

Changes to the MCAS Practice Tests for 2025–26

Overview

Updated practice tests are expected to be available in January 2026 for both computer- and paper-based tests. Many practice tests are now full-length tests and have similar designs and reporting category percentages as the operational tests. The following is a summary of the practice test updates for each content area:

- **ELA:**
 - The grade 10 ELA practice test has been updated to a full-length test.
 - The test questions on the grades 3–8 practice tests remain unchanged and will be updated next year based on the expected [new test designs](#) in 2027.
 - All ELA tests have transitioned from a character counter to a word counter for constructed-response and essay questions. The [ELA Test Designs](#) include information for each grade on the word limits for student responses, which are similar to the previous character counter limits.
- **Math:** All practice tests (grades 3–8 and 10) have been updated to full-length tests.
- **Science:**
 - The high school Biology and Introductory Physics practice tests have been updated to full-length tests.
 - The grades 5 and 8 STE practice tests remain unchanged and are approximately one-half the length of the operational tests. However, two additional performance tasks in grades 5 and 8 have been added to the [MCAS Resource Center](#) for a total of three performance tasks in each grade. In fall 2026, these task sets will become the “new” practice tests based on the anticipated [new test design](#) that is expected in spring 2027.
- **Civics:** The grade 8 civics practice test remains unchanged and is about the length of an operational test. The test includes both a state task component and an end-of-course test component.

Practice tests will be available in three different ways, as outlined in the table below. **Note that in some of those ways, responses to short-answer (for Math only), constructed-response, and essay (for ELA only) questions will not be viewable or scorable on the Review screen after the practice test has been completed.** The sections that follow the table offer additional information about the different options for accessing the practice tests and the Review screen.

Table 1. Practice Test Availability

Option	Recommended Use	Who can access this option?	What scores/results will be available?
Option 1: <u>MCAS Resource Center</u>	Students, educators, and families can gain familiarity with types of MCAS test questions and with the student testing platform.	Anyone	<p>At the completion of a practice test, students will see the following on their screens for machine-scored questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total raw score out of total points earned • points earned per question • correct answers <p>Short answer, constructed-response, and essay questions will show as “Not Scored.” Students, staff, and families are not able to access responses to short-answer, constructed-response, or essay questions after a student clicks the Submit button.</p> <p>Score reports are not available.</p>
Option 2: <u>MCAS Student Kiosk, the student testing platform. The Kiosk can be downloaded from the MCAS Resource Center.</u>	Students can practice with the Kiosk, which they will use to take the MCAS tests.	Anyone with the MCAS Student Kiosk downloaded to their device	<p>At the completion of a practice test, students will see the following on their screens for machine-scored questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total raw score out of total points earned • points earned per question • correct answers <p>Short answer, constructed-response, and essay questions will show as “Not Scored.” Students, staff, and families are not able to access responses to short-answer, constructed-response, or essay questions after a student clicks the Submit button.</p> <p>Score reports are not available.</p>

Option	Recommended Use	Who can access this option?	What scores/results will be available?
Option 3: <u>MCAS Training Site</u>	<p>Schools may set up practice tests in the MCAS Training Site as a practice administration for completing all tasks in preparation for testing, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registering students • creating classes • scheduling tests 	<p>Schools will need to set up students with individual usernames and passwords.</p>	<p>At the completion of a practice test, students will see the following on their screens for machine-scored questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total raw score out of total points earned • points earned per question • correct answers <p>Test administrators can view the following in the Training Site for each student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total raw score out of total points earned • points earned per question for machine-scored questions • student responses to short-answer, constructed-response, and essay questions

Option 1: MCAS Resource Center

Students, educators, and families can visit the [MCAS Resource Center](#) to access MCAS practice tests.

Students are not recommended to enter short-answer (for math only), constructed-response, or essay (ELA only) responses into the practice tests on the MCAS Resource Center, as responses will not be saved or scored after students click on the Submit button. However, students can review their answers to all machine-scored questions on the Review screen after they click the Submit button.

Option 2: MCAS Student Kiosk

Students will open the MCAS Student Kiosk on their devices, click the link to “Access the Practice Test,” select the test from the drop-down menu, and click **Go**.



Students are not recommended to enter short-answer (Math only), constructed-response, or essay (ELA only) responses into practice tests in the MCAS Student Kiosk, as responses will not be saved or scored at the completion of the test. However, students can review their answers to all machine-scored questions on the Review screen after they click the Submit button.

Option 3: MCAS Training Site

Schools can use the [MCAS Training Site](#) to set up practice tests for students.

Steps for setting up practice tests include the following tasks in the [MCAS Training Site](#). District test coordinators, school test coordinators, and technology coordinators have the user permission to conduct these steps:

- upload students
- assign students to classes

- schedule the classes to take the practice tests
- print student logins

These are the same steps that schools will use to prepare for operational testing.

Students will direct their browsers to <https://mcas-training.cognia.org/student> and log in with their individual usernames and passwords to take the practice test. Students will see the Review screen at the end of the test with the information listed below in the Scoring—Review Screen section.

Once all students have taken the test, test administrators will be able to view student scores and responses in the MCAS Training Site, including each student's total score (for machine-scored questions only) and each student's question-level score (for machine-scored questions only). Test administrators will also be able to review responses to short-answer, constructed-response, and essay questions.

Results may be viewed as a roster or an individual student report.

Step-by-step instructions for setting up practice tests through the MCAS Training Site and additional information on practice test scoring for educators are available in the Guide to Conducting a Practice Test Through the MCAS Training Site, available on the [MCAS Resource Center](#).

Scoring—Review Screen

Regardless of the way that practice tests are accessed, at the completion of the test students will see a review screen like the one below, which includes the following:

- the total raw score out of total points earned (machine-scored questions only)
- the points earned per machine-scored question
- short-answer, constructed-response and essay questions marked "Not Scored"

An example of a Review screen is shown on the following page.

You scored **5** points out of a possible **20**.
Click on the question or score to see the correct answer.

1 0 of 1 points	2 0 of 1 points	3 0 of 1 points
4 0 of 1 points	5 1 of 1 points	6 1 of 1 points
7 Not Scored	8 0 of 1 points	9 0 of 1 points
10 1 of 1 points	11 1 of 1 points	12 0 of 1 points
13 0 of 1 points	14 0 of 1 points	15 0 of 1 points
16 0 of 1 points	17 0 of 1 points	18 Not Scored
19 0 of 1 points	20 0 of 1 points	21 1 of 1 points
22 0 of 1 points		

Exit

Students can select a question number on the Review Screen to view a correct answer. In the example below, the student is viewing the correct answer for question 9 (labeled **1**).

Correct Answer for Question 9 **1**
Current Score : 1 out of 1

2 **Return**

Use the information below to answer the question.

Penelope won a contest. For her prize, she gets to reach into a bag of envelopes and take one envelope without looking. Each envelope has a cash prize. The bag contains these envelopes:

- 100 envelopes with \$10
- 50 envelopes with \$50
- 25 envelopes with \$100
- 15 envelopes with \$200
- 10 envelopes with \$500
- 1 envelope with \$1,000

Penelope thinks that the probability of getting an envelope that contains \$10 is more likely than not.

Use the drop-down lists to complete the statements to explain whether Penelope is correct.

Penelope is not correct. The probability that she will get an envelope with \$10 is less than 0.5.

Students can click **Return** (labeled **2**) to return to the Review screen. When students are done reviewing their results, they can click **Exit**. This will bring them to the page where they can either take the next session or exit the test.