

2027 MCAS Sample Student Work and Scoring Guide

Grade 5 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-12.2](#) – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

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 about **one to two paragraphs** in length. Be sure to:

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

Based on *City Fish*, *Country Fish*, write a response that explains how “city fish” and “country fish” are different from each other. 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**

“City fish” and “country fish” are different in many ways. They are different because of their colors and the way they are shaped. They also live in different kinds of habitats.

My first difference is color. City fish “brighten the reef with reds, yellows, and blues” and they have patterns. Country fish are “earth tones-tan, brown, and black-that mimic the colors of the seaweed and rocks on the ocean floor.” Country fish like to camouflage and blend in more than the city fish. The second difference is their shape. “Many city fish are not built for long distance travel because they rarely venture far from the security of their undersea refuge.” The city fish like to hide in the coral, and their long tails and short fins help them move fast. Some country fish are “built for swimming long distances” and they are shaped like submarines. Other country fish are flat and stay on the floor of the ocean. Lastly, they are different because of their habitats. The city fish “swim in water as warm as a swimming pool” but country fish “swim in cool waters far from the equator and tropical waters.” This shows that “city fish” and “country fish” have different colors and different shapes.

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

City fish and country fish have many differences. Paragraph 3 says “City fish are tropical and live in water as warm as a swimming pool.” The coral reefs that city fish live in are crowded with many other animals and plants. The city fish return to their coral reef home every night. The tropical fish have electric colors that “brighten the reef with reds, yellows, and blues, and with stripes, spots, and splotches.” Country fish are very different. Paragraph 6 says “The country fish swim in cool waters, far from the equator and tropical waters.” The country fish like to live at the bottom of the ocean. They travel around in schools and do not return to the same place every night. The country fish use camouflage to hide so they are not brightly colored. The passage says “The colors of country fish are mostly earth tones-tan, brown and black that mimic the colors of the seaweeds and rocks on the ocean floor.” There are many differences between city fish and country fish.

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

City fish and country fish are different. City fish live in warm water on busy coral reefs. Paragraph 3 says “Their home on the coral reef could be called a city under the sea because like a city on land a coral reef is both crowded and colorful.” It is different for the country fishes who like to live in cold water and are more spread out. the passage says “Many country fish spend their lives roaming the ocean just a few feet above the sea floor.” They travel in schools and swim to new places more than the city fish do.

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

the passage tells that city fish and country fish have lots of difference and I will explain how come they are different.

City fish like warm and county fish like cold water. city fish have the electrical colors and county fishes are not colorfull at all they blend in and some can change colors to. it says city fishes shape makes them move like sports cars they go fast and the county fish shapes are like submarines and they go long distances. As you can see they have lots of differences

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

Fish live different places. paragraph 3 says “City fish are tropical fishes that swim in water as warm as a swimming pool.” In the passage it says “Country fish swim in cool waters far from the equator and topical waters.” City fishes like warm and county fishes like cooler that is a lot different.

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Written Expression—Score Point 1B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0A

city fish are more colorful than the country fish and city fish are crowded not spread out in the water like country fishes and the fishes eat different food.

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Written Expression—Score Point 0A

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1C

I like the pretty fish that have the colors and strips. They swim around and live on reefs in the ocean.

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Written Expression—Score Point 0B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0B

the skates are for the ocean floor they look flat

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