

Computer-Based Released Items

Grade 6 MCAS English Language Arts

Spring 2022

The spring 2022 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 2022 Computer-Based Released Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description	Correct Answer (SR)**
1	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.5	SR	Analyze how a paragraph contributes to the development of ideas in an article.	A
2	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.4	SR	Identify context to support the meaning of a phrase.	A
3	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a sentence.	A
4	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.4	SR	Determine the author's tone in an article.	D
5	<i>Language</i>	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context and choose evidence from a passage that supports the meaning.	D;C
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine how a phrase impacts meaning in a passage.	C
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze how an idea about a character is developed in a passage.	A
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze a character's feelings in a passage.	A
9	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.8	SR	Determine how a statement made in a fictional passage could be supported by evidence from an informational article.	B
10	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.9	SR	Identify how a concept developed in an article is similar to a concept developed in a passage.	D
11	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.6	SR	Determine a point of view shared by the authors of an article and a passage on the same topic and choose supporting evidence.	A;C
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 explains how an idea is developed in an article and a passage; use information from both texts to support the explanation.	
13	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.8	SR	Determine how the author supports a specific claim in an article.	D
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.5	SR	Determine the effect of a particular sentence structure in a portion of an article.	D
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.2	SR	Identify a detail that supports a central idea in an article.	A
16	<i>Language</i>	L.6.5	SR	Analyze figurative language in an article.	C
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.7	SR	Analyze a photograph to further understand a key idea presented in an article.	A
18	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.1	SR	Determine a question that is unanswered in an article.	C
19	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.3	SR	Determine unique and shared characteristics of animals described in an article.	see page 4

* 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 6 English Language Arts
Spring 2022 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
20	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Analyze how a specific paragraph in a passage contributes to the development of the plot.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Analyze how a specific paragraph helps develop a passage.
22	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a sentence.
23	<i>Language</i>	L.6.5	SR	Analyze the effect of figurative language in a passage and choose a detail in the passage that creates a similar effect.
24	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine the tone of a passage based on a portion of the text.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.6	SR	Analyze how an author reveals a character's point of view.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Analyze the impact of word choice in a passage.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a character in a passage.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze how a character feels at different points of a passage.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.6	SR	Analyze how an author uses point of view to develop a character.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Determine a theme of a passage.
31	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, W.6.2, W.6.4	ES	Write an essay explaining the methods used by an author to make a passage interesting; use details from the passage to support your explanation.

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

Correct Answer for CBT Item #19: Technology-Enhanced Item

Characteristic	Zorilla	Crested Rat	Both
hair sometimes appears to be gray	☐	☒	☐
gives off smell	☒	☐	☐
has black and white stripes	☐	☐	☒
hairs contain small openings	☐	☒	☐