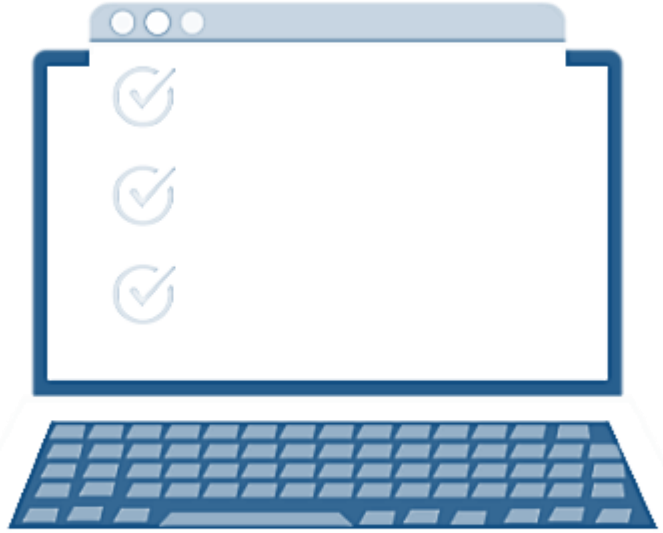
2027 RICAS ELA Test Design

November 2026

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Agenda

- Overview of New 2027 Revised Test
- Question Types/Components
- Revised Question Types
- Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Questions/Answers



Overview



What Stays the Same

- Two test sessions
- Students will still be asked to write in response to text
- Passages with selected response questions
- All questions continue to be aligned to our standards
- Cognitive Skill Levels (identifying, inferring/analyzing and applying/evaluation
- Achievement Level Descriptors

2027 Test Design Revisions

- **Stand-alone questions** (not associated with a passage) will assess grade-level language standards.
- The tests will include long, **medium** and short passages (previously only long and short passages).
- **All** selected-response questions will now be worth **1 point**.
- **Extended-response questions** will replace constructed response and essay questions for grades 3-5.
- All ELA tests will be worth **50 points** each.

What will students be scored on?

Grades 3-5

Students will encounter and be scored on the following:

- 1 **long** passage set with **12** selected response items and **1 extended response**
- 1 **medium** passage set with **9** selected response items and **1 extended response**
- 2 short passage sets with **10** selected response items **without writing**
- **9 stand-alone questions**

Grades 6-8

Students will encounter and be scored on the following:

- 1 **long** passage set with **12** selected response items and **1 essay**
- 1 **medium** passage set with **9** selected response items and **1 extended response**
- 2 short passage sets with **10** selected response items **without writing**
- **6 stand-alone questions**

Operational Questions and Points

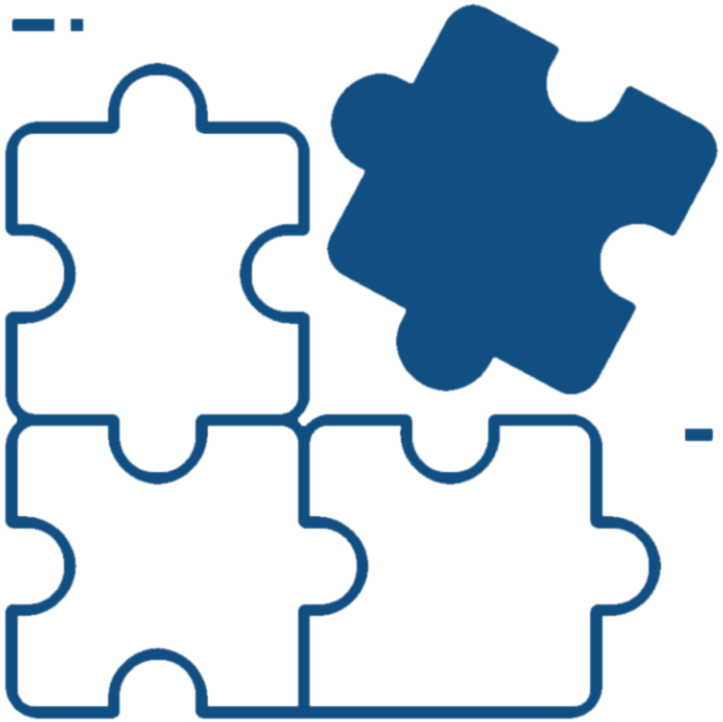
Grades 3-5

	Selected Response (1 point)	Extend Response (5 points)	Total Operational Points (50 points)
Long Passage set	12	1	17
Medium Passage set	9	1	14
Short Passage set	5	NA	5
Short Passage set	5	NA	5
Stand-alone	9	NA	9
			50

Grades 6-8

	Selected Response (1 point)	Extend Response (5 points)	Essay (8 points)	Total Operational Points (50 points)
Long Passage set	12	--	1	20
Medium Passage set	9	1	--	14
Short Passage set	5	NA	NA	5
Short Passage set	5	NA	NA	5
Stand-alone	6	NA	NA	6
				50

Question Types/Components



Passage Types

Three passage types including **literary** and **informational**:

- Long
  - ❑ may include passage set
  - ❑ writing
- Medium
  - ❑ may include passage set
  - ❑ writing
- Short
  - ❑ may include passage set
  - ❑ **no** writing

Questions

Passage –based questions

- Include a passage or passage set
- Assess **reading, language** and **writing** standards

Stand-alone questions

- Not associated with a passage (discrete)
- Assess grade-level **language standards** (English grammar, mechanics and usage which includes spelling)

Question Types

Grades 3-5

Question Type	Item	Points	Standards
Selected Response	•Multiple Choice •Multi-select •Tech Enhanced	1	Reading Language
Extended Response	• Written Expression • Conventions	3 2	Writing Language

Grades 6-8

Question Type	Item	Points	Standards
Selected Response	•Multiple Choice •Multi-select •Tech Enhanced	1	Reading Language
Extended Response	• Written Expression • Conventions	3 2	Writing Language
Essay	• Idea Development • Conventions	5 3	Writing Language

Selected Response Item Examples



Selected Response Multiple Choice
Stand-alone

Read the sentences in the box.

We got to the library early. It was already closed.

What is the **best** way to combine the sentences?

A We got to the library early, but it was already closed.

B We got to the library early since it was already closed.

C We got to the library early, which it was already closed.

D We got to the library early because it was already closed.

Grade 5
L 5.3a

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Selected Response Multiple-select
Stand-alone

Read the sentence in the box.

The teacher reminded the students to observe the experiment, watching carefully and looking closely for any changes.

Select **two** words from the sentence that **best** help the reader understand the meaning of the word ***observe***.

- A reminded
- B students
- C watching
- D looking
- E changes

1 point- there are no partial point questions

Grade 3
L 3.4

Selected Response Multiple-select
Stand-alone

Select **two** sentences that use a comma correctly.

A It was cold, and wet outside in the yard.

B The birds lifted their small, soaked wings.

C Without wet soil it is difficult, to search for a worm.

D The robins gathered, at the edge of the playground.

E The robins picked through the grass, hoping to find tasty worms.

1 point- there are no partial point questions

Image provided by dese MASSACHUSETTS Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Selected Response Drag and Drop
Stand-alone

Drag and drop a word into each box to correctly complete the sentence.

while | those | what | who | why

We discovered that it was our neighbor _____ was baking the cookies _____ we played outside.

Grade 4
L 4.1d

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Selected Response Drag and Drop
Stand-alone

Drag and drop a description into each row of the table to indicate whether the sentence is an example of formal language or informal language. Each description may be used once, more than once, or not at all.

formal | informal

Sentence	Type of Language
You just gotta see the new skateboard trick I learned to do yesterday!	
I can't believe how super cold it's been around here so far this winter.	
Thank you for taking the time to meet with me this evening.	

Grade 6
L 6.3b

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Selected Response
Multiple Choice

Read Cecilia's quotation from paragraph 33 in the box.

> "Your reward will be the widening of the horizon as you climb."

Based on the article, what does the phrase "the widening of the horizon" **most likely** mean?

Ⓐ increased understanding

Ⓑ unlimited freedom

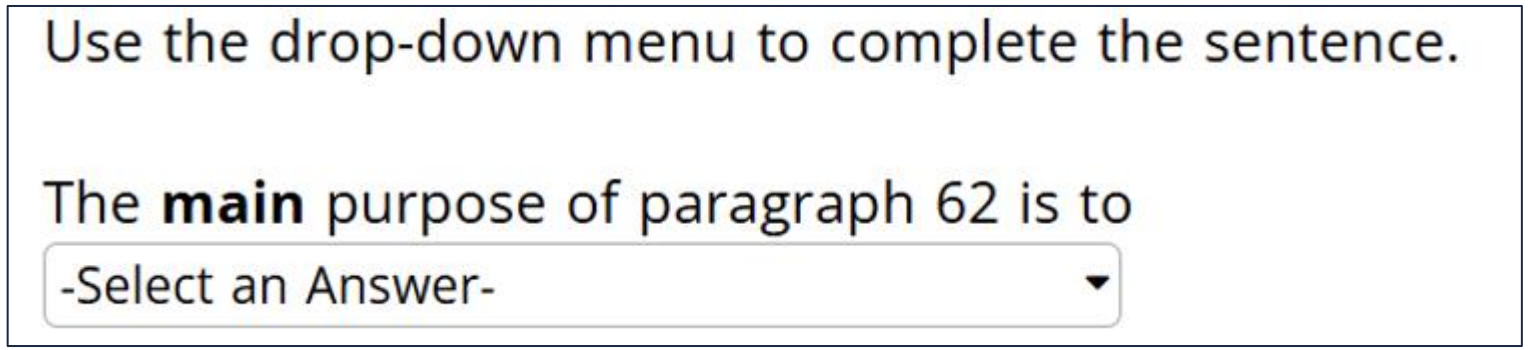
Ⓒ continued peace

Ⓓ expanded pride

Grade 7
L 7.5

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Selected Response Inline Choice (Dropdown)



Grade 4
RI 4.5

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Selected Response
Hot Text

Select **one** word from paragraphs 10–12 that is used as an **adverb**.

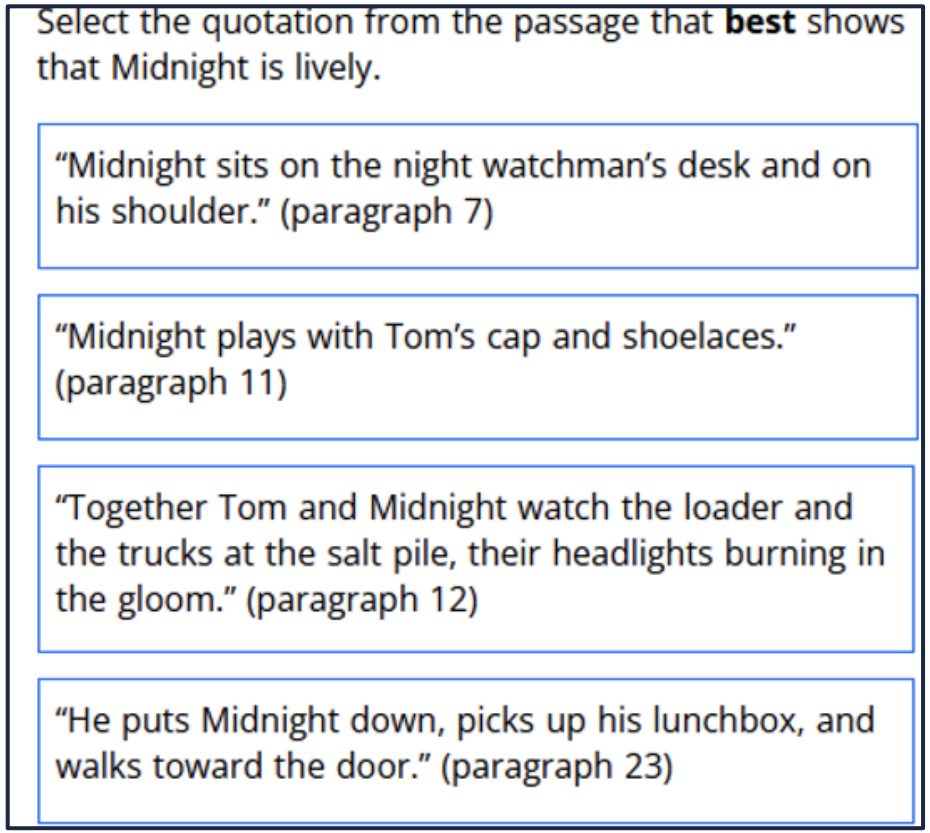
10 And then you lift your hands high above your head and slam them down on the keys and the first notes come crashing out and your fingers fly up and down and your foot—in its tiny slipper with rubies at the toe—your foot peeks out from under your gown to press lightly on the pedals.

11 A piano is glamorous. Sophisticated. Worldly.

12 It is a wonderful thing to play the piano. . . .

Grade 3
L 3.1

Selected Response
Hot Spot



Grade 3
RL 3.3

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Selected Response Table Grid (Matrix)

Select a button in **each** row to show whether the quotation from the passage is an example of a fact or an opinion.

Quotation	Fact	Opinion
"Many cold-water fish travel in giant groups called schools." (paragraph 8)	○	○
"Many kinds of fishes can change their skin color to blend in with their surroundings. . . ." (paragraph 17)	○	○
"It's been fun to think of ways that tropical reefs are like 'cities' and cooler waters are more 'country,' . . ." (paragraph 25)	○	○

1 point- there are no partial point questions

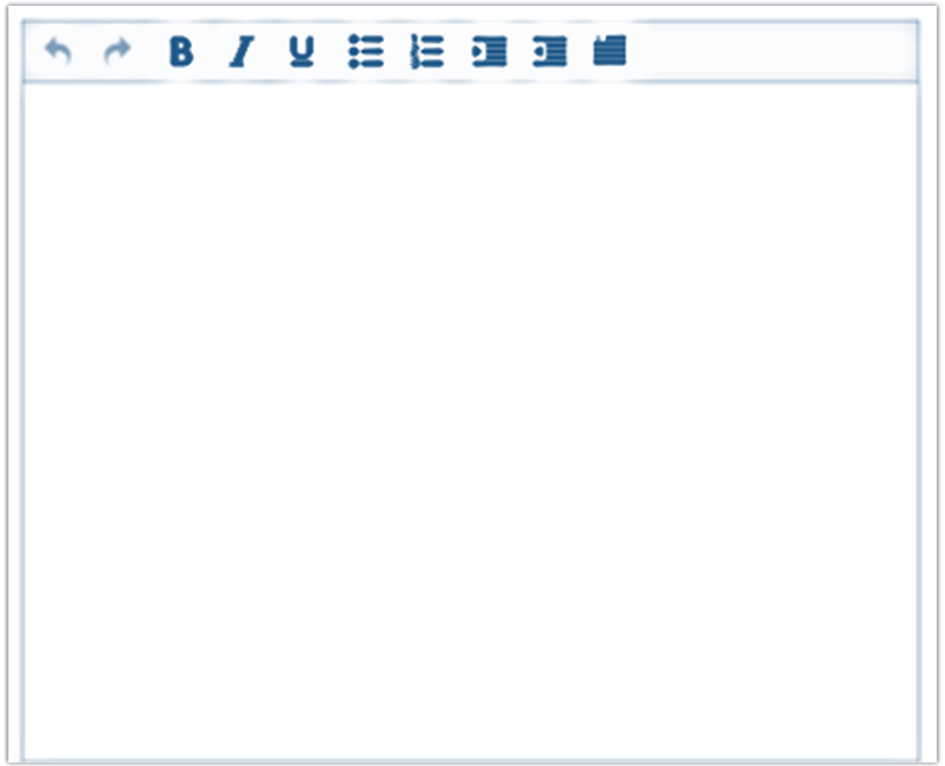
Grade 5
RI 5.5

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Extended Response Questions



Extended Response

Responses will be based on medium and long passages.

Expected Response lengths are

- about one paragraph or **300 words** for **grade 3**
- about one to two paragraphs or **400 words** for **grades 4 and 5**
- about one to two paragraphs or **500 words** for **grades 6-8**

Expected length of response will be included in the written directions for each question on the test.

Based on a two-trait rubric worth **5 points**

Assess writing and language standards:

- **Written Expression** (3 points)
  - Writing Types: Opinion/Argument W1) **or** Informative/Explanatory (W2) *no narrative writing*
  - Writing production (W4)
- **Conventions**
  - Conventions and Knowledge of Standard English (L1, L2, L3)

Extended Response Rubric
Grades 3-5

Scoring Guide for Written Expression

3	2	1	0
• clearly explains ideas • thoroughly uses evidence to support ideas • clearly organizes ideas	• partially explains ideas • adequately uses evidence to support ideas • partially organizes ideas	• minimally explains ideas • insufficiently uses evidence to support ideas • minimally organizes ideas	• does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question

Scoring Guide for Standard English Conventions

2	1	0
• mostly consistent control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response • mostly consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response • any errors do not interfere with communication	• some control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response • some control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response • some errors begin to interfere with communication	• incorrectly formed sentences with no control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and/or sentences of insufficient length • contains many errors that interfere with communication

Extended Response Rubric
Grades 6-8

Scoring Guide for Written Expression

3	2	1	0
• effective explanation of ideas • effective selection of evidence to support ideas • effective organization	• adequate explanation of ideas • adequate selection of evidence to support ideas • adequate organization	• minimal explanation of ideas • minimal selection of evidence to support ideas • minimal organization	• does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question

Scoring Guide for Standard English Conventions

2	1	0
• appropriate control of a variety of sentence structures relative to the length of the response • appropriate control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of the response	• partial control of a variety of sentence structures relative to the length of the response • partial control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of the response	• no control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and/or is of insufficient length

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Extended Response Example

Grade 3 Explanatory

300 words

Write a response that is about **one paragraph** in length.

Be sure to:

- Include an explanation based on the passage.
- Use evidence from the passage to support the explanation.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on "Midnight and the Night Watchman," write a response that explains how Tom shows kindness in the passage. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Extended Response Example

Grade 4 Opinion

400 words

Write a response that is **one to two paragraphs** in length.

Be sure to:

- Include an opinion based on the passage.
- Use evidence from the passage to support the opinion.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on *Komodo Dragons*, write a response that states an opinion about which of the Komodo dragon's features is **most** important to its survival. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Extended Response Example

Grade 7 Explanatory

500 words

Write a response that is about **one to two paragraphs** in length.

Be sure to:

- Use evidence from the passage to support your response.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on "The Girl Who Changed the Universe," write a response that explains how Cecilia showed determination in her pursuit to become an astronomer. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Frequently Asked Questions



FAQs

Question	Answer
Are there practice tests with the new item types?	**Yes**, new items are now included in both the CBT and PBT practice tests
Will there be new graphic organizers for students with the accommodation for the extended response?	**Yes**, new graphic organizers are now available on the RIDE website
Are there new rubrics for the extended response item type?	**Yes**, the new rubrics are available on the RIDE website
Are there student samples with rubric score points for us to see?	**Yes**, student samples are available at every grade level
Will students be penalized for writing more than 1 or 1-2 paragraphs on the extended response?	**No**, students will not be penalized, however, there is a word count limit: • **Grade 3- 300 words, Grade 4-5- 400 words, Grades 6-8- 500 words**
Will students be asked to use evidence on the new extended response?	**Yes**, students must cite evidence from the text either in the form of paraphrasing or quotations. Scoring does not privilege quotes over paraphrasing
Will students still be asked read narrative passages?	**Yes**, both literary and informational text are still on the test and both Literature and Informational standards for reading continue to be assessed
Will students be asked to write in narrative form?	**No**, students will only be asked to write in opinion or explanatory form (W1 or W2 and W4)

FAQs

Question	Answer
Will essays still be part of the assessment?	**Yes**, essays are still on the grades **6-8 ELA test**
Is spelling still assessed on the new extended response it is not stated on the rubric?	**Yes**, spelling is still assessed. It is part of usage on the rubric
How is spelling assessed on the extended response as it is not called out on the rubric?	Student work is analyzed for **control** (i.e., repeated spelling errors or grammatical errors demonstrates loss of control)
Will students encounter field test items that are not part of their score?	**Yes**, every test includes field test items as in prior years
Do we know where the field test items will be?	**No**, they can show up anywhere on the test; there is no way to know which items are FT items
Are the stand-alone items linked to a passage?	**No**, the stand-alone items are discrete and are not linked to any passage
How will students encounter the stand-alone items?	The stand-alone items will be **grouped together**, however there is no way to know which session they will be in or where they will fall in a session
What will the stand-alone items assess?	Grade level language standards
Are the stand-alone items the only items that will assess language standards?	**No**, there will still be questions embedded in the passage sets that address language standards and the extended response and essays assess language standards.

FAQs

Question	Answer
Can a student receive a partial point on an item?	**No**, all items are worth one point and they must get all parts to multi select or multi part items correct to receive the point
Will a student know if they did not answer all parts of a question?	**Yes,** the student will be alerted when they go to turn in the test that there is an item(s) not complete and they will be able to go back and review and complete the item(s)
Are session testing time suggestions changing?	RIDE will review session testing times and alert the field if there is a change

Resources



Resources

Practice tests for grades 3-8
- Available on the **MCAS Resource Center** today
- Available on the **RICAS Resource Center** on November 24

Student Work samples of extend response items on practice tests with rubrics
- Available on the **MCAS Resource Center** today
- Available on the **RICAS Resource Center** on November 24

MCAS Grades 3-8 ELA Transition Webpage
- Timeline
- Revised test design
- Frequently asked questions
- Rubrics

RICAS Test Design

RIDE State Assessment Update Memo
- Email assessment@ride.ri.gov

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