



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

*Release of Spring 2024
MCAS Test Information*

from the

Grade 6 English Language Arts Test

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**Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education**



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and Secondary Education

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Overview of Grade 6 English Language Arts Test

The spring 2024 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.

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.

The Department is not releasing items from the spring 2024 MCAS grades 3–8 tests. Released items from previous years' computer-based tests are available on the MCAS Resource Center website at mcas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items.

Test Sessions and Content Overview

The grade 6 ELA test was made up of two separate test sessions. Each session included reading passages, followed by selected-response questions and essay questions. On the paper-based test, the selected-response questions were multiple-choice items and multiple-select items, in which students select the correct answer(s) from among several answer options.

Standards and Reporting Categories

The grade 6 ELA test was based on grades 6–12 learning standards in three content strands of the *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy* (2017), listed below.

- Reading
- Writing
- Language

The *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy* is available on the Department website at www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html.

ELA test results are reported under three MCAS reporting categories, which are identical to the three framework content strands listed above.

The tables at the conclusion of this document provide the following information about each operational item: reporting category, standard(s) covered, item type, and item description.

Reference Materials

During both ELA test sessions, the use of authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries was allowed for students who are currently or were ever reported as English learners. No other reference materials were allowed during any ELA test session.

Grade 6 English Language Arts
Spring 2024 Computer-Based Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
1	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a character in a passage.
2	<i>Language</i>	L.6.5	SR	Analyze the effect of figurative language in a passage.
3	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze the relationship of two characters in a passage.
4	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.1	SR	Make an inference based on specific information in a passage.
5	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.7	SR	Determine how a diagram supports information presented in a passage.
6	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.5	SR	Explain how a particular section of a passage contributes to the development of ideas.
7	<i>Language</i>	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
8	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.2	SR	Identify a detail that supports a central idea in a passage.
9	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.3	SR	Analyze how a section of a passage develops an important idea and choose supporting evidence.
10	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.2	SR	Identify a shared central idea in two passages.
11	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.6	SR	Determine the differences in point of view of the authors of two passages on similar topics.
12	<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 traits that helped make individuals in the passages successful; use information from the passages to support the explanation.
13	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Determine the reason for a character's actions in a passage.
14	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a character in a passage.
15	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Determine how a section of a passage helps develop a character.
16	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Determine the reason for a character's actions in a passage.
17	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine how a phrase reveals aspects of a character in a passage and identify supporting evidence.
18	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine the tone in a section of a passage.
19	<i>Language</i>	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
20	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine how a phrase reveals an important detail about a character in a passage and identify supporting evidence.
21	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Identify a sentence from a passage that uses punctuation for a specific purpose.
22	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Determine the best summary of a passage.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Determine how particular details contribute to the development of ideas in a passage.
24	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, W.6.3, W.6.4	ES	Write a narrative that tells what happens next in a passage.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Determine the effect of a repeating phrase in a poem.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Identify the mood of a poem.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Identify the structure of a poem.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze a poem to determine a trait of a speaker.
29	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a line of a poem.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Identify a theme of a poem.
31	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Identify questions explored in a poem.

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

Grade 6 English Language Arts
Spring 2024 Paper-Based Operational Items

PBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
1	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a character in a passage.
2	<i>Language</i>	L.6.5	SR	Analyze the effect of figurative language in a passage.
3	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze the relationship of two characters in a passage.
4	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.1	SR	Make an inference based on specific information in a passage.
5	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.7	SR	Determine how a diagram supports information presented in a passage.
6	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.5	SR	Explain how a particular section of a passage contributes to the development of ideas.
7	<i>Language</i>	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
8	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.2	SR	Identify a detail that supports a central idea in a passage.
9	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.3	SR	Analyze how a section of a passage develops an important idea and choose supporting evidence.
10	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.2	SR	Identify a shared central idea in two passages.
11	<i>Reading</i>	RI.6.6	SR	Determine the differences in point of view of the authors of two passages on similar topics.
12	<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 traits that helped make individuals in the passages successful; use information from the passages to support the explanation.
13	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Determine the reason for a character’s actions in a passage.
14	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make an inference about a character in a passage.
15	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Determine how a section of a passage helps develop a character.
16	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Determine the reason for a character’s actions in a passage.
17	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine how a phrase reveals aspects of a character in a passage and identify supporting evidence.
18	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine the tone in a section of a passage.
19	<i>Language</i>	L.6.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word in context.
20	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Determine how a phrase reveals an important detail about a character in a passage and identify supporting evidence.
21	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Identify a sentence from a passage that uses punctuation for a specific purpose.
22	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Determine the best summary of a passage.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Determine how particular details contribute to the development of ideas in a passage.
24	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, W.6.3, W.6.4	ES	Write a narrative that tells what happens next in a passage.
25	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Determine the effect of a repeating phrase in a poem.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.4	SR	Identify the mood of a poem.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.5	SR	Identify the structure of a poem.
28	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.3	SR	Analyze a poem to determine a trait of a speaker.
29	<i>Language</i>	L.6.2	SR	Determine the function of punctuation used in a line of a poem.
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.2	SR	Identify a theme of a poem.
31	<i>Reading</i>	RL.6.1	SR	Make logical inferences based on a poem.

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