Why are raw scores converted to weighted scores for Reading Comprehension and Oral Reading Fluency?

Use of weighted raw scores allows a student's performance on an item set that is below his/her grade-appropriate item set to be compared to his/her peers. Item sets were used on these

subtests to shorten administration time and prevent students from having to take more items than

needed and items that were too easy or too hard. If the scoring assistant is used, raw scores will

automatically be converted to weighted raw scores before obtaining the standard score. If calculating scores by hand, the raw score must be converted to a weighted raw score, and then the weighted raw score is converted to a standard score.

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http://pearsonassessmentsupport.com/support/index.php?View=entry&EntryID=3791