

2027 MCAS Sample Student Work and Scoring Guide

Grade 4 English Language Arts Practice Test

Question 13: Extended Response

Reporting Categories: Language and Writing

Standard: [L.PK-12.1](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Standard: [L.PK-12.2](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Standard: [L.PK-12.3](#) – Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Standard: [W.PK-12.1](#) – Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard: [W.PK-12.4](#) – Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Extended Response Prompt

Write a response that is **one to two paragraphs** in length.

Be sure to:

- Include an opinion based on the passage.
- Use evidence from the passage to support the opinion.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on *Komodo Dragons*, write a response that states an opinion about which of the Komodo dragon's features is **most** important to its survival. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Continue to the following page to see the scoring guides for this question. Sample student responses begin on page 3.

Scoring Guide for Written Expression

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
3A 3B	- clearly explains ideas - thoroughly uses evidence to support ideas - clearly organizes ideas
2A 2B	- partially explains ideas - adequately uses evidence to support ideas - partially organizes ideas
1A 1B	- minimally explains ideas - insufficiently uses evidence to support ideas - minimally organizes ideas
0A 0B	does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question

Scoring Guide for Standard English Conventions

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
2A 2B 2C	- mostly consistent control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response - mostly consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response - any errors do not interfere with communication
1A 1B 1C	- some control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response - some control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response - some errors begin to interfere with communication
0A 0B	- incorrectly formed sentences with no control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and/or sentences of insufficient length - contains many errors that interfere with communication

*In both Scoring Guides, letters are used to distinguish between sample student responses that earned the same score (e.g., 2A and 2B).

Written Expression—Score Point 3A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2A**

In my opinion the Komodo Dragon survive because they have a strong scent. These animals have forked tongues. They smell with their tongue and chase after the smell. For example, the passage says “The Komodo dragon picks up scents in the air with its tongue.” It is pretty amazing that the tongue can find prey from far away. “The tongue can detect prey up to 3.1 miles (5 km) away.” That will help the Komodo Dragon survive. Another example is when the passage states “detect even faint traces of a nearby animal’s scent. “This means that Komodo Dragons can smell really well. Also they can tell where an animal is. The text says “The Komodo can tell the direction of an animal based on what side of its tongue picked up a stronger scent.” Because the tongue is forked it has two sides and whatever side picks up the most of the smell shows where the food is. This proves that Komodos have a strong scent.

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Written Expression—Score Point 3B**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2B**

Based on the passage *Komodo Dragons* by Jill Sherman, I think the feature that is most important is its strong tail.

I think Komodos survive because they have strong tails. The text says “Their tails are long and whiplike.” Their tails are strong enough to support them while they stand on their hind legs to attack. They use there tails to defend them selfs. I know that this will help Komodos stay safe, and this will help them survive. This helps Komodo dragons survive in the wild. The evidence from the passage supports my opinion that the tail is the most important feature of the Komodo dragon.

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Written Expression—Score Point 2A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2C**

I think the climbing is their most important feature. It helps them survive because they go up a tree right after hatching to stay safe. . In paragraph 20 it says a young Komodo Dragon lives in the tree so it can eat food . There are snakes, wild boars and other animals that prey on the baby dragons. They can be safe up high in the tree. If baby dragons could not climb trees, they would not live to be grown up dragons.

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Written Expression—Score Point 2B**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1A**

The komodo dragon has lots of features but I think strong arms and legs are most important for them to survive. The arms are used when they restle with other komodo dragons. they are also good for jumping on prey. Back legs help when the komodo is restling they stand on the back legs to attack.

As you can see back legs and arms are really important in fights with other dragons. And the komodo that wins the fight gets food and strong arms and legs help to make them so they can win and they can suvive.

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Written Expression—Score Point 1A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1B**

The tongue is important because they use it to hunt. It says "The tongue can detect prey up to 3.1 miles (5 km) away." The tongue helps the dragon so they can survive.

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Written Expression—Score Point 1B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0A

the best feature is the long tail it is like a whip and used when the dragon fights and it helps for balance so the tail helps it to survive.

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Written Expression—Score Point 0A

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1C

In paragraph 7 it tells us that komodo dragons live in only a tiny part of the earth.

In paragraph 23 it says there are only 3,000 komodo dragons in the world and only 600 are females and the rest are males.

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Written Expression—Score Point 0B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0B

the features are lizard very cool looking and the last dragon left

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