

Computer-Based Released Items

Grade 7 MCAS English Language Arts

Spring 2025

The spring 2025 grade 7 English Language Arts (ELA) test was administered in two formats: a computer-based version and a paper-based version. Most students took the computer-based test. The paper-based test was offered as an accommodation for eligible students who were unable to use a computer. More information can be found on the MCAS Test Administration Resources page at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/admin.html.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is releasing items from both versions of the test to provide information about the knowledge and skills that students are expected to demonstrate.

- Released items from the **computer-based test** are available online at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/released-items.
- Released items from the **paper-based test** are available in PDF format on the Department's website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/release.html.

This document provides information about each released and unreleased operational item from the *computer-based test*, including the following: reporting category, standard(s) covered, item type, item description, and correct answer (for released selected-response items only). Sample responses and scoring guidelines for essay items will be posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/.

A Note about Testing Mode

Most of the operational items on the grade 7 ELA test were the same, regardless of whether a student took the computer-based version or the paper-based version. In places where a technology-enhanced item was used on the computer-based test, an adapted version of the item was created for use on the paper test. These adapted paper items were multiple-choice or multiple-select items that tested the same ELA content and assessed the same standard as the technology-enhanced item.

Grade 7 English Language Arts
Spring 2025 Computer-Based Released Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.1	SR	Determine the reason the author includes specific details in a passage.	C
2	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Make an inference about why the mood changes in a section of a passage.	D
3	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.	C
4	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.1	SR	Make an inference about a character based on paragraphs from a passage.	C
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Determine what a specific quotation from a passage suggests about a character.	B
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Identify the paragraph that provides a summary of a passage.	C
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Make an inference based on the actions of a character in a passage.	B
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Determine what a phrase suggests about a character in a passage.	D
9	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.	B
10	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific paragraph from a passage and select a quotation from another passage that is used for the same purpose.	D;C
11	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Determine what specific paragraphs from a passage reveal about a character and select a detail from another passage that reveals a similar trait in a character.	A;D
12	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.2, W.7.4	ES	Write an essay that explains how the main characters in two passages demonstrate the same character trait; use information from both passages to develop the essay.	
13	<i>Language</i>	L.7.2	SR	Identify the purpose of punctuation in a sentence from an article.	A
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.4	SR	Determine the meaning of figurative language in an article.	B
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Make an inference about an individual based on information in an article.	D
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Analyze how a paragraph contributes to the development of an article.	B
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.6	SR	Determine how an author develops an idea in an article.	D

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
18	<i>Language</i>	L.7.5	SR	Determine the meaning of figurative language in an article.	A
19	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.1	SR	Identify details that suggest specific character traits in an article.	<i>see page 5</i>

*ELA item types are selected-response (SR) and essay (ES).

**Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. Page 5 of this document provides correct answers for technology-enhanced (TE) items. Sample responses and scoring guidelines for essay items will be posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/default.html.

Grade 7 English Language Arts
Spring 2025 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.6	SR	Analyze the purpose of specific paragraphs in an article.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Identify the structure of a specific section of an article.
22	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.8	SR	Identify a claim developed in a paragraph in an article.
23	<i>Language</i>	L.7.2	SR	Identify the purpose of specific punctuation in a sentence.
24	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Analyze the position on a certain issue of individuals in an article; identify a quotation from the article that supports that analysis.
25	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a word.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.7	SR	Analyze how a graphic in an article contributes to the reader's understanding.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.8	SR	Analyze the purpose of a paragraph in an article.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.6	SR	Identify the shared point of view of individuals quoted in two articles.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.6	SR	Determine the shared purpose of the authors of two articles on similar topics.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.9	SR	Contrast how two articles on similar topics support their claims.
31	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.1, W.7.4	ES	Write an argument supporting a claim; use information from two articles to support the argument.

* ELA item types are: selected-response (SR) and essay (ES).

Correct Answer for CBT Item #19: Technology-Enhanced Item

Detail	Doubt	Hope	Persistence
“. . . the boys who stomped in time to her steps each time she attended physics class would do the same at tonight’s lecture. It would be a price worth paying to hear Arthur Eddington. . . .” (paragraph 1)	☐	☐	☒
““But Cecilia, you can’t change your shop to astronomy. You’re a science student. Astronomy is part of mathematics. It’s not allowed.” (paragraph 12)	☒	☐	☐
““And they can’t stop me from attending the astronomy lectures. . . .” (paragraph 13)	☐	☐	☒
“For a heartbeat, Cecilia was too stunned to speak, but just as quickly realized she had an opportunity that might never come again.” (paragraph 26)	☐	☒	☐