Comparing MCAS 2.0 “Text Based Essay” writing (Gr 3 – 8)and the “Short Response, Constructed Response” question (gr 3, 4)

with the OLD Open Response question

Grade 3

1 page MCAS 2.0

This question is a **text-based essay** question. Write your essay in the space provided on the next page. Your essay should:

* Present and develop a central idea.
* Provide evidence/details from the passage(s).
* Include correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

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Grade 3 Based on the passage, **write an essay** to explain *how the author shows that* Tony was a clever person. Be sure to use information from the passage to develop your essay.

**OLD Open Response Question:**

Grade 3 Question 11 is an **open-response** question.

• Read the question carefully.

• Explain your answer.

• Add supporting details.

• Double-check your work.

Based on the passage, describe how Claude Monet worked to become a better artist. Support your answer with important information from the passage.

Grade 4

Short Response, Constructed Response:

A creative person is someone who uses imagination to come up with new ideas. Based on the article, **write a paragraph** to explain *why John Kovac could be called a creative person*. Support your response with important information from the article

Old: Open Response Grade 4

Based on the folktale, explain an important lesson that can be learned. Support your answer with important details from the folktale.

Grade 5

MCAS 2.0 Practice test:

One page

This question is a **text-based essay** question. Write your essay in the space provided in your Practice Test Answer Document. Your essay should:

* Present and develop a central idea.
* Provide evidence/details from the passage(s).
* Include correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Compare the speaker’s attitude in “First Night” to the speaker’s attitude in “Beech Leaves.” Be sure to use details from **both** poems to develop your essay.

Old: Open Response

Based on the article, explain why Marc Beckoff claims that “play is serious business.” Support your answer with important details from the article.

Grade 6

This question is a **text-based essay** question. Write your essay in the space provided in your Practice Test Answer Document. Your essay should:

* Present and develop a central idea.
* Provide evidence/details from the passage(s).
* Include correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Two pages:

Matthew Henson’s characteristics are revealed in the play *Matthew Henson: Explorer of the Arctic*. **Write an essay** that explains *how the article “Maripaluk” helps the reader to understand Henson’s characteristics*. Be sure to use information from both passages to develop your essay.

Old: Open Response

Based on the passage, explain why it has been helpful for scientists to study the frozen body of a woolly mammoth. Support your answer with important details from the passage.

Grade 7

This question is a **text-based essay** question. Write your essay in the space provided in your Practice Test Answer Document. Your essay should:

**Present and develop a narrative** that uses details from the passage.

* Include correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation

At the end of the passage, Howie tells Kevin that he is not making a good case. **Write an original story** that describes what Kevin does next to try to change Howie’s mind about paying for Cromwell’s training.

Old: Open Response

Explain why “Save the Seagrass, Save the Seahorse” is an appropriate title for the article. Support your answer with important and specific details from the article.

Grade 8

This question is a **text-based essay question**. Write your essay in the space provided in your Practice Test Answer Document. Your essay should:

* **Present and develop a narrative** that uses details from the passage.
* Include correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**Write a continuation of the story** of Bahauddin Shah using details from the passage. Describe what you think might happen after Bahauddin Shah climbs out of the Salt Caverns. What obstacles might he face, and what actions might he take to overcome them?

Open Response

Based on the article, explain the differences between “gut math” and “formal math.” Support your answer with relevant and specific details from the article.