

Computer-Based Released Items Grade 6 MCAS English Language Arts Spring 2026

The spring 2026 grade 6 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 6 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 6 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>Language</i>	L.6.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a multiple-meaning word.	C
2	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific paragraph in a passage.	A
3	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about characters based on specific paragraphs in a passage.	A
4	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a sentence.	D
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference based on a specific detail from a passage.	B
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine the mood created in specific paragraphs of a passage.	D
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze what the repetition of words in a paragraph suggests about a character.	B
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Analyze what is revealed by a character's actions in a specific paragraph and identify a detail from the passage that supports the analysis.	B;A
9	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Analyze how specific paragraphs contribute to a passage.	A
10	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Identify a detail that develops a central idea in a passage.	C
11	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Compare and contrast traits of characters in two passages.	<i>see page 5</i>
12	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, W.6.2, W.6.4	ES	Write an essay that compares and contrasts how characters in two passages respond to a specific event; use evidence from both passages to support the explanation.	
13	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.2	SR	Identify a detail that develops a central idea in a passage.	D
14	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a sentence.	A
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a specific idea in a passage.	D
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.6	SR	Identify the author's purpose for writing a passage.	A
17	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Determine the effect of a repeating phrase in a poem.	B
18	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Determine a theme of a poem and then identify support in the poem.	B;D

19	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Identify the structure of a poem.	A
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*ELA item types are selected-response (SR) and essay (ES).

**Answers are provided here for selected-response items only. Page 5 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 6 English Language Arts
Spring 2026 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	<i>Language</i>	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.3	SR	Identify a detail that helps develop a key idea in a passage.
22	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.6	SR	Determine an author's point of view in a passage.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.6	SR	Identify the purpose for writing a passage.
24	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.5	SR	Analyze how paragraphs in a passage contribute to the development of an important idea.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.4	SR	Analyze how word choice contributes to an understanding of a passage.
26	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a sentence.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.7	SR	Determine how a photograph supports information presented in a passage.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.5	SR	Contrast how particular sections of two passages contribute to the development of ideas.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.3	SR	Compare and contrast experiences of characters in two passages.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.2	SR	Determine a central idea developed in two passages.
31	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, W.6.2, W.6.4	ES	Write an essay that explains actions taken that led to success in two passages; use evidence from the passages to support the explanation.

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

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

Phrase	Jubilee	Callie	Both
has traveled very little	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
enjoys creating things by hand	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
has big expectations for the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
believes living somewhere else will be good	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>