Script from the spring 2021 MCAS PBT TAM
for Grades 3–8 ELA and Session 1 of Grade 10 ELA
Part V

Administering the Test Session for the Grades 3–8 ELA Test and Session 1 of the Grade 10 ELA Test
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A Materials Needed for this Session

1. Prior to testing, you will receive the following materials for students assigned to you:  
   - this manual  
   - test & answer booklets  
     - FOR GRADES 3–8: English Language Arts test & answer booklets, half with the Session 1 pages paper-clipped, and half with the Session 2 pages paper-clipped  
     - FOR GRADE 10: English Language Arts Session 1 test & answer booklets  
   - scratch paper (blank, lined, or graph)  
   - optional: English Language Arts practice tests (if not previously administered)  
   - a list of students’ SASIDs, if applicable  
   - Student ID Labels, if labels were not previously applied to booklets  
     - If your principal has instructed you to apply Student ID Labels to test & answer booklets before testing, do so before the students arrive for testing.  
   - optional, grades 6, 7, 8, and 10: Student Responsibilities during MCAS Testing forms  
     - If your principal has instructed you, have the students read the statement, sign the document, and return it to you.  
   - a tracking form to assist you and your principal in maintaining the security of test materials  

Note: English-language dictionaries are not allowed during the English Language Arts test.

2. You will also need the following materials available in your testing space prior to testing:  
   - “MCAS Testing—Do Not Disturb” sign  
   - printed copies of authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries for current and former EL students  
   - #2 pencils  

3. You will likely receive more materials than needed for your group of students. Notify your principal immediately if you need additional materials. Set aside unassigned materials and keep them secure until you return them to your principal.

Remember that all test & answer booklets (including large-print booklets, Braille booklets, and Braille Administrator’s Copies) are secure materials and must be tracked properly from the time you receive them until you return them to your principal.

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2 If applicable for any student in your assigned group, you will also receive Braille test materials or large-print test materials.
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B Before Students Arrive
1. Make sure the testing space has been appropriately prepared (see page 24).
2. Post the “MCAS Testing—Do Not Disturb” sign on the outside of the door of the testing space.
3. Write your name on the board.
4. Write the name of your school and district on the board.

C As Students Arrive
1. Collect books from students who brought them to read in the event they finish their work before the end of the test session.
2. Approve any bilingual dictionaries brought by current and former EL students to use during the test session according to the guidelines in Appendix G. All other dictionaries are prohibited during this session.
3. Make sure that students do not have access to cell phones or other electronic devices during testing. These devices are prohibited, and their use for any purpose may result in the invalidation of test results.
4. Say to the students:
   “Before we begin the test, you need to know that cell phones, music players, e-book readers, or other electronic devices are not allowed for any reason during this session, even after you turn in your materials. Results may be invalidated for students with any of these devices during testing or after turning in test materials.”
5. If your principal has instructed you to do so, read the following recommended script:
   “Remember you were given instructions recently at a student meeting about appropriate activities you can do when you finish testing and those you will not be allowed to do. Raise your hand if you have any questions about appropriate things you can do during this session when you finish testing.”
   Answer any questions students have. Then say:
   “If you have an electronic device with you, please make sure it is now turned off, put it in your backpack, and leave it by the side of the room. You will be able to access it again when I give you permission to do so.”
   Pause to make sure that students have turned cell phones and other electronic devices off and have placed them in their backpacks.
6. If your principal has directed you to follow a different procedure to ensure that students do not have cell phones or other electronic devices in their possession, do so at this time. Schools are ultimately responsible for implementing procedures that ensure students do not possess cell phones or other electronic devices during testing.
7. Make sure that students’ desks are clear, except for authorized bilingual dictionaries for current and former EL students and #2 pencils. Students may also have colored pencils and yellow highlighters (see page 13).
8. Make sure that students are seated in a way that supports a secure test environment, and that no one can see anyone else’s booklets.
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Administer the Test Session

To ensure that all students across the state have access to the same information and receive the same instructions, test administrators must read the following script verbatim to their students. At any time during the test session, you may repeat a portion of the script if necessary for clarification.

If your principal has instructed you to do so, you will need to turn to section E at appropriate points during this session to read recommended scripts for students going to a supervised lunch or going to the restroom.

1. If you are administering

   **GRADES 3–8** say to the students:
   
   “We are about to begin the MCAS grade __________ (say the grade) English Language Arts test. The session you take today is the only session that you will take for MCAS English Language Arts this year. This is different from previous years when students took two sessions of each MCAS test.”

   **GRADE 10** say to the students:
   
   “We are about to begin the MCAS English Language Arts test. This is the first of two sessions that you will take. You will take Session 2 __________ (announce the date and time for Session 2). The results of this test will partially determine whether you receive a high school diploma, so it is important that you try to do your best work during this and every test session.”

2. Say to the students:

   “I will now hand out the test & answer booklets and scratch paper. Do not open your booklet until I tell you to do so. If your booklet has the year 2020 listed on the cover, do not be concerned. This is the correct booklet.”

   Distribute the test & answer booklets and one sheet of scratch paper to each student. If Student ID Labels have already been applied to the test & answer booklets, make sure that you give each student the correct assigned booklet.

3. If you are administering

   **GRADES 3–8** say to the students:
   
   “Your test & answer booklet contains two test sessions, Session 1 and Session 2, but as previously mentioned, you will only be taking one of these sessions. Whichever session has not been paper-clipped is the session you will take. Do not remove the paper clips from your test & answer booklet. Please raise your hand if you have any questions.”

   Answer any questions that students have, and make sure that they know which session they will be taking.

4. Say to the students:

   “You may use your scratch paper at any time during this test. If at any point you need more, raise your hand and I will give you another sheet. You may have up to three sheets of scratch paper at one time. If you need more than three sheets, you will have to turn in some of your used scratch paper.”
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Then say:

“Now pick up your test & answer booklet and QUICKLY flip through the pages of the session you will be taking today to see if there are any missing pages, completely blank pages, or pages that were printed upside down. Please raise your hand if you have a test & answer booklet with missing pages, blank pages, or upside-down pages.”

5. Collect any defective booklets and fill in the VOID circle on the back cover of each. Then write “VOID” in large letters across the front cover of each. Set aside these booklets to be returned to the principal. Give new booklets to those students who had defective materials (see section D on page 19).

6. If students will apply their own Student ID Labels, distribute the labels now. Instruct students to verify that the information on their labels is correct before they apply them. Any student who has a Student ID Label with incorrect information should return the label or prelabeled test & answer booklet to you. If the student’s SASID is correct on the label, the student may use the labeled booklet. If the SASID is incorrect or the student does not have a label, additional information must be completed on the front cover of an unlabeled booklet, according to the instructions in step 12 of this section.

7. When all Student ID Labels have been applied, say:

“Before beginning this test session, you will write some information on the front cover of your test & answer booklet. It is important that you complete all of this information CORRECTLY, and that you use ONLY a #2 pencil. You may NOT use a pen or any other writing instrument.”

8. If you are administering

**GRADES 3–8** say:

“At the top of the front cover, under the heading ‘Test Administrator Name(s),’ print my name on the line provided for Session 1. Even if you will be taking Session 2 in your test & answer booklet, you should use the line provided for Session 1 on the front cover of your booklet. My name is on the board for you to copy.”

Pause and check that students are completing the information correctly on the front covers of their test & answer booklets.

**GRADE 10** say:

“At the top of the front cover, under the heading ‘Test Administrator Name(s),’ print my name on the line provided for Session 1. My name is on the board for you to copy.”

Pause and check that students are completing the information correctly on the front covers of their test & answer booklets.

9. Then say:

“Print the school name and the district name on the lines provided. I have written the school and district names on the board for you to copy.”

Pause and check that students are completing the information correctly on the front covers of their test & answer booklets.
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10. Then say:

“Below the information you just printed is the title ‘Student Name Grid.’

Print the letters of your LAST name in the boxes below that title. Write one letter in each box, starting in the first box on the left. Between the printed words ‘Last Name’ and ‘First Name,’ you will see a dividing line. If your last name is longer than the space provided, fill in as much as will fit in front of the dividing line. If your last name has a hyphen or space, write the two names together as one word, without the hyphen or space.”

Pause for students to complete this section.

11. Then say:

“Print the letters of your FIRST name, starting with the box to the right of the dividing line. Do NOT write your nickname or use a different spelling of your name than usual. If your first name has a hyphen, write the two names together as one word, without the hyphen. Print your middle initial in the last box, under ‘MI.’”

Pause for students to complete this section.

12. If all of the students in your assigned group are using test & answer booklets with Student ID Labels, skip to step 13. Otherwise, continue with this step.

Say to the students:

“If your test & answer booklet does not have a Student ID Label on the lower right corner, you will now fill in the circles under each letter that you printed under the ‘STUDENT NAME GRID.’”

Pause and check that students are completing this task correctly.

Say:

“On the upper right side of the page, there is a section labeled ‘BIRTHDATE,’ with abbreviations for the months of the year. Fill in the circle to the right of the MONTH in which you were born. For example, if your birthday is in August, you will fill in the ‘8’ circle to the right of A-U-G.

Next, print the two numbers for the DAY on which you were born, one in each box underneath the word ‘DAY.’ If your birthdate is a single number, print a zero first. For example, if your birthday is on the second of the month, you will print the numbers ‘zero, two’ in the boxes underneath ‘DAY.’

Now print the numbers of the YEAR in which you were born in the boxes underneath ‘YEAR.’

Last, underneath each number you printed, fill in the circle that contains the same number.”

Pause and check that students are completing this task correctly. If students will be filling in their own SASIDs, say:

“Locate the box labeled ‘STATE-ASSIGNED STUDENT IDENTIFIER.’ I will provide each of you with your State-Assigned Student Identifier number so you can write the information and fill in the appropriate circles.”

Provide students with their SASIDs. Check that students are completing this task correctly.
13. Then say:

“Now I am going to tell you some information about the types of questions you will be answering.

Read each passage and question carefully. Then answer each question as well as you can.

For most questions, you will mark your answers by filling in the circles in your test & answer booklet. Make sure you darken the circles completely. Do not make any marks outside the circles. If you need to change an answer, erase your first answer completely.

Some questions will ask you to write a response. Be sure to write your response in the space provided in your test & answer booklet. Words that you write outside the provided space will NOT be included in your score.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. Later, you should review your answers and go back to any questions you did not answer in this session.

Be sure at the end of the test session that you have responded to every question and not left anything blank or unanswered.”

14. Say to the students:

“Next, I am going to tell you about some things that are allowed and some that are not allowed during this session.

You may use a yellow highlighter in your booklet if you like; however, you must write all your answers in your booklet using a #2 pencil ONLY.

It is important that MCAS tests are fair to all students. Therefore, the following things are not allowed: copying answers from anyone else; using notes, books, extra reference sheets, or any kind of class materials; writing notes to, or talking to other students; and providing answers or help to any other student. You must not ask for or receive help from anyone else in answering the questions. Also, you may not have a cell phone or any other electronic device with you during testing. All students are expected to be honest, do their best, and not cheat in any way.”

15. Say to the students:

“This test session is scheduled to be_________ (state length of test session) long. If you have not finished answering the questions at the end of that time, you will be given more time to finish. At most, you will have until the end of the school day, as long as you are working productively.

Once you begin the test, each test & answer booklet page for this session will say ‘GO ON’ at the bottom right corner of the page. Keep answering questions until you have answered the last question on the page that says ‘STOP’ at the bottom.”

(Optional) Pause to show students a sample page of a test & answer booklet that says “STOP” at the bottom.
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16. If you are administering

**GRADES 3–8**, say:

“If you finish answering the questions before the end of the test session, you should review your work for this session only.

Please open your test & answer booklet to the first page of the session that you will be taking, either Session 1 or Session 2.”

**GRADE 10**, say to the students:

“If you finish answering the questions before the end of the test session, you should review your work for this session.

Now please open your test & answer booklet to page 2, which says, ‘Grade 10 English Language Arts Session 1.’”

17. Then say:

“Read the directions on this page. You may begin Session 1 now.”

18. If you are administering the test to any students with disabilities using accommodation A12 (Typed Responses), turn to page 129 in Appendix D for the script to read to these students at this time.

19. It is your responsibility to ensure a secure testing environment.

Test security requirements are described in Part I, and other test administration protocols are described throughout this manual.

Circulate among the students while they take the test to see that they are working steadily, are not using cell phones or other electronic devices, and are in the correct session of their test & answer booklets.

Remember that you may view students’ booklets for the sole purpose of confirming that students are working in the correct session. A test administrator may not review booklets to confirm whether students have marked all their responses.

20. (Optional) Approximately midway through the session, say to students:

“You may now have a short break during which you may stand up and stretch. During the break, you may not have conversations with other students. If you do not want to take a break, you may continue working. The break will be _____ (state the length of the break) minutes long. Please place your scratch paper and your pencil inside your booklet at the page you are working on, and close your booklet.”

The break may be scheduled for 3–5 minutes, at the test administrator’s discretion. When the break is complete, say to the students:

“The break is over. Please open your test & answer booklet and begin working again now.”
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21. When the session time is half over, say to the students:

“The scheduled session time is half over. Make sure that you answer every question in this session. When you are finished answering all of the questions in this session and reviewing your work, you may hand in your test materials to me. Remember, if you are still working at the end of the scheduled session, you will be given more time to finish your test.”

22. Say to ANY STUDENT WHO FINISHES EARLY:

“Before you hand me your booklets, I want to remind you that you should make sure you have answered every question in your assigned session and not left anything blank or unanswered.

Remember, once you turn in your test, you will not be permitted to go back to this test session.

I want to remind you that cell phones, music players, e-book readers, and other electronic devices are still not allowed until I give you permission.”

Permit students to check whether they have answered every question.

23. At the END OF THE SESSION, say:

“This is the end of the time scheduled for this session. Before I collect your booklets, I want to remind you that you should make sure you have answered every question in your assigned session and not left anything blank or unanswered.

Remember, once you turn in your test, you will not be permitted to go back to this test session.”

Pause to allow students to check whether they have answered every question.

24. Say to the students:

“Please put your pencil down and close your booklet. If you need more time to answer any questions, raise your hand.”

25. Note which students need more time and then pick up each student’s booklet and scratch paper, keeping the materials of students who need more time separate from the others. Verify that you have a used test & answer booklet and scratch paper from each student.

26. If you are administering the test to any students using accommodation A12 (Typed Responses), ask students to review their printed typed responses. Do not dismiss students until they have confirmed that their printed typed responses are ready to submit. After these students have completed testing, see page 130 in Appendix D for further instructions.

27. For students who need more time, if your principal has instructed you to do so, read the following recommended script to students who are moving to a test completion room:

“If you have not yet finished your work in this session, you will be moved to __________ (location) to complete the test. You will have until the end of the school day to finish your work, as long as you are working productively.

Your test materials will be brought there for you. Your cell phone and any other electronic devices must remain off, and you may not access them until I or another test administrator gives you permission to do so.”
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If your principal has directed you to follow a different procedure to ensure that students do not have cell phones or other electronic devices in their possession while moving to a test completion room, do so at this time.

Be sure to complete appropriate tracking documents and follow your principal’s instructions for maintaining the security of test materials for students in a test completion room.

28. Make a list of all students in your assigned group who were not tested. These students will need to take this session during the make-up period. If all the students assigned to you took this session, notify your principal of this. It is important to keep accurate records of who has been tested, as it is not permissible to look through assigned test & answer booklets to check whether students have completed testing.

29. Verify that any students who filled in circles for their names, dates of birth, and SASIDs on the front covers of test & answer booklets have done so correctly. If not, correct the information on the front covers at this time.

30. Group test materials into the following separate piles:
   - used test & answer booklets
   - used scratch paper
   - unused scratch paper
   - void test & answer booklets
   - unused test materials
   - practice tests (if applicable)
   - Student Responsibilities during MCAS Testing forms, if applicable
   - contaminated test materials, if applicable (Remember to notify your principal or designee.)

31. Complete appropriate tracking documents, as instructed by your principal.

32. Immediately return all test materials and the list of students to your principal.

Remember that all test & answer booklets (including large-print booklets, Braille booklets, and Braille Administrator’s Copies) are secure materials and must be tracked properly from the time you receive them until you return them to your principal.
Recommended Scripts to Read for a Supervised Lunch or Restroom Break

1. For students who will be escorted to a SUPERVISED LUNCH, if your principal has instructed you to do so, read the following recommended script to students:

   “It is now time for lunch. You will be able to continue testing after lunch, and you will have until the end of the school day to finish your work, as long as you are working productively.

   You will be going to ____________ (location) after your supervised lunch to finish testing, and your test materials will be brought there for you. Your cell phone or other electronic devices must remain off during lunch, and you may not access them until the test administrator gives you permission to do so. Also, you may not discuss the test during your lunch break.”

   If your principal has directed you to follow a different procedure to ensure that students have a supervised lunch and security is maintained, do so at this time.

   Be sure to complete appropriate tracking documents and follow your principal’s instructions for maintaining the security of test materials for these students.

2. For students who ask to use the RESTROOM during the test session, if your principal has instructed you to do so, read or point to this recommended script:

   “You may not retrieve or access your cell phone or any prohibited materials while you are out of the room.”

   If your principal has directed you to follow a different procedure, do so at this time.