

Computer-Based Released Items

Grade 10 MCAS English Language Arts

Spring 2025

The spring 2025 grade 10 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 item from the *computer-based test*, including the following: reporting category, standard(s) covered, item type, item description, and correct answer (for 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 10 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 10 English Language Arts
Spring 2025 Computer-Based Released Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.4	SR	Identify a word that could replace a word used in a sentence of a letter.	D
2	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Make an inference based on a specific sentence in a letter.	C
3	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.2	SR	Analyze what the changes to an object represent in two paragraphs of an excerpt.	D
4	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.4	SR	Determine what the use of figurative language in a specific sentence of an excerpt emphasizes about an object.	D
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.5	SR	Determine how an author creates a specific feeling in an excerpt for individuals impacted by an event.	C
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.1	SR	Identify a quotation from an excerpt that illustrates a similar reaction to the one in specific sentences from a letter on a similar topic.	D
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.2	SR	Determine which effect of an event is demonstrated by quotations from a letter and an excerpt on similar topics.	<i>see page 4</i>
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.6	SR	Determine the differences and similarities in the narrators' points of view in a letter and an excerpt on similar topics.	<i>see page 4</i>
9	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.9-10.1, L.9-10.2, L.9-10.3, W.9-10.2, W.9-10.4	ES	Write an essay that analyzes how two authors develop a specific conflict in a letter and an excerpt on similar topics; use details from the letter and the excerpt to develop the essay.	
10	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.5	SR	Determine how a poet creates a sense of tension in a poem.	D
11	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.4	SR	Determine an idea that is supported by the use of a plural word in a specific line of a poem.	A
12	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.9	SR	Determine how an action described in a poem differs from an action described in an excerpt.	D
13	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.3	SR	Determine the tone that is created by a poet's use of a series of questions in one poem, and determine what is suggested about a speaker through a poet's use of declarative and imperative statements in another poem.	<i>see page 5</i>
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.5	SR	Determine the purpose of two paragraphs in an article.	D
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Determine which statement expresses a realization an author has in two paragraphs of an article.	D

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.6	SR	Determine the reason an author uses a series of rhetorical questions in a specific paragraph of an article.	B
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.5	SR	Determine how the ideas developed in two paragraphs of an article are similar.	C
18	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.4	SR	Determine what is emphasized about a topic based on specific quotations from two articles on similar topics.	D
19	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Identify a detail from an article that best supports the analysis of a detail from another article on a similar topic.	C
20	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Determine an idea emphasized in a specific sentence from a paragraph of an article, and identify a sentence from another article on a similar topic that emphasizes a similar idea.	C;A
21	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.6	SR	Determine which persuasive technique is used by an author in specific sentences from two articles on similar topics.	<i>see page 6</i>
22	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.9-10.1, L.9-10.2, L.9-10.3, W.9-10.1, W.9-10.4	ES	Write an essay arguing that a specific action can benefit individuals and communities based on two articles on similar topics; use information from both articles to develop the essay.	
23	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.6	SR	Determine the purpose of an excerpt.	B
24	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific paragraph of an excerpt.	B
25	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.2	SR	Determine the purpose of parenthetical information in an article.	B
26	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Identify a sentence from an article that supports a specific idea in the article.	C
27	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Identify a sentence from an excerpt that supports a specific idea in an article on a similar topic.	A
28	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.4	SR	Determine which concept in an excerpt and an article on similar topics is characterized by the figurative language used in a specific paragraph of the excerpt.	D
29	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.8	SR	Determine a specific claim in an excerpt and identify a sentence from another excerpt or article that supports the claim.	A;C

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

**Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. Pages 4–6 of this document provide 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.

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

Quotation	Physical Effect	Emotional Effect
"Naturally you will wonder why we stay where conditions are so extremely disheartening." (paragraph 7 of "Letters from the Dust Bowl")	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
"The dust has been particularly aggravating to his bronchial trouble, but he keeps working on." (paragraph 10 of "Letters from the Dust Bowl")	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"The sun flared down on the growing corn day after day until a line of brown spread along the edge of each green bayonet." (paragraph 1 of <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"Every moving thing lifted the dust into the air: a walking man lifted a thin layer as high as his waist, and a wagon lifted the dust as high as the fence tops, and an automobile boiled a cloud behind it. The dust was long in settling back again." (paragraph 3 of <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"And the women came out of the houses to stand beside their men—to feel whether this time the men would break." (paragraph 11 of <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

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

While "Letters from the Dust Bowl" provides an individual's of the drought in Oklahoma, *The Grapes of Wrath* tells the story with .

Both the letter and the excerpt share insight into how the the dust storms.

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

In "What If This Road," the poet uses a series of questions to create a tone that is

In "Ithaka," the poet uses declarative and imperative statements to suggest that the speaker is

Correct Answer for CBT Item #21: Technology-Enhanced Item

Sentence	Includes Personal Experience	Uses Statistical Data	Creates Inspired Feeling
"I must admit that I had a different conception of urban farming when I started this project." (paragraph 3 of "Green Thumb")	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"Urban farms currently feed more than 800 million urban dwellers every year, but that number will certainly grow as the world's population keeps increasing and urbanizing." (paragraph 4 of "Green Thumb")	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
"But if I did grow my own food, I would care so much more about what I ate and how I ate it, and if I went to a farmer's market every weekend to hold produce in my hands, I would probably eat a lot more vegetables." (paragraph 10 of "Green Thumb")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
"A meta-analysis of urban farming in a variety of settings across 53 countries found lettuces, kale and broccoli were particularly suited to vertical farms." (paragraph 16 of "How Far Can Vertical Farming Go?")	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>