

Computer-Based Released Items
Grade 8 MCAS Civics
Spring 2023

The spring grade 8 Civics End-of-Course (EOC) pilot test was administered on the computer. A paper-based test was not offered for this pilot test.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is releasing items from 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.pearsonsupport.com/released-items. The computer-based released items are collected in a “mini test” called an ePAT (electronic practice assessment tool). Items in the ePAT are displayed in TestNav 8, the testing platform for the computer-based tests. This document provides information about each released item from the computer-based test, including reporting category, standard covered, practice standard covered, item type, item description, and correct answer.

Grade 8 Civics
Spring 2023 End-of-Course Pilot Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	HSS Practice Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	Topics 3 and 6	8.T3.3	1	SR	Determine whether actions are performed by the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of government.	<i>see page 3</i>
2	Topics 4, 5, and 7	8.T7.1	6	SR	Evaluate a map to draw a conclusion about freedom of the press in the United States.	D
3	Topics 1 and 2	8.T1.5	4	SR 2 pts.	Draw conclusions from a quotation about the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the development of the U.S. government.	B;C
4	Topics 1 and 2	8.T1.2	1	SR	Use a source to describe the similarity of civic duty in ancient Rome and in the United States.	<i>see page 3</i>
5	Topics 3 and 6	8.T3.3	1	SR	Use a political cartoon to determine a step in the process of how a bill becomes a law.	B
6	Topics 3 and 6	8.T3.3	4	SR	Describe the role of the legislative branch based on a political cartoon.	<i>see page 3</i>
7	Topics 3 and 6	8.T3.3	1	SR	Describe one way the executive branch can check the power of the legislative branch.	A
8	Topics 1 and 2	8.T2.4	1	SR	Determine a key idea debated by the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists during the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.	<i>see page 3</i>
9	Topics 4, 5, and 7	8.T4.5	3	SR 2 pts.	Use amendments from the U.S. Constitution and an illustration to explain how a change occurred in the U.S. government.	A;C
10	Topics 3 and 6	8.T6.6	1	SR	Describe differences between the U.S. Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution.	<i>see page 4</i>
11	Topics 3 and 6	8.T3.5	3	SR	Determine the best course of action for a political campaign based on data about voter behavior.	<i>see page 4</i>
12	Topics 4, 5, and 7	8.T7.4	6	SR	Explain why a local government would create a plan to encourage voter turnout.	D
13	Topics 4, 5, and 7	8.T7.4	6	SR	Determine which action a local government should take to increase voter turnout based on information about voter behavior.	<i>see page 4</i>
14	Topics 1 and 2	8.T2.3	2	SR	Analyze historical data to describe an issue debated at the Constitutional Convention.	C
15	Topics 3 and 6	8.T3.4	1	SR 2 pts.	Support claims that candidates meet the eligibility requirements for running for political offices.	Part A: <i>see page 4</i> Part B: A
16	Topics 4, 5, and 7	8.T4.11	4	SR	Determine political leadership skills based on a biographical description of an elected official.	D
17	Topics 1 and 2	8.T2.2	1	SR	Describe weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation based on summaries of several of the articles.	<i>see page 5</i>

*Civics End-of-Course item types are selected-response (SR). All selected-response items are worth 1 point unless otherwise noted.

**Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. Pages 3–5 of this document provide correct answers for technology-enhanced (TE) items.

Correct Answer for CBT Item #1: Technology-Enhanced Item

Action	Executive Branch	Legislative Branch	Judicial Branch
determining if a law is constitutional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
nominating a judge to serve on the Supreme Court	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
passing a yearly budget for the federal government	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Correct Answer for CBT Item #4: Technology-Enhanced Item

Participating in a census is a person's

Correct Answer for CBT Item #6: Technology-Enhanced Item

The character in this political cartoon represents the branch. The main role of this branch is to

Correct Answer for CBT Item #8: Technology-Enhanced Item

The Federalists supported the ratification of the U.S. Constitution because they wanted a central government.

The Anti-Federalists wanted additional protections and demanded the be added to the Constitution.

Correct Answer for CBT Item #10: Technology-Enhanced Item

One difference between the constitutions of Massachusetts and the United States is that the U.S. Constitution defines the roles of the three branches of the

federal



government.

Another difference is that the Massachusetts Constitution begins with the Declaration of Rights. The Declaration of Rights provides

additional



protections for individual rights than the Bill of Rights provides in the U.S. Constitution.

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

Candidates running for office should use the information shown in Source 1 to determine

where to place advertisements.



Correct Answer for CBT Item #13: Technology-Enhanced Item

Based on Source 1, the city government in Source 2 should use

videos



in the future to increase voter

turnout in city elections.

Correct Answer for CBT Item #15: Technology-Enhanced Item

Part A:

U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley **was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.** From 1996 until 2009, she **worked in the office of U.S. Senator John Kerry.** In 2009, Representative Pressley **began her own career in politics.** She became the first woman of color to be **elected to the Boston City Council.** On November 6, 2018, **at the age of 44,** Representative Pressley became the first woman of color to be elected to Congress from Massachusetts.

Correct Answer for CBT Item #17: Technology-Enhanced Item

Weakness	Article 5	Article 8	Article 10
The national government was unable to pay debts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The national government had difficulty making decisions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
States with large populations had the same representation as states with small populations.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>