



*Release of
Spring 2019
MCAS Test Items*

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**Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education**



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I. Introduction

Introduction

Overview of Spring 2019 Tests and Item Releases

In 2019, Massachusetts continued the process of transitioning the state testing program, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), to next-generation tests. The next-generation tests include new test designs and item types and are administered primarily via computer.

As we phase in the next-generation tests at additional grade levels, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is committed to continuing the regular release of MCAS test items to provide information about the knowledge and skills that students are expected to demonstrate. The table at the bottom of this page provides an overview of the MCAS tests administered in spring 2019. The table also displays the percentage of operational items that were released for each test or grade range. (Operational items are those items on which student scores are based.)

The purpose of this publication is to share with educators and the public the spring 2019 test items that have been released, for both next-generation and legacy tests. Educators will be able to use this information as they plan changes in curriculum and instruction that may be needed to improve student performance. Please note that, for next-generation assessments, the test items included in this publication are the **paper-based versions** of the 2019 operational items that have been released. The computer-based versions of the released items from these assessments are available on the MCAS Resource Center website at mcas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/.

Spring 2019 MCAS Test Administrations and Item Releases

Tests	Test Design/Item Types	Testing Mode ¹	Percentage of Operational Items Released
ELA Grades 3–8 ²	next-generation	computer, paper	45%
ELA Grade 10	next-generation	computer, paper	100%
Math Grades 3–8	next-generation	computer, paper	50%
Math Grade 10	next-generation	computer, paper	100%
STE Grades 5 and 8	next-generation	computer, paper	49%
High School Biology	legacy	paper	100%
High School Introductory Physics	legacy	paper	100%
High School Chemistry ³	legacy	paper	0%
High School Technology/Engineering ³	legacy	paper	0%

¹ For next-generation tests, paper-based test forms were offered as an accommodation for some students. The vast majority of students took the computer-based test.

² For ELA Grades 3–8, the percentage of items released varied by grade. Altogether, 45% of operational items were released across these grades.

³ In order to support future test development, items from the spring 2019 high school Chemistry and Technology/Engineering tests are not included in this publication. The omission of these items will have no impact on the reporting of results. The reporting category and standard for each item are provided.

Structure of This Publication

Each subsequent chapter of this publication contains information and materials for one MCAS test (one grade level and one content area). For example, Chapter II contains information for the grade 3 English Language Arts test; Chapter XV contains information for the grade 10 Mathematics test.

Beginning with Chapter II, each chapter has three main sections:

- The first section provides information about the content being assessed, including the web address for the relevant framework. In addition, there is a brief overview of the test (number of test sessions, types of items, and reference materials allowed).
- The second section presents the released test items for the grade level and content area. Reading passages are included for ELA tests.* For Mathematics and STE tests, any reference sheets that were available to students during testing are provided.
- The final section of each chapter is a table that cross-references each released MCAS common/operational item with its MCAS reporting category and with the framework standard(s) it assesses. Correct answers to released MCAS multiple-choice and selected-response questions are listed for all content areas, as are correct answers to released short-answer questions for Mathematics. For grades 3–8, the final section of each chapter also includes a second table that cross-references each unreleased MCAS operational item with its MCAS reporting category and with the framework standard it assesses.

As a way of providing educators and the public with more information about the next-generation items, the Department has developed a brief description of each released and unreleased item on the next-generation tests. The item descriptions appear in both tables.

Materials presented in this publication are not formatted exactly as they appeared in student test booklets. For example, in order to present items most efficiently in this publication, some fonts and/or font sizes may have been changed, and some graphics may have been reduced in size.

Other Resources for Released MCAS Test Items

Educators and the public can also access released items and related materials in other formats:

- Released test questions from the computer-based version of the next-generation MCAS tests are available on the **MCAS Resource Center website** at mcas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/.
- The **MCAS Digital Item Library**, found at mcas.digitalitemlibrary.com, is a searchable database of items from the computer-based MCAS tests. Users can sort items by standard, reporting category, item type, or other criteria.
- The **Question Search application** enables users to browse through released MCAS items from the 2013 to 2018 MCAS administrations and search for items by grade, question type, curriculum framework, keyword, or other criteria. The Question Search can be accessed at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/search/.
- The **MCAS Student Work/Scoring Guides webpage**, found at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/, provides sample student work and scoring guides for essay questions and other constructed-response questions.

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