

Massachusetts Arts Education Curriculum Matrix for English Language Arts

Massachusetts English Language Arts Strands/General Standards/ Learning Standards Grade 8	Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills Rankings	MCAS Grade 8 ELA Spring 2006 Released Test Items	Visual Arts	Dance	Music	Theatre
1.4 Know and apply rules for formal discussions (classroom, parliamentary debate, town meeting rules).	e16 e19 e20	L				
4.20 Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues (contrast, cause and effect).	e9	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.21 Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.	e9	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.22 Determine pronunciations, meanings, alternate word choices, parts of speech, or etymologies of words using dictionaries and thesauruses.	e9 e21	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.15 Recognize the basic patterns of English sentences (noun-verb; noun-verb-noun; noun-verb-noun-noun; noun-linking verb-noun).	e1 e7	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.16 Distinguish phrases from clauses.	e1 e7	H				✓
5.17 Recognize the makeup and function of prepositional phrases.	e1 e7	H				✓
5.18 Identify simple, compound, and complex sentences.	e1 e7	H				✓
5.19 Recognize appropriate use of pronoun reference.	e1 e7	H				✓
5.20 Identify correct mechanics (comma after introductory structures), correct usage (pronoun reference), and correct sentence structure (complete sentences, properly placed modifiers).	e1 e7	H	✓	✓	✓	✓