 1)character
- 2.)movement

- 3.)vocal expressions
- 4.)speaking style
- 5.)listening
- 6.) acting and storytelling

Music Vocabulary
(Elementary):

Rhythm: meter (up 6,trip 6)
signature (2/4, 3/4, 4/4)
time (meter)
bar lines
rhythmic durations

tempo: slow, fast

melody: shape
direction (up, down, same,
stop, skip)

Harmony: unison, parts, intervals,
tonality (major, resting, tone)

Forms: call / response; two part (AB);
medium loud (messo forte)
loud (forte)

Baroque Period: marches
Patriotic: blues & spirituals

Elements of Art
line, form, shape, texture
(primary & secondary) color groups
(warm, cool, neutral)

treble clef
pitch notation (middle C to F)
high / low notes (pitches)
three-part (ABA) round,
verse / chorus, repeat signs

Timbre: instrument families
(brass,woodwind,string,percussion,folk)
voice
parts sounds of voices / instruments

Dynamics: soft (piano)
medium soft (messo piano)

Media:
papier-mâché
two-dimensional : collage
three-dimensional : pottery, sculpture, weaving

Principals of Design:
emphasis (focal point)
pattern
balance (symmetry)
contrast (light, dark)

Arts &
Humanities

(Middle School):
Art Elements:

line

shape
color
space

value

form

texture

Design Elements:

repetition
pattern

balance
symmetry
asymmetry
emphasis

contrast
rhythm
proportion
movement

Media Elements:

two-dimensional
three-dimensional

Subject Matter Elements:

landscape
portrait

still life
abstract
non-objective

Cultural Elements:

ritual
Naturalism

nature
expressive
impressionism
realism

narrative
Renaissance
19th century

Drama Elements

plot development
rising action
turning point

falling action
suspense
theme
language
empathy

make-up
motivation
discovery
setting
mood

Production:

staging
scenery
props

thrust
lighting
sound
costumes
proscenium

Performance

breath control
diction
body alignment

Theater

director
actor
playwright
actress
designer

Dance

space
time
force
locomotor
athletic
pedestrian
body alignment-landing
balance
elevation

Music

rhythm

tempo
melody

harmony
form

timbre

dynamics

voice

Cultural

styles of music

jazz

Broadway

ballads

operas

spiritual

Time Periods:

Renaissance

Baroque

Classical

Romantic

20th Century

Literature Elements:

plot

character

setting

point of view

language & style

Arts & Humanities (High School)

Art Elements:

color / color theory

color relationship

primary & secondary hues

values

intensity

Design

balance

symmetry

asymmetry

emphasis

pattern

repetition

unity

contrast

variety

movement

rhythm

proportion

transition

gradation

Media

aesthetic

two-dimensional

three-dimensional

portrait

landscape

still life

abstract

non-objective

Cultures / Periods / Styles:

Modern / Contemporary

American

European

Latin American

Purposes:

Persuasive

formalist

Drama Elements:

exposition

development

climax
reversal
denouement
soliloquy
character (protagonist &

antagonist)
symbolism
foreshadowing
dialogue
monologue

ensemble
body
voice
script
sensory call

Cultural

improvised / informal
rehearsed / formal

language
stage directions

Dance Elements:

costumes
lighting
props
scenery
choreography

Choreography

theme
variation
rondo
round

style
setting
costume
movement

narrative

Social

fox trot
waltz
jitterbug

cha-cha

Cultural
recreational
ceremonial
artis

Music Elements:

overture
sonata
symphonic
opermelodic motif

compose
perform
improvise grand staff
treble clef
bass clef

Cultural Elements:

recreational
ceremonial

artistic expression
patriotic songs
protest songs

Literature Elements:

plot
character
symbol

setting
point of view

language
theme

irony

Genres:

novels
short stories
plays
poetry
essays
biographies

Practical Living / Vocational Studies

Practical Living / Vocational Studies:

Key Verbs:

demonstrate	employing	compare
promote	perform	contrast
express	cope	drawing conclusions
applying	develop	evaluate
heeding	contributes	

(Elementary):

responsibility	flexibility	advertisers
respect	body composition	income
conflict resolution	hazards	expenditures
preadolescence	procedures	planning & saving
body systems	behavioral changes	community organization
circulatory	consequences	nonprofit
respiratory	non-medicinal drugs	immunizations
digestive	over-the-counter	services
hygiene	catastrophe	resources
health	effective strategies	voluntary agencies
communicable	peer pressure	male & female roles
diseases	stress management	occupations
nutritious foods	locomotor	job opportunities
food guide pyramid	non-locomotor	self-knowledge
respiration	manipulative skills	dependability
perspiration	movement	punctuality
benefits	spectators	cooperation
aerobic	needs	technology
endurance	wants	efficiently

Middle and High School:

financial mgt. Strategies	cardiovascular	alternatives
conflict-resolution	endurance	defensive
longevity	STD's	transmission
benefits	self-assessment	counseling
human life	coordination	mental illness
cycle/reproduction	offensive	economy
emotional health	diet	body systems
abstinence	incidence	short/long term
metabolism	seizures	consequences

prevention
intervention
peer pressure
communicable diseases
non-communicable
diseases
coping diseases
personal illnesses

harassment
budgeting
financing
nutrients
resources
overindulgence
logical
sequential

locomotor
non-locomotor
transitional
analysis
excessive
refinement
techniques
consumer

t
o
o
l
s

o
f

c
o
m
p
r
o
m
i
s

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c
o
o
p
e
r
a
t
i
o
n

improve
maintain

Writing(middle/high school)

Transactive Writing

variety of forms
transactive
information
engage
well-organized

clarify
justify purposes
explanation
author's purpose
effective conclusion

Dance