

Computer-Based Released Items Grade 4 MCAS English Language Arts Spring 2026

The spring 2026 grade 4 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 4 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 4 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>	RI.4.2	SR	Determine what specific paragraphs from the passage suggest about the topic.	B
2	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.7	SR	Determine how a text feature contributes to the overall understanding of the passage.	C
3	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a given section from the passage.	D
4	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.1	SR	Identify key information related to the topic of the passage.	B
5	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.5	SR	Determine how a section from the passage is organized.	B
6	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.7	SR	Determine how a text feature supports information in the passage.	A
7	<i>Language</i>	L.4.4	SR	Identify a compound word from a specific sentence in the passage.	B
8	<i>Language</i>	L.4.4	SR	Identify a sentence that uses a word in the same way as it is used in the passage.	B
9	<i>Language</i>	L.4.1	SR	Determine which words from a paragraph are used as a specific part of speech.	<i>see page 4</i>
10	<i>Language</i>	L.4.2	SR	Determine the purpose of punctuation used in a sentence from the passage.	A
11	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.2	SR	Determine whether quotations from the passage are examples of a main idea or a detail.	<i>see page 4</i>
12	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.4.1, L.4.2, L.4.3, W.4.2, W.4.4	ES	Write an essay that explains a key concept in the passage; use information from the passage to develop the essay.	
13	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.7	SR	Identify the text feature that best organizes the passage.	C
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.3	SR	Use information from a section of the passage to support a particular idea.	B
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.2	SR	Select information that supports the main idea of the passage.	<i>see page 4</i>
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.7	SR	Determine how a text feature supports a particular section of the passage.	A
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.7	SR	Identify a concept supported by text features in the passage.	A
18	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.6	SR	Select a quotation from the passage that reveals the author's opinion.	D
19	<i>Reading</i>	RI.4.5	SR	Identify the organizational structure of the passage.	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 4 English Language Arts
Spring 2026 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items**

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.1	SR	Make an inference based on information from the story.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.5	SR	Determine why an event described in the story is important.
22	<i>Language</i>	L.4.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.5	SR	Determine the importance of specific paragraphs to the overall story.
24	<i>Language</i>	L.4.5	SR	Identify what a phrase suggests about characters in the story.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a phrase used in the story.
26	<i>Language</i>	L.4.2	SR	Identify the purposes of punctuation used in sentences from the story.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.3	SR	Identify a character's motivation and choose a quotation from the story that best supports that motivation.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.2	SR	Identify a quotation from the story that supports the theme.
29	<i>Language</i>	L.4.3	SR	Identify the purpose of italics in a paragraph from the story.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.2	SR	Identify a theme of the story.
31	<i>Reading</i>	RL.4.3	CR	Write a paragraph that describes a trait of the main character; use important details from the story to support the response.

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

Correct Answer for CBT Item #9: Technology-Enhanced Item

29 As it **grows**, the **baby** kangaroo spends more time outside its mother’s pouch. Before long it **becomes** too big for the pouch. At nine to 12 **months**, depending on the species, the joey **leaves** the pouch for **good**. It is also called a young-at-foot now.

Correct Answer for CBT Item #11: Technology-Enhanced Item

Sentence	Main Idea	Detail
“For now, the baby is content to enjoy the ride.” (paragraph 1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
“Their tall ears perk up.” (paragraph 2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
“Kangaroos are the only large animals that hop to move, and they are among the world’s best jumpers.” (paragraph 3)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Correct Answer for CBT Item #15: Technology-Enhanced Item

Exoskeleton	Endoskeleton
muscles attach to the inside	can repair itself
prevents the soft insides of an animal from drying out	can be squeezed into small places