**Next-Generation MCAS English Language Arts (ELA)**

**Retest Information**

This document describes the test design, question types, and other information related to the next-generation MCAS ELA retest. Retests will be administered twice a year in November and March.

**Standards Alignment**

The retest is aligned to the [2017 Massachusetts ELA Curriculum Framework](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html). More information about standards alignment can be found [here](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/resources/ela-coding.html).

**Number of Sessions**

The test will consist of two sessions administered over two days.

**Question Types**

The following table shows information about the question types on the test.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question Type** | | **Total Points** |
| Selected Response (SR) | Multiple Choice  *Students select one correct answer from four answer options.* | 1 |
| Multiple Choice – Two-Part  *These items are two-part questions. Students select the correct answer(s) for each part of the question.* | 2 |
| Technology Enhanced *Students taking the computer-based test answer questions using technology such as drag-and-drop.* | 2 |
| Essay (ES) | Text-Based Essay *Students write an essay in response to text(s) they have read.* | 8 |

**Test Design**

Students will perform the following tasks.

* Read four passage sets.
* Answer 1-point and 2-point selected-response questions for each passage set.
* Write essays for two of the four passage sets. The remaining two passage sets will not include a writing component.

The table below shows the point distribution by question type.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of 1-Point Questions (SR)** | **Number of 2-Point Questions (SR)** | **Number of Essays (ES)** | **Total Points on Test\*** |
| 21–27 | 4–7 | 2 | 51 |

**Reporting Categories**

The following table shows the percentage of each reporting category on the test.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reporting Category** | **Percentage**  **(+/- 5%)** |
| Reading | 55% |
| Language | 25% |
| Writing | 20% |

**Essays**

Rubrics for essay questions can be found [here](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/ela.html?section=rubrics). In addition, blank response boxes for the computer-based test will be available for students to practice with. A student’s response can be longer than the space visible in a response box. If a student’s writing fills the response box, a scroll bar will appear, and the student can continue typing. The student can scroll up or down to see their response. The amount of space provided for student responses is 5,000 characters (equivalent to two hand-written pages).

Students taking the accommodated paper-based test will write their responses on two lined pages.

**Additional Resources**

For more information about the test, see the [student work samples](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/), [released questions](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html) and materials posted on the [MCAS Resource Center](https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/).