

## **Computer-Based Released Items Grade 5 MCAS English Language Arts Spring 2026**

The spring 2026 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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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 2026 Computer-Based Released Operational Items**

<b>CBT Item No.</b>	<b>Reporting Category</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Item Type*</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Correct Answer (SR) **</b>
1	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.1	SR	Make an inference about a character based on details from the passage.	A
2	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.2	SR	Determine the importance of a setting described in the passage.	D
3	<i>Language</i>	L.5.5	SR	Determine the effect of figurative language used in the passage.	A
4	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.3	SR	Identify a character trait of an individual based on a specific part of the passage and choose supporting evidence from the passage.	B;B
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.5	SR	Identify the purpose of specific paragraphs from the passage.	A
6	<i>Language</i>	L.5.3	SR	Identify the effect of italicized words in a given section of the passage.	D
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a phrase using context from the passage.	D
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.5	SR	Identify the purpose of specific paragraphs from the passage.	B
9	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.5	SR	Determine how the setting contributes to the development of the plot.	C
10	<i>Reading</i>	RL.5.2	SR	Determine a theme of the passage and choose evidence from the passage that supports the theme.	B;D
11	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.3, W.5.2, W.5.4	ES	Write an essay that explains the traits of a character; use details from the passage to develop the essay.	
12	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.	C
13	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.	B
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.1	SR	Identify information described in a paragraph from the passage.	D
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.8	SR	Identify information that supports a specific claim in the passage.	D
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.1	SR	Make an inference based on information in the passage.	A
17	<i>Language</i>	L.5.4	SR	Determine the correct meaning of a multiple-meaning word in context.	B
18	<i>Language</i>	L.5.5	SR	Analyze the use of figurative language in a paragraph from the passage.	D
19	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.7	SR	Determine how text features contribute to the overall understanding of the passage.	A

20	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.6	SR	Identify a quotation that reflects the author's point of view about a topic.	D
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\*ELA item types are selected-response (SR) and essay (ES).

\*\*Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. Sample responses and scoring guidelines for essay items will be posted at [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/default.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/default.html).

**Grade 5 English Language Arts  
Spring 2026 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items**

<b>CBT Item No.</b>	<b>Reporting Category</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Item Type*</b>	<b>Item Description</b>
21	<i>Language</i>	L.5.2	SR	Determine the purpose of punctuation used in a sentence.
22	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.5	SR	Identify the purpose of a section from the passage.
23	<i>Language</i>	L.5.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
24	<i>Language</i>	L.5.4	SR	Determine the correct meaning of a multiple-meaning word in context.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a paragraph in the passage.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.5	SR	Identify the purpose of a section in the passage.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.4	SR	Identify a phrase that helps to determine the meaning of a word from the passage.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.6	SR	Identify evidence that shows the author's point of view about a topic.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.9	SR	Identify an idea developed in a section of one passage and choose evidence from another passage that supports a similar idea.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.2	SR	Identify a central idea of the passage and choose a phrase that best supports the idea.
31	<i>Reading</i>	RI.5.6	SR	Determine a shared point of view between two passages.
32	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.3, W.5.2, W.5.4	ES	Write an essay explaining an idea based on information from two passages; use information from the passages to develop the essay.

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