



2019 MCAS Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) Test Information

Beginning in spring 2019, students in grade 10 will begin taking the Next Generation MCAS test in English Language Arts (ELA). This document describes the test design, question types, and other information related to the ELA test.

Standards Alignment

The 2019 MCAS Grade 10 ELA tests will be aligned to the [2017 Massachusetts ELA Curriculum Framework](#). More information about standards alignment to the test can be found [here](#).

Number of Sessions

The grade 10 test will have two sessions.

Question Types

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

Question Type	Total Points
Multiple Choice <i>Students select one correct answer from among several answer options.</i>	1
Multiple Select <i>Students select more than one correct answer from among several answer options. These items include two part questions.</i>	2
Technology Enhanced <i>Students taking the computer-based test answer questions using technology such as drag-and-drop and hot spot.</i>	2
Narrative and Text-Based Essays <i>Students write an essay in response to text(s) they have read.</i>	8

Test Design

The test includes both common and matrix questions. Common questions count toward a student's score, while matrix questions consist of both field-test and equating questions and do not count toward a student's score.

Common Questions

Students will read four passage sets and answer the associated questions; each passage set will include a single passage or a passage pairing or tripling. Students will also be asked to write three essays associated with three of the passage sets. One passage set will not contain an essay.

Number of 1- Point Questions	Number of 2-point Questions	Number of Essays	Total Points on Test
21-27	4-7	3	59

Reporting Category Percentages (+/-5%)		
Reading	45%	29
Language	25%	15
Writing	30%	15
Totals	100%	59

Matrix Questions

Students will read two additional passage sets, respond to twelve questions (one or two-point) and write an essay.

Essays

Item-level directions will indicate the amount of space provided for each essay.

The amount of space provided for each essay on the grade 10 computer-based test is 5,000 characters, the equivalent of two hand-written pages.

Students will type their responses into response boxes that provide a similar amount of space. As a student types his or her response, a scroll bar will appear and the student can continue typing. The student can scroll up or down to see the typed response.

For more information on how to use response boxes, please see the [Student Tutorial](#). In addition, the Exhibits tab, found on the [practice tests](#) will be available for students during test administration.