Computer-Based Released Items
Grade 8 MCAS English Language Arts
Spring 2022

The spring 2022 grade 8 English Language Arts test was administered in two primary formats: a computer-based version and a paper-based version. The vast majority of students took the computer-based test. The paper-based test was offered as an accommodation for students with disabilities who are unable to use a computer, as well as for English learners who are new to the country and are unfamiliar with technology.

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.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.

- Released items from the **paper-based test** are available in PDF format on the Department's website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html.

This document provides information about each released item from the *computer-based test*, including: reporting category, standard(s) covered, item type, item description, and correct answer (for selected-response items only). Information about unreleased operational items is also presented in this document.

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 2022 Computer-Based Released Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Analyze a difference between characters in a passage.	B
2	Language	L.8.2	SR	Analyze the purpose of dashes in a sentence in a passage.	C
3	Language	L.8.3	SR	Determine the purpose of short sentences in a passage.	C
4	Reading	RL.8.1	SR	Identify a quotation that marks a turning point in a passage.	B
5	Reading	RL.8.4	SR	Analyze a symbolic image in a passage.	D
6	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Analyze how a section of a passage develops a character.	A
7	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Make an inference about a character from a section of a passage.	C
8	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Analyze how two characters in different passages have a similar experience.	B
9	Reading	RL.8.2	SR	Determine a shared theme of two passages on similar topics.	D
10	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Determine one character's attitude based on a quotation from a passage and identify a quotation from another passage that expresses a similar attitude.	B;C
11	Reading	RL.8.6	SR	Compare the behavior of characters in two different passages on similar topics.	*see page 4*
12	Language, Writing	L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.3, W.8.2, W.8.4	ES	Write an essay that analyzes characters in two passages on similar topics; use information from both passages to support the analysis.	
13	Reading	RI.8.4	SR	Analyze the effect of verb tense in an excerpt.	C
14	Reading	RI.8.2	SR	Explain how a paragraph contributes to the main idea of an excerpt.	B
15	Reading	RI.8.6	SR	Analyze the purpose of quoting a primary source in an excerpt.	D
16	Reading	RL.8.4	SR	Analyze descriptive language used as a preface to a poem.	A
17	Language	L.8.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a word used figuratively in a poem.	B
18	Reading	RI.8.6	SR	Analyze a difference in perspective between an excerpt and a poem on similar topics.	B
19	Reading	RI.8.3	SR	Use information from an excerpt and a poem on similar topics to compare the experiences depicted in each text.	*see page 4*

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

**Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. 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 2022 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	Language	L.8.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a word in an excerpt.
21	Reading	RI.8.6	SR	Identify the purpose of a parenthetical statement in an excerpt.
22	Reading	RI.8.5	SR	Analyze the effect of a sentence in an excerpt.
23	Reading	RI.8.5	SR	Make an inference from a paragraph in an excerpt.
24	Language	L.8.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a word in an excerpt and identify a quotation from the excerpt that supports the meaning.
25	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Determine the purpose of paragraphs in a passage.
26	Reading	RL.8.1	SR	Analyze how the details in two paragraphs contribute to the reader's understanding of a passage.
27	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Analyze how a character's actions in a passage reveal a character trait.
28	Reading	RL.8.4	SR	Determine the tone of a character's dialogue in a passage.
29	Reading	RI.8.2	SR	Make a comparison between an excerpt and a passage on similar topics.
30	Reading	RL.8.3	SR	Identify a difference in individuals' attitudes in an excerpt and a passage on similar topics.
31	Language, Writing	L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.3, W.8.2, W.8.4	ES	Write an essay that explains the benefits and challenges of a particular topic based on an excerpt and a passage; use information from both texts to support the analysis.

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

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

In both passages, one character pauses to look more closely at another. In paragraph 42 of *Starfish*, Hiroshi looks at Kiko in a way that suggests that he [realizes the extent of her talent ⌄] . In lines 79–81 of *The Poet X*, Ms. Galiano looks at Xiomara in a way that suggests that she

[is attempting to understand Xiomara ⌄] .

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

Description	Michael Collins	Neil Armstrong	Both
performed actions that were broadcast to a large audience	◯	⦿	◯
saw sights that no one had seen before	◯	◯	⦿
found comfort in personal memories	⦿	◯	◯
was responsible for the safety of the other astronauts	⦿	◯	◯