

Computer-Based Released Items Grade 7 MCAS English Language Arts Spring 2026

The spring 2026 grade 7 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 7 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 7 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.7.1	SR	Analyze how details in specific paragraphs help develop the main character in a passage.	D
2	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.5	SR	Determine what a specific detail symbolizes in a passage.	B
3	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Analyze how details in specific paragraphs help develop a character in a passage.	C
4	<i>Language</i>	L.7.2	SR	Identify the purpose of punctuation in a sentence and choose another sentence from the passage that uses punctuation for the same purpose.	B;D
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.5	SR	Analyze how specific paragraphs contribute to the development of a passage.	B
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.5	SR	Analyze how specific details help develop a passage.	B
7	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Determine what is suggested by a phrase in a passage.	C
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Analyze how details in specific paragraphs help develop a character in a passage.	D
9	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.1	SR	Identify a detail from a passage that supports an inference about a character.	D
10	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Determine a theme developed in a passage.	A
11	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Analyze the qualities of characters in a passage.	<i>see page 5</i>
12	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.2, W.7.4	ES	Write an essay that explains how events in a passage impact the characters; use evidence from the passage to develop the essay.	
13	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.1	SR	Analyze what a specific detail suggests about a character in an excerpt and choose a quotation from the excerpt to support the analysis.	B;B
14	<i>Language</i>	L.7.5	SR	Identify the literary device used in a specific sentence from an excerpt.	A
15	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.6	SR	Determine what details in specific paragraphs suggest about the main character in an excerpt.	C
16	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Analyze how a specific word impacts meaning in an excerpt.	C

17	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.1	SR	Make an inference about a character based on specific paragraphs in an excerpt.	B
18	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Analyze what is suggested by details in a specific paragraph in an excerpt.	B
19	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.1	SR	Analyze how specific paragraphs contribute to the development of an excerpt.	A

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

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Identify the structure an author uses to engage a reader in a passage.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.4	SR	Analyze the purpose of a phrase in a sentence.
22	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Analyze how specific examples in a passage develop an important idea.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Analyze the differences between two sections in a passage.
24	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Identify the purpose for including specific paragraphs in a passage.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific writing technique in a passage.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Determine a characteristic of the subject of a passage and identify support from the passage.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Determine a cause and effect relationship developed in a passage.
28	<i>Language</i>	L.7.2	SR	Identify the purpose of punctuation in a sentence.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.1	SR	Use evidence to support a conclusion in a passage.
30	<i>Language</i>	L.7.5	SR	Analyze the use of figurative language in a passage.
31	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.2, W.7.4	ES	Write an essay that explains the factors that affect a specific response in the subjects of a passage; use evidence from the passage to support the essay.

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

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

Cornell

shares knowledge
with others

June

is willing to learn