

Computer-Based Released Items Grade 6 MCAS English Language Arts Spring 2023

The spring 2023 grade 6 English Language Arts 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.

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 the following: reporting category, standard(s) covered, item type, item description, and correct answer (for released selected-response items only). Information about unreleased operational items is also presented here. Sample responses and scoring guidelines for released essay items will be posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/default.html.

A Note about Testing Mode

Most of the operational items on the grade 6 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 6 English Language Arts
Spring 2023 Computer-Based Released Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	Reading	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze how paragraphs in a passage develop a character.	A
2	Reading	RL.6.4	SR	Analyze the impact of word choice in a passage.	D
3	Reading	RL.6.5	SR	Determine how a particular paragraph contributes to the development of ideas in a passage.	D
4	Reading	RL.6.3	SR	Determine the reason for a character's action in a passage.	C
5	Reading	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a character in a passage.	B
6	Reading	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference based on a detail from a passage.	C
7	Reading	RL.6.1	SR	Select evidence to support an inference about a character in a passage.	<i>see page 4</i>
8	Language	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.	B
9	Reading	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze how an interaction between characters helps to advance the plot in a passage.	C
10	Reading	RL.6.2	SR	Identify how the interactions of characters help to develop a central idea of a passage.	D;D
11	Reading	RL.6.4	SR	Analyze symbolism in a passage.	A
12	Language, Writing	L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, W.6.2, W.6.4	ES	Write an essay that explains how a character changes over the course of a passage; use information from the passage to support the explanation.	
13	Reading	RL.6.4	SR	Identify the literary technique used in a specific section of a poem and its purpose.	<i>see page 4</i>
14	Reading	RL.6.5	SR	Explain how particular sections of a passage contribute to the reader's understanding.	A
15	Reading	RL.6.6	SR	Explain how details in a poem reveal the point of view of the speaker.	D

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

**Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. Page 4 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 6 English Language Arts
Spring 2023 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
16	Language	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
17	Reading	RI.6.3	SR	Identify a detail that helps develop a key idea in a passage.
18	Reading	RI.6.7	SR	Analyze how an illustration supports a key idea developed in a passage.
19	Reading	RI.6.6	SR	Determine an author's point of view in a passage.
20	Reading	RI.6.4	SR	Analyze how word choice contributes to an understanding of a passage.
21	Language	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a sentence.
22	Language	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a sentence.
23	Reading	RI.6.5	SR	Analyze how a paragraph in a passage contributes to the development of an important idea.
24	Reading	RI.6.5	SR	Contrast how particular sections of two passages contribute to the development of ideas.
25	Reading	RI.6.3	SR	Compare and contrast experiences of characters in different passages.
26	Reading	RI.6.2	SR	Determine how details in a passage help to develop a central idea.
27	Language, Writing	L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, W.6.2, W.6.4	ES	Write an essay that explains actions taken that led to success; use information from the passages to support the explanation.
28	Reading	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a character based on a specific detail from a poem.
29	Reading	RL.6.5	SR	Determine what particular details symbolize in a poem.
30	Reading	RL.6.6	SR	Analyze the reason a poet uses a particular point of view.
31	Reading	RL.6.2	SR	Determine a theme developed in a poem.

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

Correct Answer for CBT Item #7: Technology-Enhanced Item

52 Maureen,

53 Ha! You are completely not going to believe what I have in my sock drawer besides socks: Spiders. Or arachnids, as they are scientifically called. One is a wolf spider. The three other ones are jumping spiders. I have to hide them in my sock drawer so my mom doesn't make me throw them out.

54 It's also a good way to keep my sister out of my sock drawer. Because I also have rocks I have collected from all over the country, a real arrowhead I found last summer, and a real Civil War bullet. It's called a minié ball. And not because it is mini. Or a ball. It was named after this guy Minié who invented the rifle used a lot in the Civil War. It is made of lead.

55 But you are still really messing up this assignment. How is that an answer to question one? Are you saying you write books because you like lightning and don't mind thunder? That's what I'm writing down.

56 Joe

57 P.S. Sorry I was alarming you talking about your books. I went and looked at the spider one in the library. The first part of Fangs for the Duchess is pretty good. Most people don't know that spiders squirt venom into their prey that dissolves their innards so they can suck it down. I'm glad you had that in there.

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

One technique the poet uses in lines 11–14 is to include words that

. The **most likely** reason the poet

uses this technique is to .