MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

MCAS Item Library User Guide

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This document was prepared by the
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I. Introduction

The MCAS Item Library provides access to released items from the computer-based MCAS tests. The library offers easy-to-use tools for sorting items by standards or other criteria. Items in the library are displayed in the MCAS Student Kiosk view, the testing platform for the computer-based tests, allowing users to interact with the items as students do.

The MCAS Item Library provides access to thousands of released items, item correlations, standards, and evidence statements. Every item contains metadata and performance statistics to help you search for specific items.

II. System Requirements

This section covers system requirements for the MCAS Item Library. eMetric continually monitors and evaluates the recommended and supported software requirements. As vendors release newer versions of their products, we update the recommended operating systems and browsers accordingly.

A. MCAS Item Library Browser Specifications

The minimum requirements for all workstations accessing the MCAS Item Library are listed below:

- Chrome 138 or newer
- Firefox 140 or newer
- Microsoft Edge 138 or newer
- Safari 18.5 or newer

III. Navigating the MCAS Item Library

Keywords on the MCAS Item Library home page:

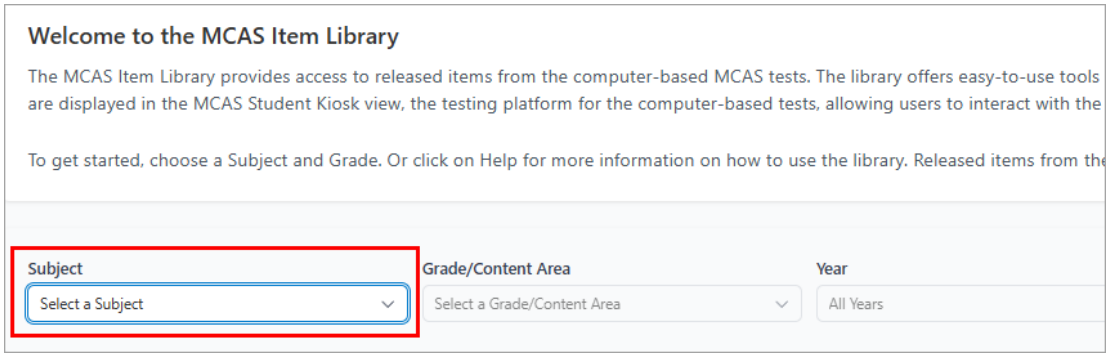
- **Item Identifier (ID) –** a unique code associated with an item.
- **Subject –** filters items by subject.
- **Grade/Content Area –** filters items by grade level and content area (*Biology/Physics*)
- **Year –** filters items by the year it was released.
- **Item # –** describes the position of an item on an exam, excluding non-answerable items such as passages and directions.
- **Item Type –** describes the type of response required for an item.
    - **SR –** Selected Response
    - **CR –** Constructed Response
    - **SA –** Short Answer
    - **ES –** Essay

- **Item Description –** provides a brief description of an item's contents.
- **Reporting Category –** identifies the reporting category the item falls under.
- **Standards –** identifies the standard(s) an item aligns with.
- **Science Practice Categories –** Standards exclusively associated with Biology and Physics items.
    - **A –** Investigations and Questioning
    - **B –** Mathematics and Data
    - **C –** Evidence, Reasoning, Modeling
- **Civics Practice Categories –** Standards exclusively associated with Civics items.
    - Civic Knowledge
    - Civics-based Questioning
    - Analyzing Sources
    - Explanations and Reasoning

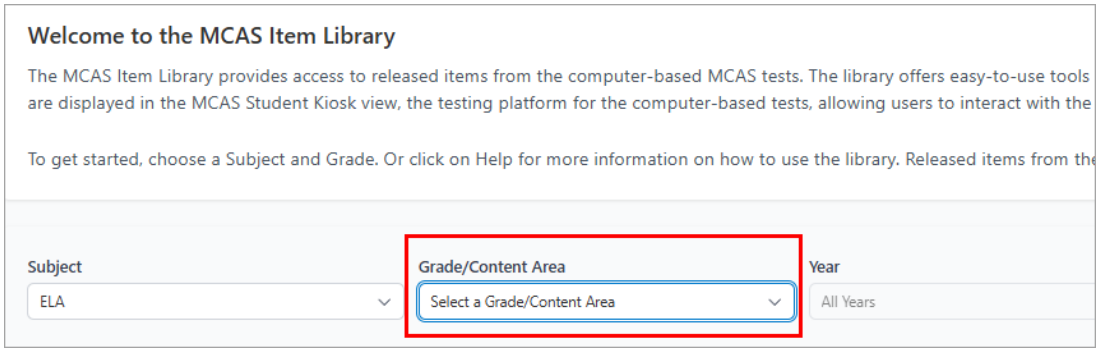
A. How to Locate Items

To filter your list:

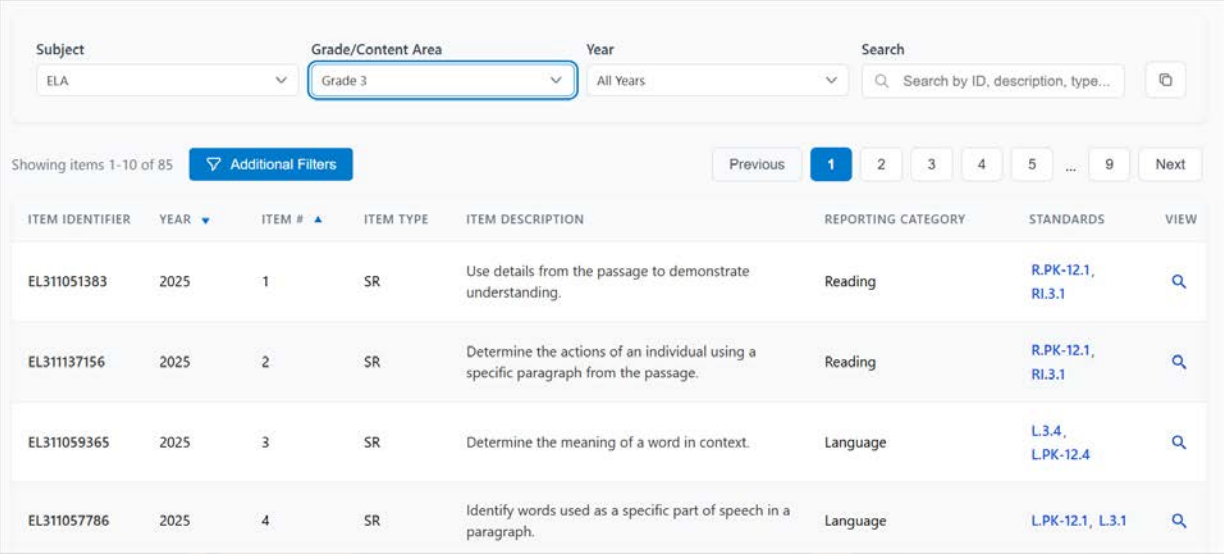
1. Select a **Subject** from the dropdown menu.



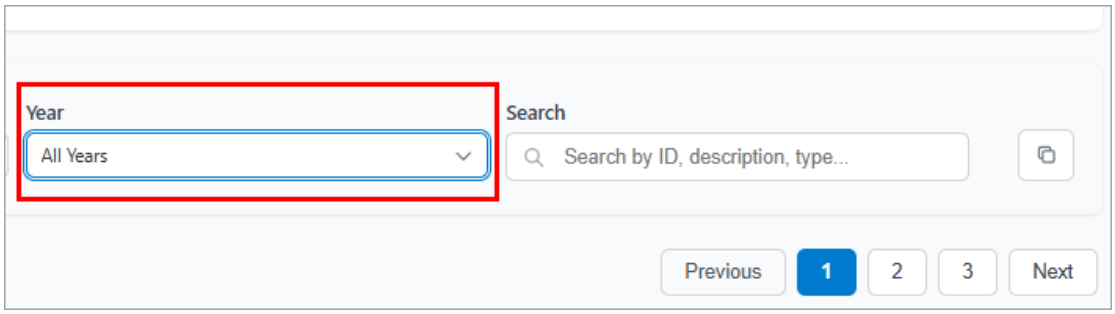
2. Select a **Grade/Content Area** from the dropdown menu.



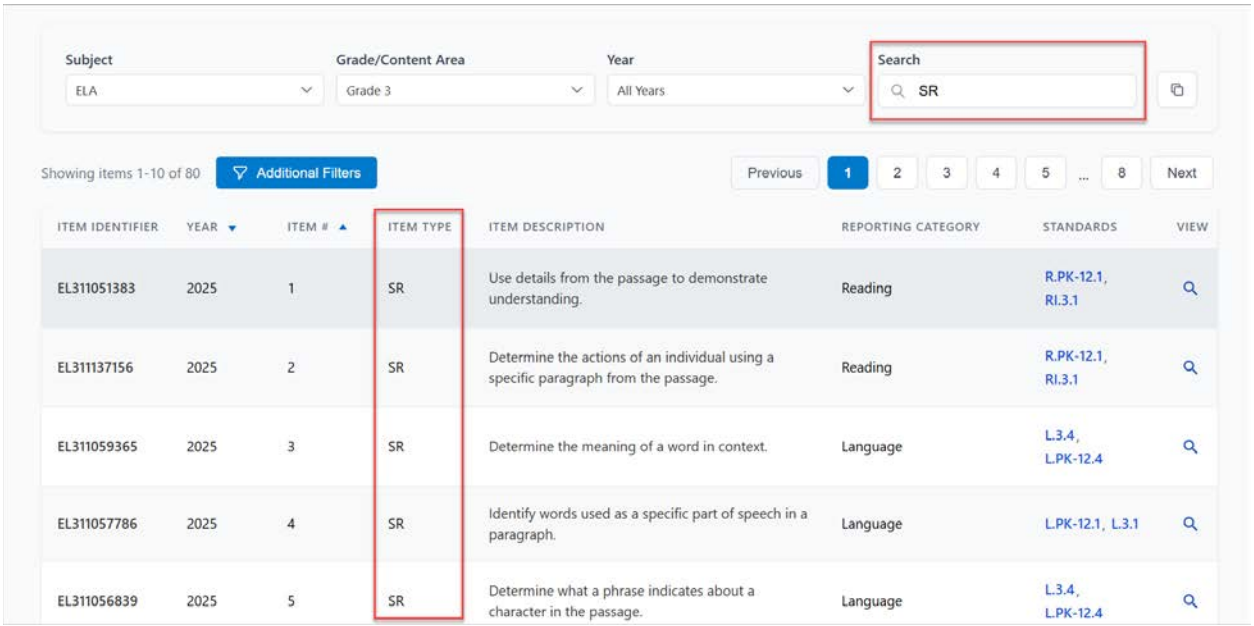
3. A list of Items that match your filter criteria should appear as below:



4. The **Year** filter is set to *All Years* by default and displays the most recent year first, but you may select a specific year by using the **Year** dropdown menu.

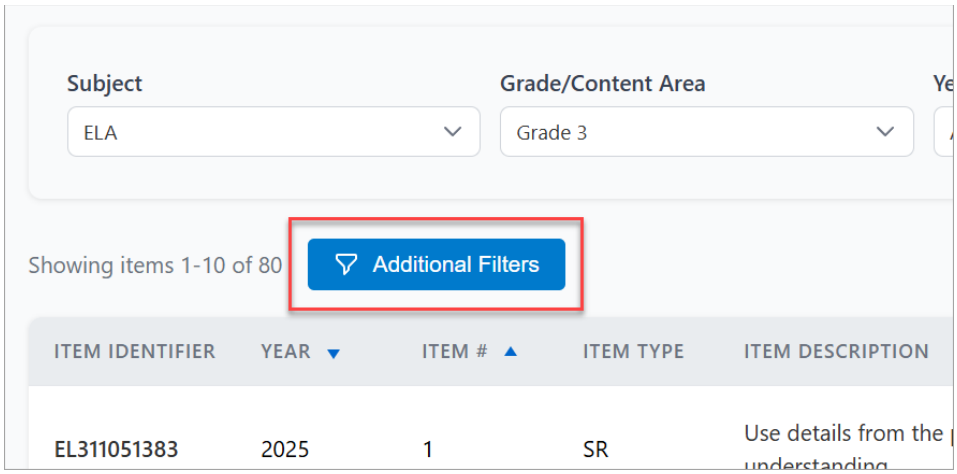


5. Type keywords (*Item ID, Item Description, and Item Type*) into the **Search** field to identify items that contain those keywords.

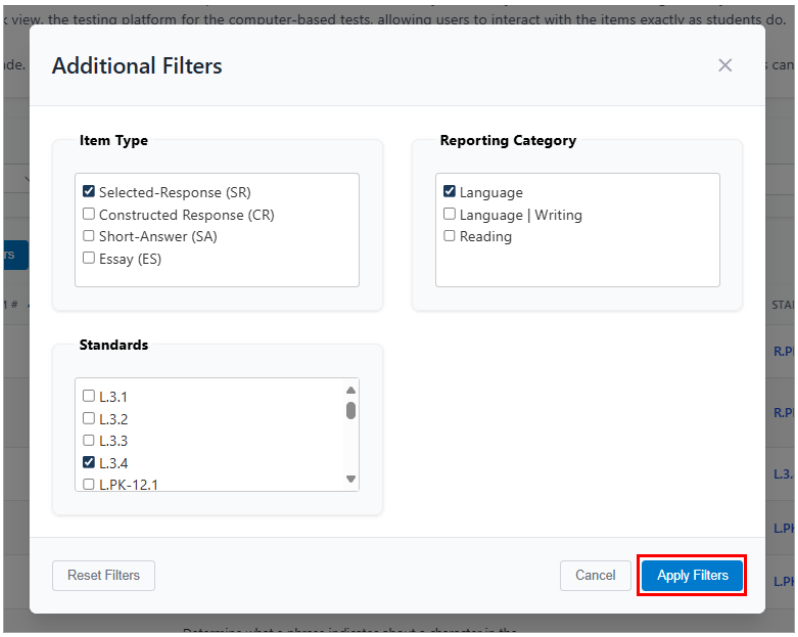


To filter Items in each column:

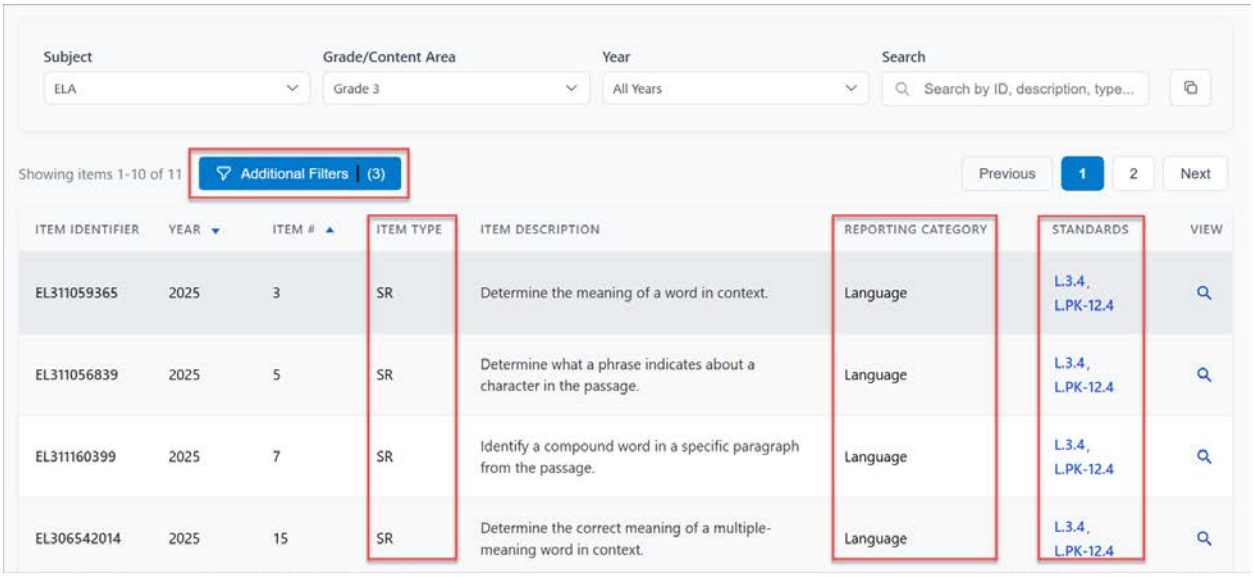
1. Click the **Additional Filters** button.



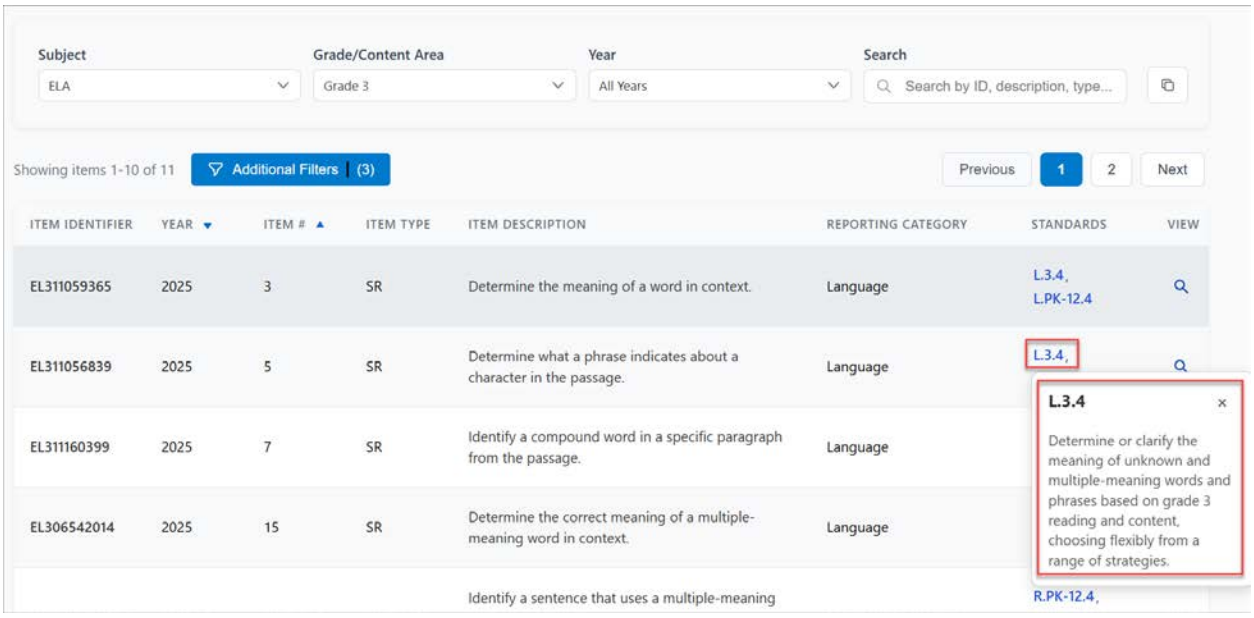
2. Select your desired filter criteria for any relevant columns, then click the **Apply Filters** button.



3. A more focused list of your previous items will be updated according to your filter criteria.



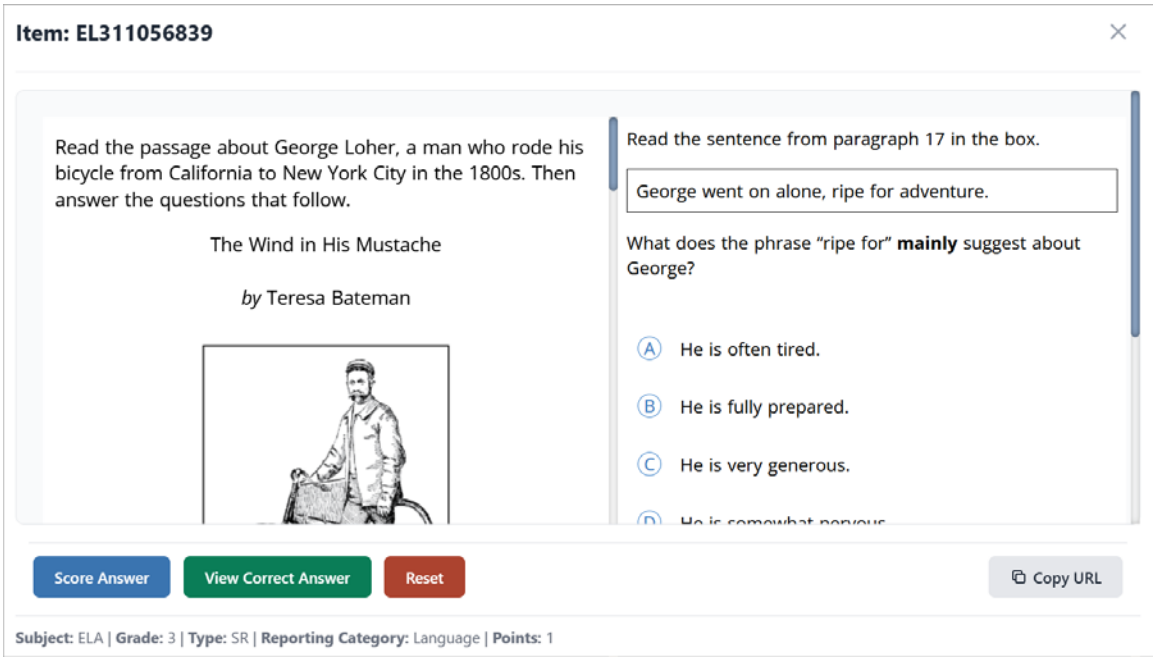
4. You can view an item's **Standards** by clicking on the blue Standard Names (*ex. L.3.4, L.PK-12.4*) under the **Standards** column, and a small window will appear with a description of the standard.



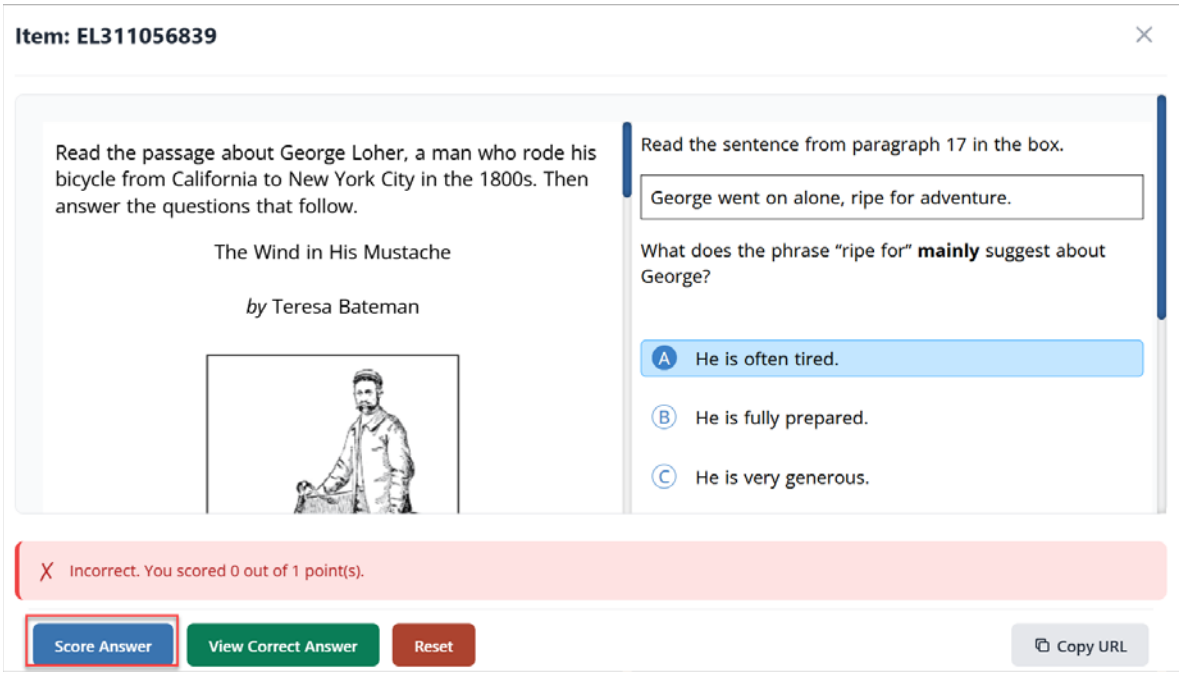
B. How to View Items

To view the contents of an item:

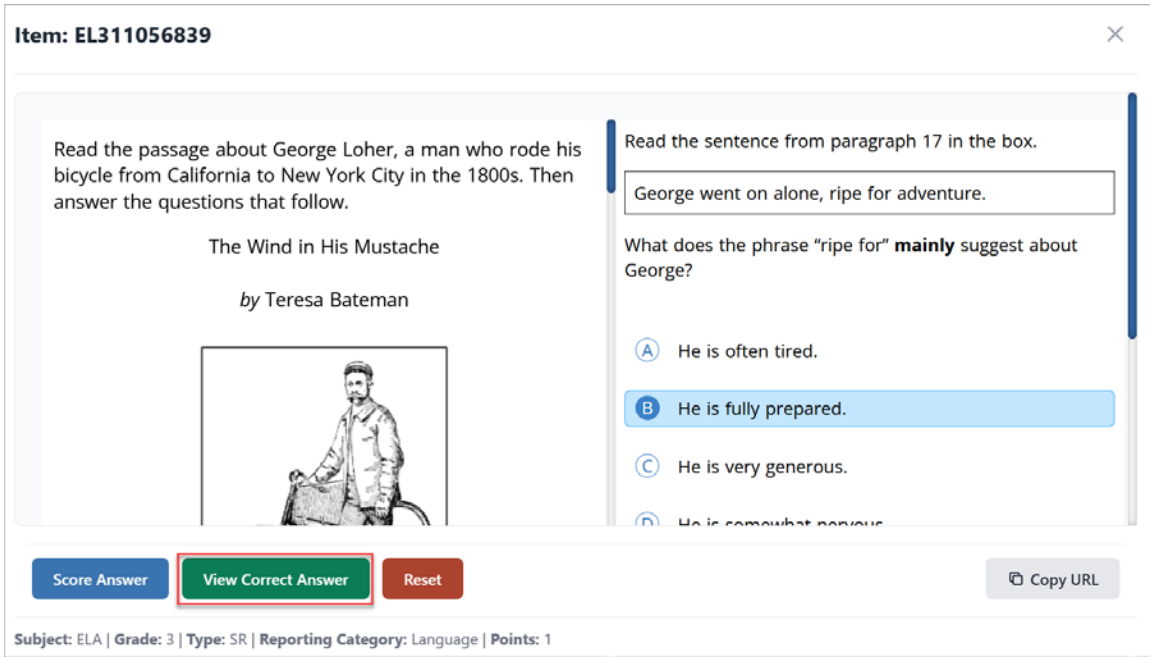
1. Click the **magnifying glass** icon under the **View** column of any item.
2. A preview window with the item's contents should appear as shown below:



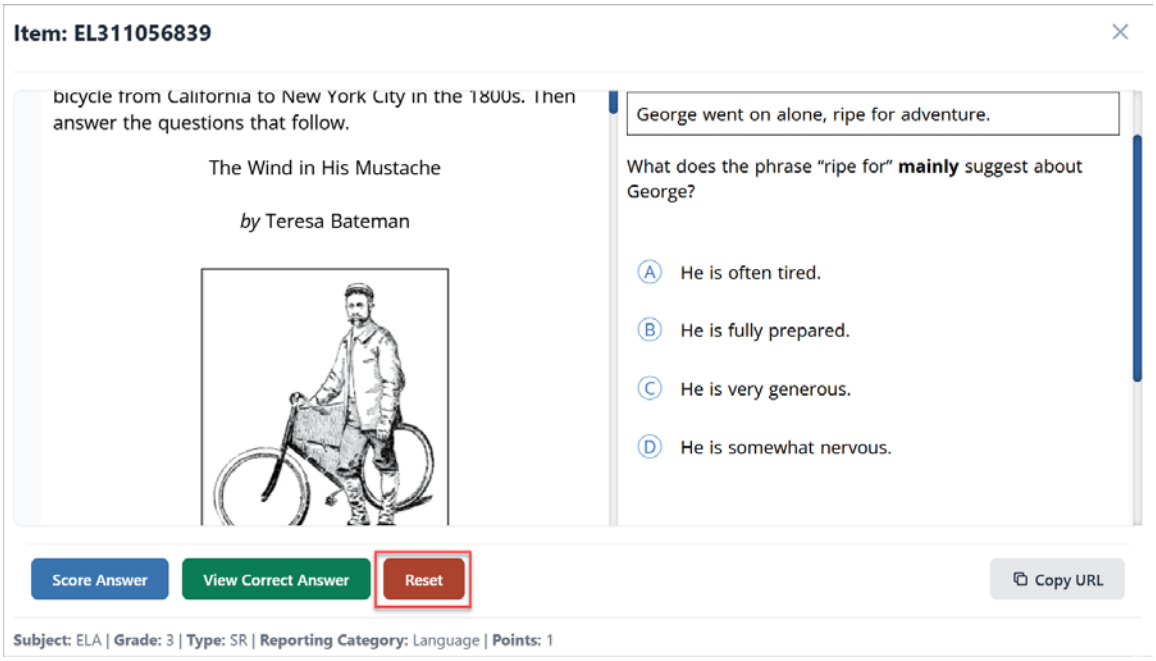
3. Choose a response and click the **Score Answer** button to check if your response is correct or not.

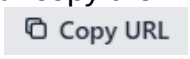


4. Click the **View Correct Answer** button to see the correct response(s) to an item.



5. Click the **Reset** button to clear your answer selection and the scored answer.



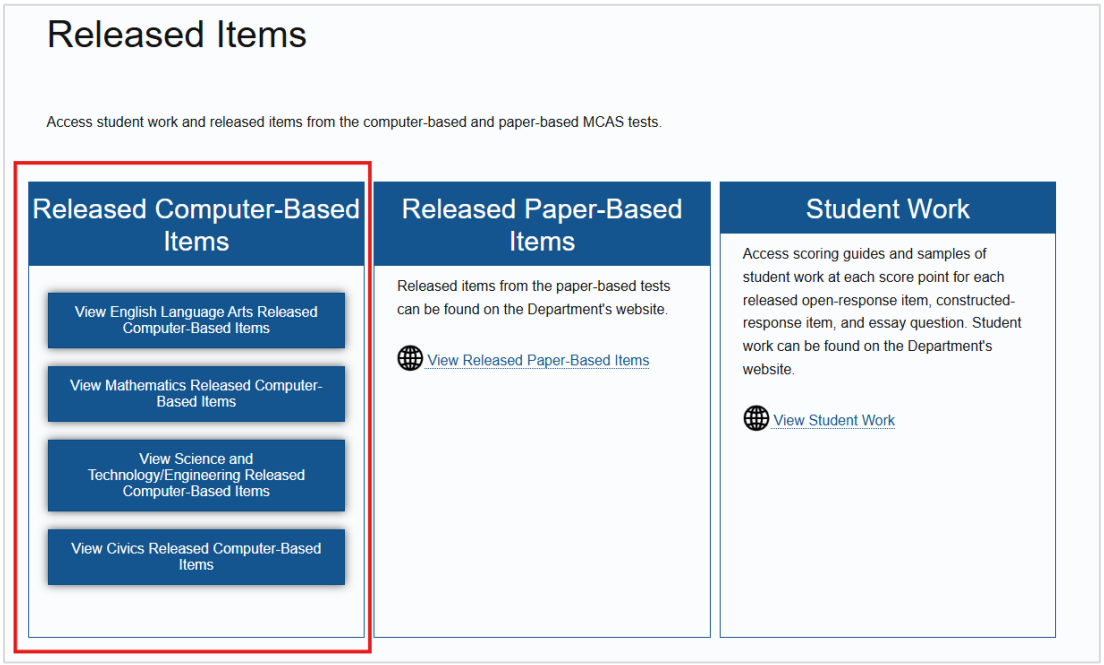
6. You can copy the link for any item to your clipboard by using the **Copy URL** button  on the bottom right of the item preview window.

IV. Released Items with Text-to-Speech

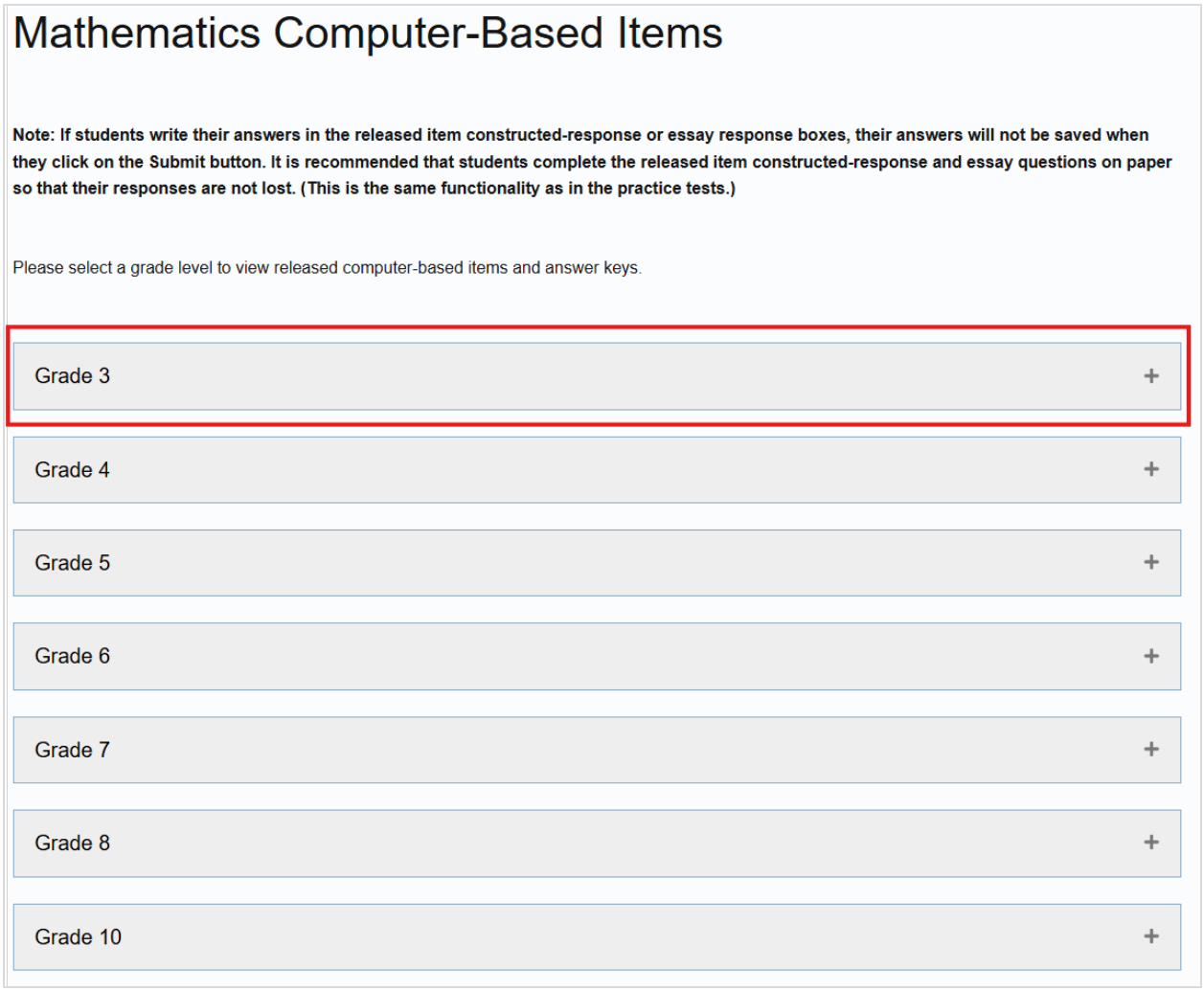
The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is committed to ensuring that the content in its online environments is accessible for all users. The MCAS test questions in the MCAS Item Library are presented in the format used for the standard computer-based tests. However, the same items are available in the MCAS Resource Center in a text-to-speech format.

How to Access Released Items in Text-to-Speech Format:

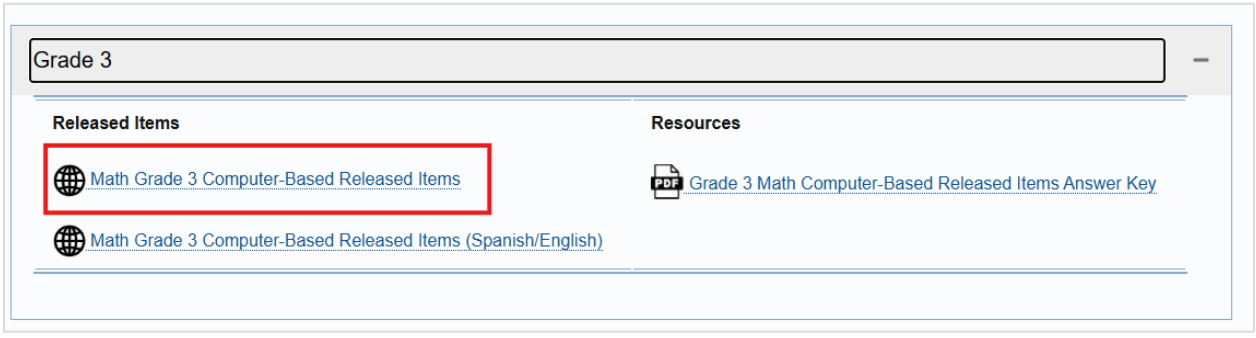
1. Go to the Released Computer-Based Items on the *MCAS Resource Center* website.
2. In the **Released Computer-Based Items** box, select which test you would like to view.



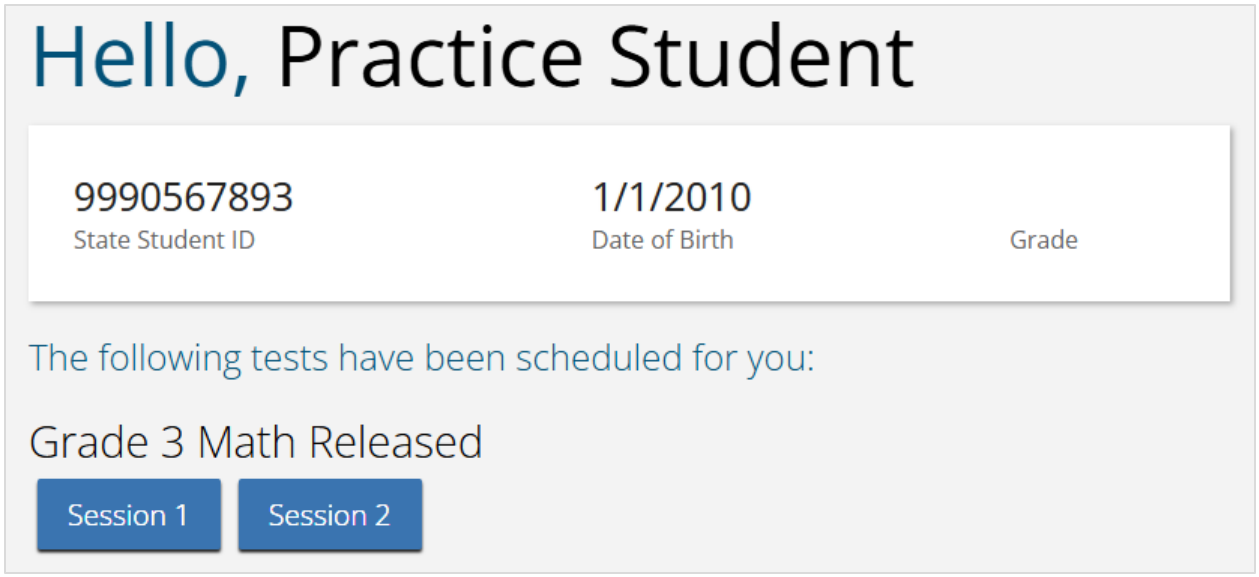
3. Select your **Grade Level**.



4. Click the Computer-Based Released Items link you wish to view.



5. Your practice test with Text-to-Speech will open in a new tab.


Hello, Practice Student
9990567893
State Student ID
1/1/2010
Date of Birth
Grade
The following tests have been scheduled for you:
Grade 3 Math Released
Session 1
Session 2