



# Computer-Based Sample Test Scoring Guide Grade 3 ELA



Updated January 2026  
Prepared by the Arizona Department of Education

## About the Sample Test Scoring Guide

The Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) Sample Test Scoring Guides provide details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for AASA Sample Test items.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:

- Item number
- Strand
- Cluster
- Content Standard
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK)
- Static presentation of the item
- Static presentation of student response field (when appropriate)
- Answer key, rubric or exemplar
- Applicable score point(s) for each item

The items included in this guide are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking the computer-based test for AASA Grade 3 ELA.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 1           | Reading for Literature | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RL.2           | 2   |

**Passage:**

- Why the Evergreen Trees Never Lose Their Leaves

What is the moral of the passage?

- ☒ A. Showing kindness to others in need is important.
- ☐ B. Keeping warm during the winter can be difficult.
- ☐ C. Making new friends can sometimes be hard to do.
- ☐ D. Sharing adventures with others is a fun part of life.

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 2           | Reading for Literature | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RL.3           | 3   |

Note: This question has two parts – Part A

This question has **two** parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

### Part A

At the beginning of the passage, the little bird feels—

- ☐ A. surprised by the snowy forest
- ☐ B. curious about the unusual trees
- ☒ C. sad about being left behind
- ☐ D. calmed by the thought of new friends

(Continued on the next page)

Note: This question has two parts (cont.) – Part B

### Part B

Which **two** details in paragraph 1 **best** support the answer in Part A?

1 Winter was coming, and the birds had flown far to the south, where the air was warm and they could find berries to eat. One little bird had broken its wing and **could not fly with the others**. It was **alone in the cold world** of frost and snow. The forest looked warm, and it made its way to the trees as well as it could, to ask for help.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answer(s) for each part.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster                            | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 3           | Reading for Literature | Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RL.7           | 2   |

Which **two** ideas about the bird are **best** supported by the picture?

- ☐ A. It has a broken wing and needs help.
- ☐ B. It must move away from a birch tree.
- ☒ C. It finds a tree where it can land.
- ☒ D. It can be safe among the many branches.
- ☐ E. It will have food to eat during the winter.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster             | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| 4           | Reading for Literature | Craft and Structure | 3.RL.4           | 1   |

What is the meaning of the word boughs as it is used in paragraph 4 of the passage?

- ☐ A. berries
- ☒ B. branches
- ☐ C. bark
- ☐ D. birches

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 5           | Reading for Literature | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RL.3           | 1   |

Which description matches each tree?

Move the correct answer to each box.

**Oak Tree**

**Fears that the  
little bird will eat  
too much**

**Pine Tree**

**Offers to help  
keep the little  
bird warm**

**Willow Tree**

**Refuses to help  
because the little  
bird is a stranger**

**(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.**



**Grade 3 ELA Sample Test**

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster             | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| 6           | Reading for Literature | Craft and Structure | 3.RL.5           | 2   |

The turning point of the passage occurs when—

- ☐ A. the little bird asks the birch tree for some help
- ☐ B. the juniper tree gives the little bird some berries
- ☐ C. the little bird approaches the willow tree
- ☒ D. the spruce tree calls out to the little bird

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster             | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| 7           | Reading for Literature | Craft and Structure | 3.RL.6           | 3   |

How does the narrator of the passage affect the story?

Complete the sentence by selecting the correct answers from the drop-down menus.

The narrator of the passage is a

voice that is not a character ▾, and this narrator helps the

reader know the thoughts of all the characters ▾.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 8           | Reading for Literature | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RL.1           | 2   |

Which **two** statements describe what happens at the end of the passage?

- ☐ A. The birch, oak, and willow trees keep their leaves by standing close together.
- ☐ B. The frost king becomes upset with the spruce, pine, and juniper trees.
- ☒ C. The pine tree protects the little bird from the cold north wind.
- ☐ D. The spruce tree makes sure the little bird has enough to eat.
- ☒ E. The cold north wind blows on all the birch, oak, and willow trees in the forest.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 9           | Reading for Information | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RI.3           | 2   |

**Passages:**

- Double the Fun
- Dancing with Bamboo

According to “Double the Fun,” how did David Walker affect the game of double Dutch?

- ☐ A. He changed the game by getting kids to dance or chant while they jumped.
- ☐ B. He taught the game to kids from other countries so that they could be in his contest.
- ☐ C. He discovered that kids in another country had created the game long ago.
- ☒ D. He helped make the game popular again after many kids had stopped playing it.

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster                            | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 10          | Reading for Information | Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RI.8           | 3   |

Note: This question has two parts – Part A

This question has **two** parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

### Part A

In “Double the Fun,” the author makes a connection between paragraphs 4 and 5 by—

- ☒ A. telling what happened to the game of double Dutch over time
- ☐ B. explaining a problem with double Dutch and how it was solved
- ☐ C. comparing places where people liked to play double Dutch
- ☐ D. giving reasons why double Dutch was given its name

(Continued on the next page)

Note: This question has two parts (cont.) – Part B

### Part B

Which phrase from these paragraphs **best** supports the answer in Part A?

- ☐ A. “Dutch colonists introduced it” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ B. “which is now New York City” (paragraph 4)
- ☒ C. “Double Dutch became very popular” (paragraph 5)
- ☐ D. “sidewalks offered plenty of room to play” (paragraph 5)

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answer for each part.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 11          | Reading for Information | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RI.1           | 2   |

“Double the Fun” indicates that kids who enter the double Dutch contest are skilled at the game.

Select **two** sentences from paragraph 7 of “Double the Fun” that **best** support the idea that kids who enter the double Dutch contest are skilled at the game.

7 Today, this contest is a worldwide event. Teams of kids from many countries compete. They do more than just jump the ropes. They chant and dance while jumping. They do acrobatic tricks. Some compete to see who can complete the most jumps in the shortest time. Thanks to David Walker, double Dutch was reborn.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster             | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| 12          | Reading for Information | Craft and Structure | 3.RI.6           | 2   |

In “Double the Fun,” what is the author’s point of view about double Dutch?

- ☐ A. More contests should be offered to kids in double Dutch teams around the world.
- ☒ B. Double Dutch has an interesting history and is still a worthwhile game for kids today.
- ☐ C. Contests will encourage kids to play the game of double Dutch in the future.
- ☐ D. Double Dutch events are more beneficial when dances and tricks are performed.

(1 Point)



## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster                            | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 13          | Reading for Information | Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RI.7           | 2   |

Which **two** ideas from “Dancing with Bamboo” does the photograph **best** help the reader understand?

- ☐ A. The tinikling is the national dance of the Philippines.
- ☒ B. Some dancers wear clothes made of flowing fabrics.
- ☐ C. The tinikling dance is named after a bird called the tikling.
- ☒ D. Long poles made of bamboo are used by the dancers.
- ☐ E. Bamboo poles in the dance represent poles used in rice fields.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster             | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| 14          | Reading for Information | Craft and Structure | 3.RI.4           | 1   |

In paragraph 6 of “Dancing with Bamboo,” what does the word imitating mean?

- ☐ A. scaring
- ☐ B. studying
- ☒ C. copying
- ☐ D. helping

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 15          | Reading for Information | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RI.2           | 2   |

What is the main idea of “Dancing with Bamboo”?

- ☒ A. The tinikling is a dance from the Philippines in which dancers must jump over moving poles.
- ☐ B. Birds use a special walk when they move through rice fields in the Philippines.
- ☐ C. Tinikling dancers in the Philippines wear flowing clothes that make them look graceful.
- ☐ D. People in the Philippines pound poles on the ground and clap them together in rhythm.

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster                            | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 16          | Reading for Information | Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RI.9           | 3   |

“Double the Fun” and “Dancing with Bamboo” present information about how double Dutch and the tinikling dance were **most likely** created. What is the main difference between how the double Dutch game was created and how the tinikling dance was created?

Enter your answer in the space provided.

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## Scoring Rubric – Item Number 16

| Scoring Rubric |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Score          | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1              | <p>A top response should include one or more pieces of the following valid information from each passage:</p> <p>Double Dutch was created by people who were making rope. The tinikling dance was created when people were imitating the tikling bird.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Double the Fun": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Double Dutch "might have started from a method used to make rope." (paragraph 2)</li> <li>○ People could have tied a plant to a wheel and themselves, and then walked backward to spin it. This made rope. People probably had to jump over ropes that were being twisted. (paragraph 3)</li> <li>○ Later, double Dutch became a game, which spread to the US. (paragraph 4)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• "Dancing with Bamboo": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rice farmers in the Philippines set out bamboo in their fields to prevent crop damage. (paragraph 2)</li> <li>○ The tinikling dance is based on the way the tikling bird walks through the rice fields to dodge the bamboo. (paragraph 2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 0              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The response is incorrect.</li> <li>• The response is not based on the text.</li> <li>• No response is provided</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

**(1 Point)**

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster                            | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 17          | Reading for Information | Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RI.9           | 2   |

“Double the Fun” and “Dancing with Bamboo” discuss two different activities. Based on the information in the passages, select whether each detail applies to double Dutch, the tinikling dance, or both activities.

Select **all** the correct answers.

| Detail                                                | Double Dutch Only                | The Tinikling Dance Only         | Both Activities                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| People can compete when performing the activity.      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |
| People must jump during the activity.                 | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| People control the rhythm of the activity with poles. | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            |

(1 Point) Student selected all of the correct answers.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 18          | Reading for Information | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RI.1           | 1   |

**Passages:**

- That's What People Wrote On
- from "The Story of Books"

According to "That's What People Wrote On," which **two** materials were used to write on because they were so common?

- ☐ A. palm leaves
- ☒ B. wood
- ☒ C. clay
- ☐ D. silk fabric
- ☐ E. parchment

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                  | Cluster                            | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 19          | Reading for Information | Integration of Knowledge and Ideas | 3.RI.8           | 2   |

Read this sentence from paragraph 4 of “That’s What People Wrote On.”

**4** What other materials were used?

This sentence connects to paragraph 3 because it introduces the idea that—

- ☒ A. other items worked as well as wood
- ☐ B. people stopped writing on wood
- ☐ C. wood was difficult to write on
- ☐ D. a problem with wood was solved

(1 Point)



## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster                         | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 20          | Speaking and Listening | Comprehension and Collaboration | 3.SL.3           | 2   |

Which detail from “That’s What People Wrote On” is also explained in “The Story of Books”?

- ☐ A. “Where bamboo was available, writers scratched letters onto that.” (paragraph 3)
- ☐ B. “. . . people also used broken pottery pieces, called ostraca, as notepads.” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ C. “The ancient Greeks and Romans used slabs of wax-covered wood, called tablets, to write on.” (paragraph 5)
- ☒ D. “. . . the Egyptians learned how to use the papyrus plant to make flat, paperlike sheets.” (paragraph 6)

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster                         | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 21          | Speaking and Listening | Comprehension and Collaboration | 3.SL.2           | 2   |

Note: This question has two parts – Part A

This question has **two** parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

### Part A

What is a main idea of both “That’s What People Wrote On” and “The Story of Books”?

- ☐ A. People told stories from memory before they could write.
- ☐ B. People in ancient times wrote by painting and carving drawings.
- ☐ C. People wrote by using many parts of plants in ancient times.
- ☒ D. People have used many different materials for writing.

(Continued on the next page)

Note: This question has two parts (cont.) – Part B

**Part B**

Which detail from “The Story of Books” **best** supports the answer in Part A?

- ☐ A. Ancient people taught new stories to each other.
- ☐ B. Telling stories became easier after writing was invented.
- ☒ C. People made marks by pressing sticks into soft clay.
- ☐ D. Laws were written down before stories in ancient times.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answer for each part.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 22          | Reading for Literature | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RL.1           | 2   |

Select **two** details that **best** show Luna is able to solve problems.

- ☐ A. She becomes worried when the ball rolls away.
- ☒ B. She suggests that they make something new the next day.
- ☒ C. She asks if she can bring the classroom blocks outside.
- ☐ D. She decides that many people should help with the plan.
- ☐ E. She stops working when the recess whistle blows.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster               | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| 23          | Reading for Literature | Key Ideas and Details | 3.RL.2           | 2   |

In what order do these events occur in the poem?

Move the answers to the correct boxes.

| Order | Event                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| First | The ball rolls across the playground during recess. |
| Then  | Luna and her friends work together to build a maze. |
| Last  | Everyone cheers when the ball stops in the leaves.  |

(1 Point) Student selected all of the correct answers.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster             | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| 24          | Reading for Literature | Craft and Structure | 3.RL.4           | 3   |

Note: This question has two parts – Part A

This question has **two** parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

In line 34, what does the phrase “Luna’s heart beat faster” show?

**Part A**

- ☐ A. Luna is nervous about sharing her ideas with her friends.
- ☐ B. Luna is happy that her teacher will help with the plan.
- ☒ C. Luna is excited that it is time to go outside.
- ☐ D. Luna is worried that her plan might not work.

(Continued on the next page)

Note: This question has two parts (cont.) – Part B

**Part B**

Which detail from the poem best helps the reader understand the meaning of “her heart beat faster”?

- ☐ A. “. . . dreamed of the red ball” (line 28)
- ☐ B. “. . . a world she and her friends had built.” (line 30)
- ☒ C. “. . . jumped up with a huge smile.” (line 35)
- ☐ D. “. . . carried the heavy blocks outside.” (line 37)

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answer for each part.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand                 | Cluster             | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| 25          | Reading for Literature | Craft and Structure | 3.RL.5           | 2   |

In lines 47–52, Emma’s and Kai’s actions show that the children—

- ☐ A. want other kids to watch them as they finish the maze
- ☒ B. were each able to add their ideas to the maze
- ☐ C. believe the ball will roll away from the maze
- ☐ D. want to watch the ball as it travels through the maze

(1 Point)



## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand   | Cluster                         | Content Standard | DOK |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 26          | Language | Conventions of Standard English | 3.L.1.b          | 1   |

**Passage:**

- A New Statue

Select the correct word or phrase for the underlined section of the passage.

Others show famous person from history.

- ☒ A. people
- ☐ B. person's
- ☐ C. peoples
- ☐ D. correct as is

(1 Point)

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand   | Cluster                         | Content Standard       | DOK |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| 27          | Language | Conventions of Standard English | 3.L.1.i;<br>3.WF.3.d.1 | 1   |

Note: This question has two parts – Part A

This question has **two** parts. Answer Part A and Part B.

Select the correct word or phrase for the underlined sections of the passage.

### Part A

The name of the statue Women's Rights Pioneers Monument.

- ☐ A. name of the statue being Women's Rights
- ☐ B. name of the statue it is Women's Rights
- ☒ C. name of the statue is Women's Rights
- ☐ D. correct as is

(Continued on the next page)

Note: This question has two parts (cont.) – Part B

**Part B**

It shows three women who were leeders in the struggle for women's rights.

- ☐ A. leadars
- ☐ B. leders
- ☒ C. leaders
- ☐ D. correct as is

**(2 Points)** Student selected the correct answer for each part.

## Grade 3 ELA Sample Test

| Item Number | Strand   | Cluster                         | Content Standard  | DOK |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| 28          | Language | Conventions of Standard English | 3.L.1.d;<br>3.L.2 | 1   |

Note: This question has two parts – Part A

This question has **two** parts. Answer Part A and Part B.

Select the correct word or phrase for the underlined sections of the passage.

### Part A

Truth, who was African American, gived many speeches.

- ☒ A. gave
- ☐ B. gives
- ☐ C. will give
- ☐ D. correct as is

(Continued on the next page)

Note: This question has two parts (cont.) – Part B

**Part B**

In 1920, the united states passed a law saying that women could vote.

- ☐ A. United states
- ☒ B. United States
- ☐ C. united States
- ☐ D. correct as is

(2 Points) Student selected the correct answer for each part.