

# Practice Test

## English Language Arts Reading Comprehension

**GRADE 10**

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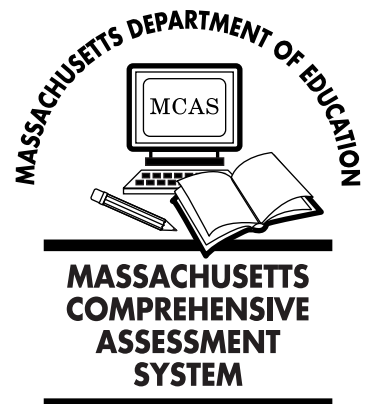
Student Name

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School Name

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District Name



This is a practice test. Your responses to practice test questions must be recorded on your Practice Test Answer Document.

Mark only one answer for each multiple-choice question. If you are not sure of the answer, choose the answer you think is best.

### **HOW TO ANSWER OPEN-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

- **Make sure that your response is CLEAR, COMPLETE, and ACCURATE.**
- **Provide enough IMPORTANT DETAILS from the selection to completely support your response.**

# Reading Comprehension

## DIRECTIONS

This practice test contains one reading selection with two multiple-choice questions and one open-response question. Mark your answers to these questions in the spaces provided on page 4 of your Practice Test Answer Document.

*Charles Kuralt, a longtime television commentator, talks about the way his breakfast is served as he reads the morning newspaper. Read the essay below. Use information from the essay to answer the questions that follow.*

## Down with the Forests

by Charles Kuralt

1 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND. I was waiting for breakfast in a coffee shop the other morning and reading the paper. The paper had sixty-six pages. The waitress brought a paper place mat and paper napkin and took my order, and I paged through the paper.

2 The headline said, “House Panel Studies a Bill Allowing Clear-Cutting\* in U.S. Forests.”

3 I put the paper napkin in my lap, spread the paper out on the paper place mat, and read on: “The House Agriculture Committee,” it said, “is looking over legislation that would once again open national forests to the clear-cutting of trees by private companies under governmental permits.”

4 The waitress brought the coffee. I opened a paper sugar envelope and tore open a little paper cup of cream and went on reading the paper: “The Senate voted without dissent yesterday to allow clear-cutting,” the paper said. “Critics have said clear-cutting in the national forests can lead to erosion and destruction of wildlife habitats. Forest Service and industry spokesmen said a flat ban on clear-cutting would bring paralysis to the lumber industry.” And to the paper industry, I thought. Clear-cutting a forest is one way to get a lot of paper, and we sure seem to need a lot of paper.

5 The waitress brought the toast. I looked for the butter. It came on a little paper tray with a covering of paper. I opened a paper package of marmalade and read on: “Senator Jennings Randolph, Democrat of West Virginia, urged his colleagues to take a more restrictive view and permit clear-cutting only under specific guidelines for certain types of forest. But neither he nor anyone else voted against the bill, which was sent to the House on a 90 to 0 vote.”

6 The eggs came, with little paper packages of salt and pepper. I finished breakfast, put the paper under my arm, and left the table with its used and useless paper napkin, paper place mat, paper salt and pepper packages, paper butter and marmalade wrappings, paper sugar envelope, and paper cream holder, and I walked out into the morning wondering how our national forests can ever survive our breakfasts.

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\* *clear-cutting* — the practice in the lumber industry of cutting all trees in a particular area, regardless of the tree’s size

“Down with the Forests” from DATELINE AMERICA by Charles Kuralt, copyright © 1979 by Harcourt, Inc., reprinted by permission of the publisher.

## Reading Comprehension

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- 1 Which of the following phrases from the essay helps the reader understand the meaning of the words *without dissent*?
- A. “looking over legislation”
  - B. “erosion and destruction”
  - C. “allow clear-cutting”
  - D. “90 to 0 vote”

- 2 The **main** purpose of this essay is to
- A. explain clear-cutting of national forests.
  - B. make people aware of their wastefulness.
  - C. urge people to write to their legislators.
  - D. motivate readers to register to vote.

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

- **Read the question carefully.**
- **Explain your answer.**
- **Add supporting details.**
- **Double-check your work.**

**Write your answer to question 3 in the space provided on page 4 of your Practice Test Answer Document.**

- 3 What is the connection between the way Kuralt’s breakfast is served and the information he reads in the newspaper? Support your answer with relevant and specific information from the essay.

# MASSACHUSETTS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

## Grade 10 English Language Arts

### Practice Test Answer Document

<p>School Name: _____</p> <p>District Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name of Student: _____</p> <p>First Name of Student: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Marking Instructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a No. 2 pencil only.</li><li>• Do not use ink, ballpoint, or felt tip pens.</li><li>• Make solid marks that fill the circles completely.</li><li>• Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.</li><li>• Make no stray marks on this form.</li><li>• Do not fold, tear, or mutilate this form.</li></ul>
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**NO TEST MATERIAL  
ON THIS PAGE**

