

Computer-Based Released Items Grade 10 MCAS English Language Arts Spring 2026

The spring 2026 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 2026 Computer-Based Released Operational Items**

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.2	SR	Determine a central idea that is established in two paragraphs of an excerpt and identify a detail that supports the central idea.	A;D
2	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.3	SR	Determine what specific sentences from an excerpt suggest about a character.	C
3	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word as it is used in a specific sentence in an excerpt.	A
4	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.4	SR	Identify a quotation from an excerpt that uses the same literary device as another sentence from the excerpt.	C
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.3	SR	Determine what a specific sentence of an excerpt reveals about a character.	C
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.2	SR	Determine which idea is supported by a specific sentence of an excerpt.	D
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.5	SR	Identify an effect created by specific sentences of an excerpt.	C
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.4	SR	Select two examples of imagery from a specific paragraph of an excerpt that illustrate the effect a character's action has on an object.	<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 the changes in a character's emotions are similar to the changes in an object; use evidence from the excerpt to develop the essay.	
10	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.1	SR	Make an inference based on specific lines in an excerpt.	C
11	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word as it is used in a specific line of an excerpt.	B
12	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.3	SR	Determine which word describes a character's reaction to a specific event in an excerpt.	A
13	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.4	SR	Determine which tone is developed by specific quotations in an excerpt.	<i>see page 5</i>
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.2	SR	Identify a statement that expresses a central idea of a paragraph in an article.	C
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific section in an article.	D
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.4	SR	Identify a word that describes the tone of a specific sentence in an article.	C
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific paragraph in an article.	D

18	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.2	SR	Determine which detail from an article makes a claim similar to one made in a specific sentence from another article on a similar topic.	A
19	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.2	SR	Determine the purpose of semicolons in specific sentences from two articles on similar topics.	C
20	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Determine the idea developed in a specific paragraph of an article and identify a detail from another article that develops a similar idea.	D;A
21	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.8	SR	Determine whether each piece of evidence from two articles on similar topics is a personal anecdote, expert opinion, or scientific research.	see page 6
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 the benefits of specific programs based on two articles on similar topics; use evidence from both articles to develop the essay.	
23	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.5	SR	Analyze how details from the beginning of an excerpt relate to the ending of the excerpt.	D
24	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.4	SR	Identify a word that could replace a word used in a specific paragraph of an excerpt.	A
25	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.4	SR	Determine what the figurative language in a specific paragraph of an excerpt emphasizes about a character.	B
26	<i>Reading</i>	RI.9-10.1	SR	Determine what specific sentences in an article suggest about a location.	D
27	<i>Language</i>	L.9-10.2	SR	Identify how the use of dashes in a sentence from an excerpt is similar to the use of parentheses in a sentence from an article on a similar topic.	D
28	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.5	SR	Determine how the structures of an excerpt and an article on similar topics differ.	D
29	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.4	SR	Determine the effect of a specific word in an excerpt and select two words from an article on a similar topic that suggest a similar effect.	Part A: B Part B: see page 7
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.9-10.2	SR	Determine the idea emphasized in a specific paragraph of an excerpt and identify a paragraph from an article on a similar topic that expresses a similar idea.	D;C

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

**Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. Pages 4–7 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 #8: Technology-Enhanced Item

41 A wind sprang up; **the golden leaves, in gusts, darted off in midair,** spinning. Marcovaldo still thought that, behind him, he had **the green, thick tree,** when all of a sudden—perhaps feeling himself unsheltered in the wind—he looked back. The tree was gone: there was only a thin stick, from which extended **a monstrance of bare stems,** and one last yellow leaf at the top still. In the light of the rainbow **everything else seemed black;** the people on the sidewalks, the façades of the houses that served as backdrop; and over this black, in midair, the golden leaves twirled, shining, hundreds of them; and **hundreds of hands, red and pink, rose from the darkness** to grab them; and the wind lifted the golden leaves toward the rainbow there at the end of the street, and the hands, and the shouts; and it detached even the last leaf, which turned from yellow to orange, then red, violet, blue, green, then yellow again, and then vanished.

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

Quotation	Friendly	Instructive	Commanding
<p>“Truly,’ said he, / ‘ladies and gentlemen, / Here you are all most heartily welcome.” (lines 11 and 12)</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>“‘Ladies and gentlemen, attention please!’ / Said he. ‘All of you know what we agreed,” (lines 75 and 76)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>“‘And now let’s draw lots before going on. / The one who draws the short straw must begin.” (lines 84 and 85)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>“‘And, Mister Scholar, lay by bashfulness, / Stop dreaming! . . .” (lines 89 and 90)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

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

Evidence	Personal Anecdote	Expert Opinion	Scientific Research
<p>"The Harvard Study of Adult Development, which began tracking more than 700 men in 1938 and continues today, found that older adults who invested in younger generations were three times more likely to be happy in their 70s than those who did not." (paragraph 15 of "What We're Missing Out On")</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>"Neither type of intelligence alone is enough to build movements that shift the status quo, Freedman told me." (paragraph 20 of "What We're Missing Out On")</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>"Among adults who participated in such programs, 97 percent indicated it allowed them to feel happy, interested, loved, younger and needed." (paragraph 7 of "Fostering Connections Between Young and Old")</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>"With no family nearby, Ms. Haskel said, it was delightful for me to sit down and have conversations about their careers and what they're planning." (paragraph 10 of "Fostering Connections Between Young and Old")</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Correct Answer for CBT Item #29
Part B: Technology-Enhanced Item

- 5 Describing Agloe as a mere hamlet is particularly apt. When it was first acknowledged, on a free road map distributed by Standard Oil Company of New York, or Socony, gas stations in 1925, its population was given **indeterminately** as from zero to 500, which was probably a peak.
- 6 Agloe's **anomaly** begins with its name. Is it a-GLOE or AG-loe?
- 7 "You can take your choice on how you want to pronounce it," Roscoe's official historian, Joyce Conroy, said.
- 8 Even the **precise** location of Agloe has been a conundrum. The Driving Route Planner website lists its exact geographic coordinates (for the record, latitude 41.964111300, longitude -74.907832100). **Complying** with those coordinates would deliver you just beyond Bill and Darlene Beers's backyard in the Town of Colchester in Delaware County, barely across the Sullivan County line from Roscoe.