



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

*Release of Spring 2024
MCAS Test Information*

from the

Grade 7 English Language Arts Test

May 2024
**Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education**



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and Secondary Education

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Overview of Grade 7 English Language Arts Test

The spring 2024 grade 7 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 7 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 7 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 7 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 7 English Language Arts
Spring 2024 Computer-Based Operational Items

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
1	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Identify a central idea in a passage.
2	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Determine a character’s traits based on details in a passage.
3	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Use context to determine which meaning of a multiple-meaning word is used in a passage.
4	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Make an inference about how a narrator’s feelings change throughout a passage.
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Analyze how figurative language contributes to understanding a character in a passage.
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Make an inference about a character from a specific paragraph in a passage.
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Identify what the actions of a character reveal about the character in a specific paragraph of a passage.
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Analyze the mood created in a paragraph of a passage.
9	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Determine a central idea developed in a passage; identify supporting evidence from the passage.
10	<i>Language</i>	L.7.5	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a word in a passage; identify an antonym of the word used in another passage.
11	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Determine how settings similarly help develop the main characters in two passages; identify supporting evidence from the passages.
12	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.2, W.7.4	ES	Write an essay explaining the development of the main characters in two passages; use details from both passages to support the essay.
13	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Identify the purpose of sentences from a section of an article.
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.2	SR	Analyze how a specific paragraph contributes to the development of an article.
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.6	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific paragraph in an article.
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Analyze how a specific paragraph develops an important idea in an article.
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Use information from a section of an article to make an inference about an idea presented in the article.
18	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a phrase in an article.
19	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Identify evidence from a section of an article that supports an idea developed in another article.
20	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.9	SR	Determine how information is presented similarly in specific sections of two articles.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Determine a similar characteristic shared by individuals in two articles.
22	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a multiple-meaning word in an article; identify a sentence from another article that illustrates the meaning.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.9	SR	Determine what is revealed about a topic using evidence from two articles.
24	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.2, W.7.4	ES	Write an explanatory essay about the challenges of a given task; use information from two articles to support the essay.
25	<i>Language</i>	L.7.3	SR	Identify the purpose of punctuation in a line of a poem.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.5	SR	Analyze the purpose of the structure of a poem.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Analyze how a poem uses metaphors to develop central ideas.
28	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a phrase in a poem.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Determine what a phrase helps to reveal about a character in a poem.

CBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Determine the meaning of imagery in a poem.
31	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Determine a theme of a poem.

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

Grade 7 English Language Arts
Spring 2024 Paper-Based Operational Items

PBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
1	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Identify a central idea in a passage.
2	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Determine a character’s traits based on details in a passage.
3	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Use context to determine which meaning of a multiple-meaning word is used in a passage.
4	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Make an inference about how a narrator’s feelings change throughout a passage.
5	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Analyze how figurative language contributes to understanding a character in a passage.
6	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Make an inference about a character from a specific paragraph in a passage.
7	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Identify what the actions of a character reveal about the character in a specific paragraph of a passage.
8	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Analyze the mood created in a paragraph of a passage.
9	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Determine a central idea developed in a passage; identify supporting evidence from the passage.
10	<i>Language</i>	L.7.5	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a word in a passage; identify an antonym of the word used in another passage.
11	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.3	SR	Determine how settings similarly help develop the main characters in two passages; identify supporting evidence from the passages.
12	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.2, W.7.4	ES	Write an essay explaining the development of the main characters in two passages; use details from both passages to support the essay.
13	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Identify the purpose of sentences from a section of an article.
14	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.2	SR	Analyze how a specific paragraph contributes to the development of an article.
15	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.6	SR	Determine the purpose of a specific paragraph in an article.
16	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Analyze how a specific paragraph develops an important idea in an article.
17	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Use information from a section of an article to make an inference about an idea presented in the article.
18	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a phrase in an article.
19	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.5	SR	Identify evidence from a section of an article that supports an idea developed in another article.
20	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.9	SR	Determine how information is presented similarly in specific sections of two articles.
21	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.3	SR	Determine a similar characteristic shared by individuals in two articles.
22	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a multiple-meaning word in an article; identify a sentence from another article that illustrates the meaning.
23	<i>Reading</i>	RI.7.9	SR	Determine what is revealed about a topic using evidence from two articles.
24	<i>Language, Writing</i>	L.7.1, L.7.2, L.7.3, W.7.2, W.7.4	ES	Write an explanatory essay about the challenges of a given task; use information from two articles to support the essay.
25	<i>Language</i>	L.7.3	SR	Identify the purpose of punctuation in a line of a poem.
26	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.5	SR	Analyze the purpose of the structure of a poem.
27	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Analyze how a poem uses metaphors to develop central ideas.
28	<i>Language</i>	L.7.4	SR	Use context to determine the meaning of a phrase in a poem.
29	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Determine what a phrase helps to reveal about a character in a poem.

PBT Item No.	Reporting Category	Standard	Item Type*	Item Description
30	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.4	SR	Determine the meaning of imagery in a poem.
31	<i>Reading</i>	RL.7.2	SR	Determine a theme of a poem.

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