

Computer-Based Released Items

Grade 8 MCAS English Language Arts

Spring 2025

The spring 2025 grade 8 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 8 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 8 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>	RI.8.4	SR	Determine how a metaphorical expression in a specific paragraph contributes to the reader's understanding of an article.	B
2	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.5	SR	Determine how a specific paragraph contributes to the development of ideas in an article.	B
3	<i>Language</i>	L.8.2	SR	Determine the purpose of commas in a specific sentence of an article.	A
4	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.6	SR	Determine the purpose of an author's use of second-person point of view in a specific paragraph of an article.	C
5	<i>Language</i>	L.8.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word as it is used in a specific paragraph of an article.	B
6	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.8	SR	Identify a sentence from an article that supports an author's primary argument in the article.	B
7	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.8	SR	Identify a detail from an article that supports an idea introduced in the title of the article.	B
8	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.6	SR	Identify a quotation from an article that acknowledges an opposing point of view.	C
9	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.6	SR	Compare the authors' purposes in two articles on similar topics.	D
10	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.1	SR	Determine which concept from an article is developed in another article on a similar topic and identify a quotation from the second article that supports the concept.	C;D
11	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.4	SR	Determine whether details from two articles develop formal or informal tones.	<i>see page 5</i>
12	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.3, W.8.1, W.8.4	ES	Write an essay that argues for a specific action based on two articles on similar topics; use information from both articles to develop the essay.	
13	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.4	SR	Determine what details from an excerpt emphasize about an individual.	B
14	<i>Language</i>	L.8.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word as it is used in a specific line of an excerpt from a musical.	A
15	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.4	SR	Determine the effect of a repeated word in specific lines of an excerpt from a musical.	C
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.8	SR	Identify a quotation from an excerpt that supports a claim made in another excerpt on a similar topic.	D
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.2	SR	Determine which central idea about a historical event is supported by specific details from two excerpts on similar topics.	B

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
18	<i>Reading</i>	RI.8.7	SR	Determine how two excerpts on similar topics differ in how they present a historical event.	B
19	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.3	SR	Determine which character trait of an individual is developed by specific lines in an excerpt from a musical and identify a detail from an excerpt of a biography on a similar topic that suggests the same character trait.	C;C

*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 8 English Language Arts
Spring 2025 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	<i>Language</i>	L.8.4	SR	Determine which word would replace another word in a sentence from an excerpt.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.3	SR	Analyze what specific paragraphs in an excerpt reveal about a character.
22	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.4	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific sentence in an excerpt.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.3	SR	Determine what is suggested by a reference in an excerpt to a specific object.
24	<i>Language</i>	L.8.2	SR	Determine the purpose of a dash in a specific sentence of an excerpt.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific paragraph in an excerpt.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.4	SR	Determine what a specific phrase in an excerpt emphasizes about an object.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.3	SR	Identify details from an excerpt that show characters experiencing specific emotions.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.4	SR	Determine what a specific phrase in an excerpt suggests about a character.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.3	SR	Determine the reason for a character's reaction to another character in specific paragraphs of an excerpt.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.8.1	SR	Determine the reason for a character's actions and identify a detail from the excerpt that supports the reason.
31	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.3, W.8.2, W.8.4	ES	Write an essay that analyzes how an author creates a specific feeling throughout an excerpt; use details from the excerpt to develop the essay.

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

Correct Answer for CBT Item #11: Technology-Enhanced Item

Formal Tone

"For cities in America's Snow Belt, the fallout of harsh winters can be severe." (paragraph 2 of "Finding Joy in Urban Winters")

". . . participants walking in heavily ionized air had higher levels of a vital antibody. . . ." (paragraph 5 of "Bad Weather Is Good for You")

Informal Tone

"Then the temperature plummets . . . and you . . . start wondering why you don't live in Arizona." (paragraph 1 of "Finding Joy in Urban Winters")

". . . snow seems like a shocker year after year. . . ." (paragraph 8 of "Finding Joy in Urban Winters")

". . . you can go for a nippy walk with your coat undone at the collar and your scarf unwrapped." (paragraph 8 of "Bad Weather Is Good for You")