7 Full-Length Massachusetts MCAS

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

A Complete Guide to Building Mastery and Excelling on the English Test

Grade 8



Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

7 Full Length Massachusetts MCAS Grade 8 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests:

Proven Practice With Detailed Explanations To Help Students

Climb Milestones

1. Start with focus 2. Compare ideas 3. Infer carefully 4. Revise clearly 5. Explain with evidence 6. Build stamina 7. Finish strong

Step by step, skill by skill.

Reza Nazari

Built for sustained growth across a longer practice climb

Copyrighted Material

Copyright © 2026

Effortless Math Education Inc

Published by Effortless Math Education
www.effortlessmath.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law, including Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act.

This publication is independently produced and has no official connection to any state, district, or national testing program.

Test names and organizational names used herein are the property of their respective trademark holders.

Copyright © 2026

Copyrighted Material

Smart Practice

The Difference Between Busy and Better.

Busy practice fills time. Better practice changes you. The quiet truth: the thirty minutes after a test matters more than the ninety minutes of the test itself. That is where real learning lives — in the review, not the rep. Here is what separates a score plateau from a score climb:

✓ Six Moves That Raise Real Scores

1. **Simulate the pressure.** One seat, one timer, no phone, no interruptions. Stamina is its own skill and you can only train it by using it.
2. **Preview the questions, then attack the passage.** Skim the question stems first. That turns reading from passive intake into a directed search.
3. **Annotate with purpose.** Circle transitions (*however*, *therefore*, *in contrast*). Bracket claims. Underline evidence. These marks become your map back to the answer.
4. **Do a miss audit after every test.** Sort your wrong answers into four piles: *knowledge gap*, *careless misread*, *time pressure*, *trap answer*. Each one demands a different fix.
5. **Upgrade one skill per week.** Pick one weakness — inference, vocabulary in context, claim-and-evidence writing — and make it the focus. Narrow practice beats broad review.
6. **Protect sleep like it is part of the test.** Working memory, focus, and stamina all collapse on less than seven hours. You cannot out-study exhaustion.

⋆ The Rewrite Habit

After each test, pick one short response and rewrite it — cleaner claim, tighter evidence, sharper analysis. Do this just three times across this book and your writing will visibly level up. The rewrite, not the first draft, is where eighth-grade writing becomes high-school-ready.

The Big Day

Your Test Day Playbook.

Calm is a skill. This is how to bring it with you.

◯ The Night Before

- Pack everything tonight. Pencils, eraser, water, ID, approved calculator if needed.
- Do light review only — a single short passage. No new material. No all-nighter.
- Eat something familiar. Tonight is not the night to experiment with anything new.
- Phone out of the room an hour before bed. Protect your sleep like it is part of the grade.

◯ The Morning Of

- Eat protein and complex carbs. Skip the sugar spike — the crash comes during the test.
- Move your body for five minutes. Walk, stretch, shake out your hands. Lower the nerves.
- Arrive early enough to settle, not so early that waiting builds up pressure.
- At the door, four slow breaths: *in for four, hold for four, out for six.* It works.

Use the passage "How Green Roofs Cool Cities" to answer this question.

5) Which **TWO** details from the passage best support the claim that green roofs help cities beyond lowering temperature?Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) They can absorb some rainwater during storms.
(B) They make every building lighter and easier to repair.
(C) They eliminate the need for sewer systems.
(D) They can provide habitat for insects and birds.
(E) They guarantee lower taxes for residents.

Use the passage "How Green Roofs Cool Cities" to answer this question.

6) Which conclusion is best supported by the passage?

(A) Green roofs work best when installed without any long-term maintenance plan.
(B) Green roofs are mostly decorative and do not affect city infrastructure.
(C) Only wealthy cities can reduce urban heat.
(D) Green roofs are useful because they address several urban problems at once.

Use the passage "How Green Roofs Cool Cities" to answer this question.

7) What is the author's main purpose in writing this passage?

(A) To entertain readers with a story about rooftop gardens
(B) To criticize people who prefer traditional roofs
(C) To inform readers about how green roofs function and why cities are adopting them
(D) To prove that all environmental problems can be solved by planting more flowers

Scan Me

Use the passage "How Green Roofs Cool Cities" to answer this question.

8) Which sentence best summarizes the passage?

(A) Because cities are hot, any kind of rooftop garden will automatically solve every environmental issue.

(B) Green roofs are fashionable rooftop spaces that mainly exist to make buildings look modern.

(C) Green roofs use plants and soil to cool buildings, manage rainwater, and add ecological value, although they require careful planning.

(D) Urban neighborhoods are always warmer than rural areas because cities have no trees at all.

Read the story and the poem. Then answer questions 9–19.

Signal on the Roof

1 When the power flickered out across the entire neighborhood on a humid summer evening, Leila looked up from her algebra homework and saw every apartment window on the block turn dark at once, a sudden blackness that was both strange and complete. For a moment, the city sounded fundamentally different without its constant mechanical hum—the air conditioners, the refrigerators, the distant traffic signals—creating an eerie silence that felt almost unnatural. Then voices rose from the courtyard below as residents of the apartment building stepped onto balconies and stairwells in the growing darkness, asking urgently whether anyone knew what had happened, when power might return, whether this was a widespread outage or something affecting only their block. The uncertainty in those voices mixed with a note of collective concern.

2 Leila's grandfather was already reaching for the emergency radio he kept in the hall closet, a portable device he had maintained for decades along with spare batteries and backup supplies. He had grown up in a village in another country where power outages were common and prolonged, and he had developed a practical resilience that made him trust concrete tools—flashlights, spare batteries, canned food, a first-aid kit—more than speculation or complaints. *We check first, guess later*, he said with characteristic calm, handing Leila a sturdy flashlight and asking her to join him on the roof to assess the extent of the outage.

3 From the top of the building they could see definitively that the blackout stretched well beyond their block, affecting a large swath of the city. Traffic lights at three major intersections were dark, creating dangerous confusion for the few vehicles still moving cautiously through the streets. Stores on the avenue had already pulled their metal security gates halfway down, a precautionary measure taken when power failed and security systems went offline. Across the street, an elderly woman stood in the doorway of her building, peering out into the darkness with one hand shielding her eyes against the remaining daylight, trying to understand what was happening. Leila recognized her immediately as Mrs. Alvarez from the corner apartment, a resident Leila's grandfather had known for many years.