Test items

When an item (question) is "released" it is no longer used on live MCAS assessments. These items are then made accessible to the public and are available to use as practice by students.

Searching for Test Items

From http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/search/

Instructions

Use this tool to generate a custom set of MCAS released items. The question database currently contains 4172 released items administered on MCAS tests from 2007-2012. Additional items will be added as they are formatted for the site. Please note that due to copyright restrictions, ELA Reading Comprehension passages and their associated items from MCAS tests prior to 2007 are not included. Beginning in 2009, approximately 50% of common test items in grades 3-8 have been released each year. Beginning in 2013, the test items from the March retests in ELA and Mathematics are not being released.

Searching

Select one or more of the following criteria by using the pull-down menus beneath each category (all fields are optional):

- **Year** - filter results by the year in which test items were administered
- **Grade** - filter results by the grade level associated with items
- **Question Type** - filter results by question type (multiple-choice, open-response, short-answer, or writing-prompt)
- **Question Set** - filter results by test administration (e.g., Spring Release, November Retest)
- **Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks** - filter results by framework, strand, or topic

You may also search by keyword, calculator yes/no, and released/unreleased.

Additional information is available on The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website at http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/.

Viewing Your Results

Each item returned in your results will include a header with information about the item displayed in the following format:

Year, Question Set, Subject-Grade level   **Example:**   2012 Spring Release, Mathematics-Grade 10
Question number: Question type   Question 1: Multiple-Choice
Reporting Category   Number Sense and Operations
Standard and/or Topic   Standard: 10.N.1

Text Size: For optimal display, set your browser to view at medium or normal font size. See the browser's help menu for details.

- In Internet Explorer, go to the view menu > text size, and set it to medium.
- In Mozilla/Firefox, go to the view menu > zoom, and select reset.
- In Safari go to the view menu and select Make Text Normal Size.

Show/hide instructions: Show or hide these instructions by clicking the left-hand link under the heading MCAS Question Search at the top of the page.

Show Questions: The Show Questions box in the upper right-hand corner of each item allows users to create a custom set of items. Check the box next to each question you want included in your custom set of items, then click Show Questions.

Answers: View the selected test items with answers on or off by clicking the 'on' or 'off' links under the pull-down menu boxes, or by clicking Show Answer underneath an individual item.

Calculator icon (mathematics only): If students were allowed to use a calculator for a mathematics item, a calculator icon is displayed to the right. If students were not allowed to use a calculator for an item, the icon is crossed through by a large red 'X.'

Printing

Select 'Print View' from the bottom right side of any page. This link provides a resizable pop-up window that displays only the textual content from the page you are currently viewing.

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