

Clarifying Components of the 3 STAAR Alternate Complexity Levels

Components	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Definition	Application of knowledge	Basic recall	Beginning awareness
Level of Cognition	Most complex	Moderately complex	Least complex
Student Expectation	Requires student to make decisions “on his or her own” without the aid of choices	Requires student to make decisions or choices based on information that has just been recently presented or is right in front of the student	Requires student to show an awareness of a task and show that he or she knows that an activity is occurring or that a stimulus is being presented
Use of Knowledge	Extend knowledge acquired during instruction	Differentiate between choices based on instruction and/or those available for review	Show awareness of the specific stimuli as it is presented; no prior knowledge is required
Typical Materials	Blank templates, unlabeled graphs or organizers; stimulating materials to promote thought	Partially completed templates, labeled graphs or organizers for which some content is to be filled in by student; materials with distinguishing characteristics	Completed template, graph, or organizer presented for student to acknowledge or a partially completed graphic that the teacher and student build together; materials that provide sensory experiences
Presentation of Materials	Provide a wide array of materials that include both related and unrelated items	Present at least three options or choices including both correct and incorrect options	Present item or sensory experience one at a time; no choices should be offered
Typical Verbs	Determine Generate Compare Justify	Identify Assist Match Examine	Acknowledge Participate Respond Experience
Use of Augmented Communication Devices	Student must use the device with all available vocabulary that the student has programmed on the device	Student can be provided choices pre-programmed into the device	Student can react to one stimuli that is activated by the device
Use of Tools	Student must select from all classroom options, connect to the correct step or task, then use the tool to arrive at the answer	Student must choose from three options, two of which are incorrect, and use the tool needed for a specific task	Student must participate in using the tool to accomplish a task
Questions	Must require higher-level thinking skills and explanation (Why? or How does one compare to another?)	Must require basic recall of facts (Where, Who?, When?, What?)	No questions should be asked of student. Student acknowledges a statement made by the teacher
Investigations	Must describe to another person or perform the investigation using materials and tools on “his or her own”	Can assist another person during the investigation by performing or describing at least part of the action	Participation through the reaction to the results or process of the investigation
Generalization	Yes, if earned the opportunity	Yes, if earned the opportunity	Level 1 can never be given the opportunity to generalize