



Computer-Based Sample Test Scoring Guide Grade 8 ELA



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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 8 ELA.

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
1	Reading for Information	Craft and Structure	8.RI.4	1

Passage:

- A Day in the Life of Robotina

In paragraphs 6 and 7, how do the phrases “impeccable ability to crunch numbers” and “sophisticated, human-like robotic assistants” affect the meaning of the passage?

- ☐ A. They highlight the author’s belief that robots can interact with humans.
- ☐ B. They stress the versatility and intelligence of modern robots as compared to humans.
- ☐ C. They emphasize the author’s belief that robots are the answer to improving human life.
- ☒ D. They suggest robots are able to perform tasks as well as or better than humans.

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
2	Reading for Information	Key Ideas and Details	8.RI.1	1

Select **two** details from paragraphs 3–6 that support the claim that robots are helpful in work environments.

3 Robotina has been in the interactive robotics lab of engineering professor Julie Shah since 2011, where it is one of three main robot platforms Shah’s team works with. Robotina is aptly named, as an aim is to give it many of Rosie’s capabilities: to interact with humans and perform many types of work. . . .

4 “We focus on how **robots can assist people in high-intensity situations**, like manufacturing plants, search-and-rescue situations and even space exploration,” Shah said.

5 What Shah and her team are finding in their experiments is that humans often work better and feel more at ease when Robotina is calling the shots—that is, when it’s scheduling tasks. In fact, a recent MIT experiment showed that a decision-making robotic helper can **make humans significantly more productive**.

6 Part of the reason for this seems to be that people not only trust Robotina’s impeccable ability to crunch numbers, they also believe the robot trusts and understands them.

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
3	Reading for Information	Craft and Structure	8.RI.5	2

Select **two** ways paragraphs 10–14 contribute to the passage as a whole.

- ☐ A. They provide historical background for the researchers' experiment.
- ☐ B. They describe the process of how humans interacted with the robots in different roles.
- ☒ C. They explain how humans compare to robots in completing similar tasks.
- ☒ D. They show a cause-and-effect relationship between robots and productivity.
- ☐ E. They illustrate the methods the researchers used to conduct their robot experiment.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
4	Reading for Information	Key Ideas and Details	8.RI.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 the central idea of the passage?

- ☐ A. Robots can increase human comfort when used to make decisions and organize tasks.
- ☐ B. Robots can be trained to reach their full potential by working closely with humans.
- ☐ C. Researchers are working to invent robots that interact naturally with humans in a factory.
- ☒ D. Researchers are studying how humans interact with robots to create robots that improve our quality of life.

(Continued on the next page)

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

Part B

The author develops the idea from Part A throughout the passage by—

- ☐ A. illustrating the tasks that robots can perform in a manufacturing setting
- ☐ B. giving details that highlight the benefits of having robot assistants
- ☒ C. explaining a research project on how robots can be naturally helpful to humans
- ☐ D. providing details that prove robots can be useful in assisting human co-workers

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
5	Reading for Information	Key Ideas and Details	8.RI.2	2

Which sentence summarizes the section titled “Predicting the unpredictable”?

- ☐ A. Factories will soon use robots that can stay out of the way of humans.
- ☒ B. Scientists are creating robots that use sensors to know where humans are going.
- ☐ C. Research shows that humans are more comfortable with robots if they move like humans.
- ☐ D. Scientists are exploring ways to make robots move more quickly.

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
6	Reading for Information	Craft and Structure	8.RI.6	2

Which **two** arguments does the author make to contradict the idea that humans will never trust robots?

- ☐ A. Robots can be created to serve a variety of purposes in daily human life.
- ☒ B. Robots can make unbiased decisions regarding human work skills.
- ☐ C. Robots can be given human names, which makes them more lifelike.
- ☒ D. Robots can increase productivity, which humans prefer over control.
- ☐ E. Robots can replace humans in certain manufacturing tasks.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
7	Reading for Information	Key Ideas and Details	8.RI.3	2

Identify whether each detail from the passage is associated with an average robot, a Robotina robot, or both.

Select **all** the correct answers.

Detail from the Passage	Average Robot	Robotina Robot	Both
Possess human qualities	☐	☒	☐
Assist humans in daily tasks	☐	☐	☒
Perform only one task	☒	☐	☐
Adapt to human motion	☐	☒	☐

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
8	Reading for Information	Key Ideas and Details	8.RI.3	2

Which are two contrasting ideas presented in the section “Putting Robotinas to work”?

- ☒ A. Robots imagined by researchers are contrasted with robots that have already been developed.
- ☐ B. Adaptable robots that will reach their full ability are contrasted with robots that will stay the same.
- ☐ C. The daily chores of Robotina are contrasted with the types of jobs robots will be required to perform in the future.
- ☐ D. Robots like Robotina that are accepted by humans are contrasted with robots that make humans uncomfortable.

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

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

Passages:

- from “The Village of Left-Behinds”
- Free Books

Which sentence in “The Village of Left-Behinds” **best** supports the idea that the mayor sock keeps a positive attitude in difficult times?

- ☐ A. “One sock the woman would not give away was her own, a soft, fuzzy, red-and-white striped sock, so lovable and cheery, she was voted mayor of the village.” (paragraph 6)
- ☐ B. “Soon there was only one left—the pretty, cheery, fuzzy red-and-white striped mayor.” (paragraph 8)
- ☒ C. “Still, she held on to the hope that had kept her cheerful—that her mate would return.” (paragraph 8)
- ☐ D. “She wore the socks the very next day, which made all three of them very happy.” (paragraph 11)

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
10	Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	8.RL.4	2

Read this sentence from paragraph 4 from “The Village of Left-Behinds.”

You might think such a village would be a sad place, with the socks moping around, remembering stories about the old days and reminiscing about feet they had known, but for the most part, it wasn’t.

What does reminiscing mean?

- ☐ A. doubting the importance of an item
- ☒ B. thinking of past events
- ☐ C. giving warmth and comfort
- ☐ D. searching for the truth

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
11	Reading for Literature	Key Ideas and Details	8.RL.3	3

In “The Village of Left-Behinds,” why is the season changing to spring important to the passage?

Enter your answer in the space provided.

B
I
U
☰
☰¹
↶
↷
abc ✓
1000

Scoring Rubric	
Score	Description
1	Student response includes one or more of the following: • Every sock but the fuzzy red-and-white striped mayor sock was used for cleaning and gardening. • Snow melted and revealed the fuzzy red-and-white striped sock that was missing. • The fuzzy red-and-white striped mayor sock was reunited with its match.
0	The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

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

Read the sentence from paragraph 4 of “Free Books.”

Mateo found another outdated mystery and seized it like the treasure it was.

This event shows that Mateo—

- ☒ A. appreciates stories that keep him captivated
- ☐ B. is mature for his young age
- ☐ C. possesses a creative imagination
- ☐ D. is determined in pursuing what he wants

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

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

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 the **main** theme of “Free Books”?

- ☐ A. Even things that are received as gifts come with a cost.
- ☐ B. Building new friendships can change a person’s life.
- ☐ C. Many valuable lessons can be learned from reading.
- ☒ D. Benefiting from generosity should lead to one being generous.

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

Part B

Select **two** phrases from paragraphs 7 and 8 that **best** support the answer in Part A.

7 “Enjoying the books?” she asked. Mateo nodded, speechless, and the woman said, “Good. Pass them on.” Then she disappeared inside, as if she had never been there at all.

8 When Mateo’s heartbeat slowed, he knew what he had to do. As soon as he got home, he grabbed that very first mystery from his shelf and called his friend Daniel.

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

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

Select **two** sentences from “Free Books” that support the idea that Mateo is an unselfish person.

- ☐ A. “The store was always closed whenever Mateo walked by; he had always thought it had gone out of business.” (paragraph 1)
- ☐ B. “Were they really free?” (paragraph 2)
- ☒ C. “Not wanting to be greedy, he waited a week before looking in the box again.” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ D. “One afternoon, weeks later, Mateo was back and perusing the selection, patting *Principles of Business Law*’s familiar spine as usual before moving on.” (paragraph 5)
- ☒ E. “‘I have a book you might like . . .’” (paragraph 9)

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
15	Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	8.RL.5	3

Both passages include a question in the opening paragraph. Explain the purpose of the question in each passage.

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

While the question “For what good was one sock?” in the passage from “The Village of Left-Behinds” introduces ,

the question “But now this box?” in “Free Books” introduces

.

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
16	Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	8.RL.5	2

In each row, identify whether the element of passage structure is present in “The Village of Left-Behinds,” “Free Books,” or both passages.

Select **all** the correct answers.

Element of Structure	from “The Village of Left-Behinds”	“Free Books”	Both Passages
Begins with a brief description of the main setting	☐	☐	☒
Includes several flashbacks to previous events	☒	☐	☐
Has an ending that is open to continuing the story	☐	☐	☒
Uses dialogue to develop a change in a character	☐	☒	☐

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

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

The woman in “The Village of Left-Behinds” and Mateo in “Free Books” have similar views because they both—

- ☐ A. find creative uses for their items
- ☒ B. place high value on unlikely items
- ☐ C. feel that items have human qualities
- ☐ D. pursue items they enjoy collecting

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
18	Reading for Information	Key Ideas and Details	8.RI.3	2

Passages:

- Shining a Light on Bioluminescence and Fluorescence
- The Glow of Bioluminescent Bay

Note: This question has two parts – Part A

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

Part A

Based on “Shining a Light on Bioluminescence and Fluorescence,”
bioluminescence and fluorescence are different in that—

- ☐ A. bioluminescent creatures usually cannot see their own lights, while fluorescent creatures can see their own lights
- ☐ B. bioluminescent creatures produce multiple colors, while fluorescent creatures can only make one color
- ☒ C. bioluminescent creatures use chemicals to produce their lights, while fluorescent creatures use sunlight to produce theirs
- ☐ D. bioluminescent creatures mainly use their lights to find mates, while fluorescent creatures do not

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

Part B

Which evidence from “Shining a Light on Bioluminescence and Fluorescence” **best** supports the answer in Part A?

- ☐ A. “Fireflies emit a yellow light, whereas most ocean animals produce green or blue.” (paragraph 2)
- ☐ B. “. . . species of squid use bioluminescence to confuse predators by emitting a flash . . .” (paragraph 6)
- ☐ C. “Female syllid fireworms use bioluminescence to attract males.” (paragraph 9)
- ☒ D. “. . . it does not use luciferins to achieve its glow; instead, light comes from solar radiation . . .” (paragraph 10)

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
19	Reading for Information	Craft and Structure	8.RI.6	2

For which **two** reasons does the author of “Shining a Light on Bioluminescence and Fluorescence” **most likely** include the section “What Is Bioluminescence”?

- ☒ A. to introduce information that explains how creatures glow
- ☐ B. to compare the reasons why creatures produce light
- ☒ C. to show that different glowing creatures produce different colors of light
- ☐ D. to list the various ways in which creatures are able to emit light
- ☐ E. to emphasize how delightful it is to see a creature produce light

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
20	Speaking and Listening	Comprehension and Collaboration	8.SL.2	2

What is the speaker's purpose in "The Glow of Bioluminescent Bay"?

- ☐ A. to encourage greater protection of areas such as Bioluminescent Bay
- ☐ B. to describe the unique experience of boating on Bioluminescent Bay
- ☒ C. to account for a specific phenomenon that occurs in Bioluminescent Bay
- ☐ D. to explain why certain creatures leave and return to Bioluminescent Bay

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
21	Reading for Information	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	8.RI.7	2

What advantage does “Shining a Light on Bioluminescence and Fluorescence” have over “The Glow of Bioluminescent Bay” in presenting information about bioluminescence?

- ☐ A. The passage presents the information using terms and concepts that are scientifically accurate.
- ☒ B. The passage divides the information into clearly defined sections that address different topics.
- ☐ C. The passage introduces the information with a description of an experience common to many.
- ☐ D. The passage reports the information objectively to avoid expressing feelings about any issue.

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
22	Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	8.RL.6	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 paragraph 6 of “Earth Day,” the group members’ behavior affects the passage by—

- ☐ A. portraying their ideas as amusing
- ☐ B. demonstrating the value of a group leader
- ☒ C. emphasizing the multiple talents within the group
- ☐ D. illustrating how excited the group is about Earth Day

(Continued on the next page)

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

Part B

Which statement **best** supports the correct answer in Part A?

- ☐ A. The group members know the value of the leadership role.
- ☒ B. The group members recognize each other's strengths.
- ☐ C. The group members understand the advantages of working together.
- ☐ D. The group members argue about which idea is best for the project.

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

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

Which **two** sentences from “Earth Day” **best** support the idea that the group achieves success under Jacob’s leadership?

- ☐ A. “The group wasted no time sharing their ideas, their voices overlapping, as they brushed aside one another’s suggestions.” (paragraph 6)
- ☐ B. “If he didn’t set a direction soon, the project could unravel before it even began.” (paragraph 6)
- ☒ C. “Determined not to let the group fall apart, Jacob forced himself to analyze their individual strengths.” (paragraph 7)
- ☐ D. “The following weeks tested Jacob’s patience and perseverance.” (paragraph 8)
- ☒ E. “He provided ongoing support by offering reminders, encouraging his teammates, and managing solutions to emerging problems, so the team could stay on task.” (paragraph 8)

(1 Point) Student selected the correct answers.

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
24	Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	8.RL.4	2

Read line 6 in “The Play.”

as if the scene itself holds its breath.

The author uses figurative language in this line to—

- ☐ A. emphasize how long the actors spent preparing for the play
- ☐ B. express opinions about the number of people watching the play
- ☒ C. create a feeling of suspense about the performance of the play
- ☐ D. introduce a disagreement that will arise during the play

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
25	Reading for Literature	8.RL.KID	8.RL.3	2

Which **two** details from “The Play” support the idea that the speaker’s partner feels nervous?

Move the correct answers to the box. Not all answers will be used.

Partner Feels Nervous

“yet trembles when it is time to speak them aloud” (line 14)

“search mine for guidance” (line 34)

“Her gaze sharpens” (line 44)

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
26	Reading for Literature	Key Ideas and Details	8.RL.2	2

Which statement **best** conveys a theme that develops in **both** the passage and the poem?

- ☐ A. Supporting others to overcome challenges shows consideration.
- ☐ B. Learning new skills helps people to collaborate.
- ☒ C. Being able to meet unexpected challenges builds leadership.
- ☐ D. Staying calm when dealing with conflict earns respect from others.

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
27	Reading for Literature	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	8.RL.9	1

In each row, identify whether the statement applies to Jacob from “Earth Day,” the speaker from “The Play,” or both.

Select all the correct answers.

Statement	Jacob	The Speaker	Both
A shared goal is achieved during a moment of understanding and guidance.	☐	☒	☐
Taking responsibility helps a group overcome challenges.	☒	☐	☐
Leadership develops through helping others reach success.	☐	☐	☒

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
28	Language	Conventions of Standard English	8.L.2	1

Passage:

- A Bridge Amongst the Clouds

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

In 2018 the country gained another must-see attraction: Cau Vang, which means “Golden Bridge” in Vietnamese.

- ☐ A. Cau Vang—this means
- ☐ B. Cau Vang . . . which means
- ☐ C. Cau Vang, which mean's
- ☒ D. correct as is

(1 Point)

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
29	Language	Conventions of Standard English	8.L.2; 8.L.1.b	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

Located near a resort on top of a jungle-covered mountain, this narrow pedestrian-only walkway is suspended high above the ground.

- ☐ A. mountain this narrow pedestrian-only walkway
- ☒ B. mountain, this narrow, pedestrian-only walkway
- ☐ C. mountain, this narrow pedestrian-only, walkway
- ☐ D. correct as is

(Continued on the next page)

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

Part B

Even more unusual, the loop-shaped track appeared to be held up by a gigantic pair of stone hands.

- ☒ A. appears
- ☐ B. will appear
- ☐ C. appearing
- ☐ D. correct as is

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

Grade 8 ELA Sample Test

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
30	Language	Conventions of Standard English	8.L.1; 8.L.2.c	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

Although the giant stone hands look as if they are holding up the bridge, it is just for decoration, not for support.

- ☐ A. theirs are
- ☐ B. them being
- ☒ C. they are
- ☐ D. correct as is

(Continued on the next page)

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

Part B

But because of its unique design and breathtaking views, this aclaimed architectural marvel has become a destination in its own right.

- ☐ A. aclammed
- ☐ B. acclamed
- ☒ C. acclaimed
- ☐ D. correct as is

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