Understanding passage types, question categories, and question types

**PASSAGES: TYPES**

**Literary** – excerpts from novels or short stories, whether classic or contemporary; or American or global

**Informational**– social sciences, found documents/global conversations, science

**CATEGORY: INFORMATION AND IDEAS**

**Reading Closely** – Determining what’s stated or implied in a passage and applying what you’ve learned from it to a new, similar situation.

**Citing Textual Evidence** – Deciding which part of a passage best supports either the answer to another question or a given conclusion.

**Determining Central Ideas and Themes** – Understanding the main point(s) or theme(s) of a passage.

**Summarizing** – Recognizing an effective summary of a passage or of a part of a passage.

**Understanding Relationships** – Drawing connections (such as cause/effect, compare/contrast, and sequence) between people, ideas, and the like in a passage.

**Interpreting Words and Phrases (Vocabulary) in Context** – Figuring out the precise meaning of a particular word or phrase as it’s used in a passage

**CATEGORY: RHETORIC**

**Analyzing Word Choice** – Understanding how an author selects words, phrases, and language patterns to influence meaning, tone, and style.

**Analyzing Text Structure** – Describing how an author shapes and organizes a text and how the parts of the passage contribute to the whole text.

**Analyzing Point of View** – Understanding the point of view or perspective from which passages are told and how that point of view or perspective affects the content and style of the passage.

**Analyzing Purpose** – Determining the main rhetorical aim of a passage or a part of the passage, such as a paragraph.

**Analyzing Arguments** – Examining the claims, counterclaims, reasoning, and evidence an author uses in an argument.

**CATEGORY: SYNTHESIS**

**Analyzing Multiple Texts (Paired Passages)** – Making connections between topically related informational passages.

**Analyzing Quantitative Information (Informational Graphics)** – Locating data in informational graphics such as tables, graphs, and charts; drawing reasonable conclusions from such graphics; and integrating information displayed graphically with information and ideas in a passage.