Computer-Based Released Items
Grade 5 MCAS English Language Arts
Spring 2025

The spring 2025 grade 5 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 5 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 5 English Language Arts
Spring 2025 Computer-Based Released Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	*Reading*	RI.5.4	SR	Identify a phrase that helps to determine the meaning of a word from the passage.	C
2	*Reading*	RI.5.8	SR	Determine the purpose of a paragraph in the passage.	A
3	*Reading*	RI.5.4	SR	Identify a word in the passage that helps the reader understand another word in the passage.	B
4	*Reading*	RI.5.2	SR	Identify a main idea in the passage and choose evidence from the passage that supports the main idea.	C;D
5	*Reading*	RI.5.3	SR	Identify steps in a process using information from the passage.	*see page 4*
6	*Language*	L.5.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.	C
7	*Reading*	RI.5.5	SR	Determine how paragraphs are connected in the passage.	D
8	*Reading*	RI.5.5	SR	Identify the organizational structure of the passage.	C
9	*Reading*	RI.5.9	SR	Determine how paragraphs from two passages are connected.	A
10	*Reading*	RI.5.9	SR	Compare how information from two passages contributes to overall understanding of a topic.	A
11	*Reading*	RI.5.7	SR	Use text features to identify similarities in topics presented in two passages.	C
12	*Language, Writing*	L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.3, W.5.2, W.5.4	ES	Write an essay that explains how individuals addressed challenges presented in two passages; use information from both passages as evidence.	
13	*Reading*	RL.5.1	SR	Identify what is suggested about an idea based on a section from the passage.	A
14	*Language*	L.5.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.	A
15	*Reading*	RL.5.1	SR	Make an inference about an event based on the passage.	D
16	*Language*	L.5.4	SR	Determine what a phrase from the passage suggests about an idea.	A
17	*Reading*	RL.5.5	SR	Identify the idea developed in a paragraph in the passage.	A
18	*Reading*	RL.5.1	SR	Make an inference about a particular paragraph in the passage.	A
19	*Reading*	RL.5.2	SR	Determine a theme of the passage and choose evidence from the passage that supports the theme.	B;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 5 English Language Arts
Spring 2025 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	*Reading*	RL.5.4	SR	Identify a phrase that helps to determine the meaning of a word from the passage.
21	*Reading*	RL.5.3	SR	Determine what a sentence from a paragraph suggests about a character.
22	*Language*	L.5.5	SR	Determine the meaning of figurative language used in the passage.
23	*Reading*	RL.5.5	SR	Determine what is suggested in specific paragraphs from the passage.
24	*Reading*	RL.5.3	SR	Make an inference about the actions of characters in the passage and choose details from the passage to support the inference.
25	*Reading*	RL.5.1	SR	Determine what is described by a specific paragraph from the passage.
26	*Language*	L.5.4	SR	Determine a word that has a meaning similar to that of a word used in the passage.
27	*Language*	L.5.1	SR	Identify the part of speech of a word from a specific sentence in the passage.
28	*Reading*	RL.5.3	SR	Identify whether details develop a character, the plot, or the setting in the passage.
29	*Reading*	RL.5.2	SR	Determine a theme of the passage.
30	*Reading*	RL.5.6	SR	Identify how the point of view supports the reader's understanding of the passage.
31	*Language, Writing*	L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.3, W.5.2, W.5.4	ES	Write an essay that explains how a character's feelings change throughout the passage; use details from the passage as evidence.

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

Correct Answer for CBT Item #5: Technology-Enhanced Item

To break up the dirt as the hole was being dug, workers used a [pick and shovel. ▾] To lift and lower supplies into the trench, workers used a [wooden crane. ▾] To provide power for heavy machinery used in the construction, a [steam engine ▾] was used.