

# **Computer-Based Released Items**

## **Grade 8 MCAS English Language Arts**

### **Spring 2022**

The spring 2022 grade 8 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 8 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 8 English Language Arts**  
**Spring 2022 Computer-Based Released Operational Items**

| CBT Item No. | Reporting Category | Standard                          | Item Type* | Item Description                                                                                                                                        | Correct Answer (SR)** |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1            | Reading            | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Analyze a difference between characters in a passage.                                                                                                   | B                     |
| 2            | Language           | L.8.2                             | SR         | Analyze the purpose of dashes in a sentence in a passage.                                                                                               | C                     |
| 3            | Language           | L.8.3                             | SR         | Determine the purpose of short sentences in a passage.                                                                                                  | C                     |
| 4            | Reading            | RL.8.1                            | SR         | Identify a quotation that marks a turning point in a passage.                                                                                           | B                     |
| 5            | Reading            | RL.8.4                            | SR         | Analyze a symbolic image in a passage.                                                                                                                  | D                     |
| 6            | Reading            | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Analyze how a section of a passage develops a character.                                                                                                | A                     |
| 7            | Reading            | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Make an inference about a character from a section of a passage.                                                                                        | C                     |
| 8            | Reading            | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Analyze how two characters in different passages have a similar experience.                                                                             | B                     |
| 9            | Reading            | RL.8.2                            | SR         | Determine a shared theme of two passages on similar topics.                                                                                             | D                     |
| 10           | Reading            | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Determine one character's attitude based on a quotation from a passage and identify a quotation from another passage that expresses a similar attitude. | B;C                   |
| 11           | Reading            | RL.8.6                            | SR         | Compare the behavior of characters in two different passages on similar topics.                                                                         | see page 4            |
| 12           | Language, Writing  | L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.3, W.8.2, W.8.4 | ES         | Write an essay that analyzes characters in two passages on similar topics; use information from both passages to support the analysis.                  |                       |
| 13           | Reading            | RI.8.4                            | SR         | Analyze the effect of verb tense in an excerpt.                                                                                                         | C                     |
| 14           | Reading            | RI.8.2                            | SR         | Explain how a paragraph contributes to the main idea of an excerpt.                                                                                     | B                     |
| 15           | Reading            | RI.8.6                            | SR         | Analyze the purpose of quoting a primary source in an excerpt.                                                                                          | D                     |
| 16           | Reading            | RL.8.4                            | SR         | Analyze descriptive language used as a preface to a poem.                                                                                               | A                     |
| 17           | Language           | L.8.4                             | SR         | Use context to determine the meaning of a word used figuratively in a poem.                                                                             | B                     |
| 18           | Reading            | RI.8.6                            | SR         | Analyze a difference in perspective between an excerpt and a poem on similar topics.                                                                    | B                     |
| 19           | Reading            | RI.8.3                            | SR         | Use information from an excerpt and a poem on similar topics to compare the experiences depicted in each text.                                          | 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 will be posted at [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/default.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/default.html).

**Grade 8 English Language Arts**  
**Spring 2022 Computer-Based Unreleased Operational Items**

| CBT Item No. | Reporting Category       | Standard                          | Item Type* | Item Description                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20           | <i>Language</i>          | L.8.4                             | SR         | Use context to determine the meaning of a word in an excerpt.                                                                                                              |
| 21           | <i>Reading</i>           | RI.8.6                            | SR         | Identify the purpose of a parenthetical statement in an excerpt.                                                                                                           |
| 22           | <i>Reading</i>           | RI.8.5                            | SR         | Analyze the effect of a sentence in an excerpt.                                                                                                                            |
| 23           | <i>Reading</i>           | RI.8.5                            | SR         | Make an inference from a paragraph in an excerpt.                                                                                                                          |
| 24           | <i>Language</i>          | L.8.4                             | SR         | Use context to determine the meaning of a word in an excerpt and identify a quotation from the excerpt that supports the meaning.                                          |
| 25           | <i>Reading</i>           | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Determine the purpose of paragraphs in a passage.                                                                                                                          |
| 26           | <i>Reading</i>           | RL.8.1                            | SR         | Analyze how the details in two paragraphs contribute to the reader's understanding of a passage.                                                                           |
| 27           | <i>Reading</i>           | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Analyze how a character's actions in a passage reveal a character trait.                                                                                                   |
| 28           | <i>Reading</i>           | RL.8.4                            | SR         | Determine the tone of a character's dialogue in a passage.                                                                                                                 |
| 29           | <i>Reading</i>           | RI.8.2                            | SR         | Make a comparison between an excerpt and a passage on similar topics.                                                                                                      |
| 30           | <i>Reading</i>           | RL.8.3                            | SR         | Identify a difference in individuals' attitudes in an excerpt and a passage on similar topics.                                                                             |
| 31           | <i>Language, Writing</i> | L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.3, W.8.2, W.8.4 | ES         | Write an essay that explains the benefits and challenges of a particular topic based on an excerpt and a passage; use information from both texts to support the analysis. |

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

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

In both passages, one character pauses to look more closely at another. In paragraph 42 of *Starfish*, Hiroshi looks at Kiko in a way that suggests that he realizes the extent of her talent. In lines 79–81 of *The Poet X*, Ms. Galiano looks at Xiomara in a way that suggests that she

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

| Description                                               | Michael Collins                  | Neil Armstrong                   | Both                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| performed actions that were broadcast to a large audience | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            |
| saw sights that no one had seen before                    | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| found comfort in personal memories                        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |
| was responsible for the safety of the other astronauts    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |