

Study Profile: STAAR World Geography – ACT Reading (★★★☆☆)

The STAAR world geography– ACT reading external validity study is designed to establish empirical links between performance on the STAAR world geography assessment and performance on the ACT reading test.

Motivation (★★★☆☆)

This analysis was based on a single group of students who took both the STAAR world geography and the ACT reading assessments between 2009 and 2011. Data from STAAR derive from a stand-alone field test administered in 2009 and low-stakes operational administrations between 2010 and 2011 and are linked to motivated ACT reading scores in corresponding years.

Representativeness (★★☆☆☆) and Sample Size (★★★★★)

Grade Levels

All World Geography Examinees Versus Those Linked to ACT Scores

| Group | Grade 8 | | Grade 9 | | Grade 10 | | Grade 11 | | Grade 12 | | Missing | | Total |
|---------------------|---------|----|---------|-----|----------|-----|----------|----|----------|----|---------|----|---------|
| All World Geography | 264 | 0% | 218,485 | 94% | 10,010 | 4% | 2,238 | 1% | 1,061 | 0% | 633 | 0% | 232,691 |
| Linked | 0 | 0% | 2,032 | 66% | 566 | 18% | 279 | 9% | 215 | 7% | 4 | 0% | 3,096 |

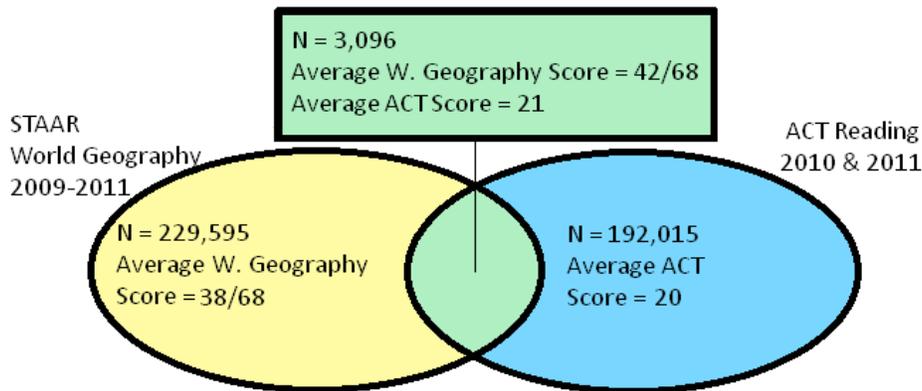
Demographic Characteristics

All World Geography Examinees Versus Those Linked to ACT Scores

| Group | Female | | Economically Disadvantaged | | African American | | Hispanic | | White | | Other | |
|---------------------|---------|-----|----------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|----------|-----|--------|-----|--------|----|
| All World Geography | 114,772 | 49% | 119,395 | 51% | 29,599 | 13% | 104,685 | 45% | 81,211 | 35% | 17,196 | 7% |
| Linked | 1,701 | 55% | 1,047 | 34% | 372 | 12% | 956 | 31% | 1,601 | 52% | 167 | 5% |

Summary of STAAR World Geography and ACT Reading Achievement

Linked and Unlinked Groups



Average ACT Reading Scores Based on Students' STAAR Performance

| Satisfactory Academic Performance | Advanced Academic Performance |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 23 | 27 |

Correlation (★★★☆☆)

Correlation between STAAR world geography and ACT reading = **0.62**

Content Overlap (☆☆☆☆☆)

There is no (0%) content/skills overlap between the STAAR world geography assessment and the ACT reading assessment.

Assessment Characteristics

| Assessment Characteristic | STAAR World Geography | ACT Reading |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Purpose | Created to determine mastery of the World Geography Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) , the state-mandated curriculum. | Designed to help college admissions officials identify students likely to be successful at their academic institutions, and to help students make decisions about which colleges to attend and which programs of study to pursue. |
| Assessment Type | A criterion-referenced assessment | A norm-referenced assessment and a criterion-referenced assessment |
| Content | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measures world geography content, including history, government and citizenship; geography; culture; and economics, science, technology and society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measures skill level in reading ▪ Selections from four content areas are used to test reading comprehension: social studies, natural sciences, prose fiction, and humanities. ▪ Social studies selections represent multiple content areas, including anthropology, biography, business, economics, education, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. ▪ There is no content overlap between the STAAR world geography and ACT Reading tests |
| Item Format | 68 multiple-choice items | 40 multiple-choice items |
| Administration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administered in May, July, and November/December ▪ Administered by school personnel ▪ Online or paper version ▪ 4 hour time limit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered six times annually • Administered by test supervisors, room supervisors and proctors at an approved testing site (often a school with the test administered by school staff). • Administered on paper • 35 minute time limit |
| Performance Standards | The performance standards for STAAR World Geography will be established and implemented in the spring of 2012. | The ACT English college readiness benchmark is a scaled score of 18 (maximum score of 36). It indicates a 50% likelihood of earning a first-year college GPA of 2.7 or higher. |