

Factor	Simple Text	Challenging Text	Rich/Complex Texts
Word difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable understanding Bolded words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some unfamiliar vocabulary Uncommon words Some vocabulary of the discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many uncommon words Abstract vocabulary Extensive academic vocab Extensive vocab of discipline Cultural context or dialects
Language structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization clear, predictable Simple sentences Simple structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some figurative language More complex grammar with varied structure support Many complex sentences with increased clauses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figurative language (metaphor, analogy, idioms) Many complex sentences with intricate details or concepts Full range of punctuation used Wide range of dialogue in a fiction work
Text structure – (description, chronology, sequence, cause-effect, proposition-support, problem-solution, critique)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative – straight-forward Easily understood Easy to follow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text builds a case with conclusions Connections between ideas are sometimes subtle Includes smaller sections of varying complexity Some inference More 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text builds knowledge, conclusions, and summarizes a lengthy discourse. Some text refers to “other knowledge” which might not be within the passage. Sentence structure is more elaborate scientific summaries, historical references Inference Includes charts, graphs for additional
Style – humor, satire, informative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straightforward Informative, entertaining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires some inferential meaning to recognize humor or meaning Requires attention to detail. Heightens awareness and interest in the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inference Sophistication Analogies Reading the passage may generate a value for the content
Background knowledge (degree of familiarity with content)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiar common knowledge content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most content is familiar May require some typically predictable background knowledge appropriate for the age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfamiliar content To understand the content, some cultural or historical breadth of knowledge may be required
Level of reasoning required (sophistication of theme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily understood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inset text? Some inference needed for meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many new ideas and challenging concepts. Inference and deduction needed Requires reader focus and concentration
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily read and understood. All students could finish this task within the defined time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires some focus Most students could finish reading this Some quotable elements and facts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction defines a direction and text goes on to support. Requires sustained concentration Passage contains quotable elements Passage contains facts and figures

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Influenced by NYC “Gradients in Complexity” rubric and the *Text Complexity Descriptors* found in the Appendices for NECAP Reading GLE’s

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