About the Released Items

The AzM2 Released Items provides details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for released AzM2 test items.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:
- Domain
- 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
- Option rationales (when applicable)

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 AzM2 Grade 10 ELA-Reading.
Grade 10 ELA–Reading Released Items

Passage(s):

Passage 1: The New Frontier
by Senator John F. Kennedy

This is an excerpt from a speech given by John F. Kennedy upon accepting the nomination of the Democratic party on July 15, 1960.

1 . . . I stand tonight facing west on what was once the last frontier. From the lands that stretch three thousand miles behind me, the pioneers gave up their safety, their comfort and sometimes their lives to build a new world here in the West. They were not the captives of their own doubts, the prisoners of their own price tags. Their motto was not “every man for himself”—but “all for the common cause.” They were determined to make that new world strong and free, to overcome its hazards and its hardships, to conquer the enemies that threatened from without and within.

2 Today some would say that those struggles are all over—that all the horizons have been explored—that all the battles have been won—that there is no longer an American frontier.

3 But I trust that no one in this vast assemblage would agree with those sentiments. For the problems are not all solved and the battles are not all won—and we stand today on the edge of a New Frontier—the frontier of the 1960s—a frontier of unknown opportunities and perils—a frontier of unfilled hopes and threats.

4 Woodrow Wilson’s New Freedom promised our nation a new political and economic framework. Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal promised security and succor to those in need. But the New Frontier of which I speak is not a set of promises—it is a set of challenges. It sums up not what I intend to offer to the American people, but what I intend to ask of them. It appeals to their pride, not to their pocketbook—it holds out the promise of more sacrifice instead of more security.
But I tell you the New Frontier is here, whether we seek it or not. Beyond that frontier are the uncharted areas of science and space, unsolved problems of peace and war, unconquered pockets of ignorance and prejudice, unanswered questions of poverty and surplus. It would be easier to shrink back from that frontier, to look to the safe mediocrity of the past, to be lulled by good intentions and high rhetoric—and those who prefer that course should not cast their votes for me, regardless of party.

... 

For the harsh facts of the matter are that we stand on this frontier at a turning-point in history. We must prove all over again whether this nation—or any nation so conceived—can long endure—whether our society—with its freedom of choice, its breadth of opportunity, its range of alternatives—can compete with the single-minded advance of the Communist system.

Can a nation organized and governed such as ours endure? That is the real question. Have we the nerve and the will? Can we carry through in an age where we will witness not only new breakthroughs in weapons of destruction—but also a race for mastery of the sky and the rain, the ocean and the tides, the far side of space and the inside of men’s minds?

... 

That is the question of the New Frontier. That is the choice our nation must make—a choice that lies not merely between two men or two parties, but between the public interest and private comfort—between national greatness and national decline—between the fresh air of progress and the stale, dank atmosphere of “normalcy”—between determined dedication and creeping mediocrity.

All mankind waits upon our decision. A whole world looks to see what we will do. We cannot fail their trust, we cannot fail to try.

Passage 2: The Great Society
by President Lyndon B. Johnson

This is an excerpt from a speech by President Lyndon B. Johnson given on May 22, 1964.

10 For a century we labored to settle and to subdue a continent. For half a century we called upon unbounded invention and untiring industry to create an order of plenty for all of our people.

11 The challenge of the next half century is whether we have the wisdom to use that wealth to enrich and elevate our national life, and to advance the quality of our American civilization.

12 Your imagination and your initiative, and your indignation will determine whether we build a society where progress is the servant of our needs, or a society where old values and new visions are buried under unbridled growth. For in your time we have the opportunity to move not only toward the rich society and the powerful society, but upward to the Great Society.

13 The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time. But that is just the beginning.

14 The Great Society is a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents. It is a place where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect, not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness. It is a place where the city of man serves not only the needs of the body and the demands of commerce but the desire for beauty and the hunger for community.

15 It is a place where man can renew contact with nature. It is a place which honors creation for its own sake and for what it adds to the understanding of the race. It is a place where men are more concerned with the quality of their goals than the quantity of their goods.

16 But most of all, the Great Society is not a safe harbor, a resting place, a final objective, a finished work. It is a challenge constantly renewed, beckoning us toward a destiny where the meaning of our lives matches the marvelous products of our labor.
Will you join in the battle to build the Great Society, to prove that our material progress is only the foundation on which we will build a richer life of mind and spirit?

There are those timid souls that say this battle cannot be won; that we are condemned to a soulless wealth. I do not agree. We have the power to shape the civilization that we want. But we need your will, and your labor, and your hearts, if we are to build that kind of society.

Those who came to this land sought to build more than just a new country. They sought a new world. So I have come here today to your campus to say that you can make their vision our reality. So let us from this moment begin our work so that in the future men will look back and say, “It was then, after a long and weary way, that man turned the exploits of his genius to the full enrichment of his life.”

Excerpt from “The Great Society” by President Lyndon B. Johnson. In the public domain.
This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

How does Kennedy introduce the challenges facing the nation in Passage 1?

- by referring to the history of America’s growth
- by identifying plans established by former leadership
- by describing weaknesses in the American government
- by pointing out the danger of making changes too quickly

**Part B**

How does this introduction connect to Kennedy’s plan for the future?

- by suggesting the need for a modern interpretation of pioneer ideals
- by describing how America must be more aggressive in implementing change
- by highlighting the specific steps America must take to become a world power
- by suggesting that the ideals and methods of the past may no longer be relevant

(1 Point)

Option Rationales

**Part A**

**Choice A: Key** - In paragraph 1, Kennedy presents a vision of pioneer history and pioneer ideals, which serves as an introduction of the argument he goes on to make in the rest of the speech.
Choice B: Although Kennedy mentions Wilson and Roosevelt, he does not go into much detail about their plans, nor does his mention of former presidents introduce the challenges facing the nation.

Choice C: Although Kennedy mentions overcoming hardship as well as continuing struggles, he does not explicitly mention American failures.

Choice D: While Kennedy references the danger of assuming struggles are over, he does not go into great detail about what specific dangers might come out of making changes too quickly.

Part B
Choice A: Key - Kennedy points out the strength of the pioneers to rally his audience behind his mission and to suggest that Americans today have the same ideals as our forefathers.

Choice B: While Kennedy does refer to change in his speech (and as is the nature of a nomination acceptance speech), he does not suggest that America needs to be aggressive so much as America needs to be ready and willing, despite the dangers.

Choice C: Although he mentions communism and the “whole world” watching the United States, Kennedy does not provide an explicit set of steps to take to become a world power.

Choice D: Although Kennedy mentions the pioneers, he does it to suggest the evolution of still-relevant ideas, not to suggest that these ideals have become irrelevant over time.
How does Johnson refine his idea of the Great Society in paragraph 18 of Passage 2?

- He acknowledges that there are people who disagree with his vision.
- He recognizes the importance of the actions taken by previous generations.
- He explains that he has had reservations about the practicality of his own ideas.
- He admits that his vision of an ideal society may seem outdated to a younger generation.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

**Choice A: Key** - Johnson refers to "timid souls" who think the battle for the Great Society is unwinnable and that "we are condemned to a soulless wealth."

**Choice B:** Although Johnson emphasizes that we "have the power to shape the civilization that we want," he does not directly call out the importance of the actions taken by previous generations.

**Choice C:** Although Johnson mentions the "timid souls" and people who think "that we are condemned to a soulless wealth," he does not suggest that he had shared those feelings, and in fact states that he does not agree.

**Choice D:** While Johnson does call to his audience by repeating "your," he only references his audience directly to invoke their help in fulfilling the vision he has. He does not admit that his vision for society could seem outdated to a younger generation, only that some "timid souls" may think it can't be done.
This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

What is Kennedy’s point of view in paragraph 8?

A. The world, because of its competitive interests, is watching the decisions of the United States.

B. The people, as part of the nation, must decide how to approach the New Frontier.

C. Strong leadership is essential for the country’s future, considering the challenges.

D. Embracing the New Frontier may be uncomfortable for the audience.

**Part B**

How does Kennedy use rhetoric to advance the point of view identified in Part A?

A. by offering vivid examples of how the New Frontier will benefit everyone

B. by describing the catastrophes Americans will face if they fail

C. by appealing to individual Americans’ self-interest

D. by contrasting starkly different outcomes

(1 Point)

**Option Rationales**

**Part A**

**Choice A:** Although Kennedy mentions the decision facing the nation and competing with other nations elsewhere in the passage, this paragraph is focused on the U.S. audience’s approach to the New Frontier.
Choice B: Key - Kennedy makes it clear that his audience must affirmatively choose to embrace the New Frontier.

Choice C: Kennedy’s claim rests on the idea that the New Frontier is the result of collective effort, not a top-down process.

Choice D: While Kennedy describes a balance of “public interest” and “private comfort,” he does not suggest that the New Frontier may be uncomfortable.

Part B
Choice A: Kennedy does not offer vivid or lucid examples of what the New Frontier will look like.

Choice B: Kennedy only hints at the dangers, rather than fleshing them out.

Choice C: The interest that Kennedy appeals to is collective, not individualistic.

Choice D: Key - Kennedy draws a sharp contrast between “normalcy” and empowered greatness.
This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

Which claim is made by Kennedy in paragraph 3 of Passage 1?

- The United States still has more work to do.
- Exploration of the New Frontier requires patience.
- Other leaders are afraid of the challenges of the New Frontier.
- Some of the problems facing the United States are better left unresolved.

**Part B**

How does paragraph 5 support the claim identified in Part A?

- by describing how an easy plan is often the best plan
- by emphasizing the need to approach issues one at a time
- by highlighting the lofty ambitions of previous generations
- by speculating about challenges that will continue into the future

(1 Point)

**Option Rationales**

**Part A**

**Choice A: Key** - Kennedy makes this claim when he states that “the problems are not all solved and the battles are not all won” in paragraph 3.

**Choice B**: Kennedy does not make this claim.

**Choice C**: Kennedy does not make this claim.
Choice D: Kennedy does not make this claim.

Part B
Choice A: Although Kennedy does mention “safe mediocrity,” this does not refine the claim identified in Part A.

Choice B: Although Kennedy does mention several issues that the United States will likely face in the New Frontier, he argues against shrinking back and in favor of facing the challenges of the New Frontier head on.

Choice C: Kennedy does not focus on former ambitions, and this option does not refine the claim in Part A.

Choice D: Key - Kennedy refers to “uncharted areas of science and space” and several unconquered or unsolved problems that the United States will have the opportunity to face in the future.
(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: Key - Kennedy reflects with admiration on the pioneer spirit at the beginning of his speech and Johnson's final paragraph refers to the legacy he hopes to leave behind for future generations.

Choice B: Although Kennedy does mention the past fondly, he does not directly relate past achievements to his New Frontier. Although Johnson references the past, he does not suggest failure.

Choice C: While Kennedy mentions former leaders, he does not specifically praise their efforts so much as reference them and contrast them with what he is asking of the American people. Johnson does not refer to pessimistic leadership.
Choice D: Kennedy focuses on the communal spirit of previous generations, not their individualism, and Johnson does not describe how poor decisions have led the United States to its current position.
Passage(s):

Passage 1: Icarus
by Jean Lang

In this tale, Daedalus lovingly crafts a pair of wax wings for his son, Icarus. Father and son begin their flight together.

1 Gentle Dawn, the rosy-fingered, was slowly making her way up from the East when Daedalus and Icarus began their flight. Slowly they went at first, and the goat-herds who tended their flocks on the slopes of Mount Ida looked up in fear when they saw the dark shadows of their wings and marked the monster birds making their way out to sea. From the river beds the waterfowl arose from the reeds, and with great outcry flew with all their swiftness to escape them. And down by the seashore the mariners’ hearts sank within them as they watched, believing that a sight so strange must be a portent of disaster. Homewards they went in haste to offer sacrifices on the altars of Poseidon, ruler of the deep.

2 . . . As [Apollo] looked, the warmth that radiated from his chariot touched the icy limbs of Icarus as with the caressing touch of gentle, life-giving hands. Not long before, his flight had lagged a little, but now it seemed as if new life was his. Like a bird that wheels and soars and dives as if for lightness of heart, so did Icarus, until each feather of his plumage had a sheen of silver and of gold. Down, down, he darted, so near the water that almost the white-tipped waves caught at his wings as he skimmed over them. Then up, up, up he soared, ever higher, higher still, and when he saw the radiant sun-god smiling down on him, the warning of Daedalus was forgotten. As he had excelled other lads in foot races, now did Icarus wish to excel the birds themselves. Daedalus he left far behind, and still upwards he mounted. So strong he felt, so fearless was he, that to him it seemed that he could storm Olympus, that he could call to Apollo as he swept past him in his flight, and dare him to race for a wager from the Aegean Sea to where the sun-god’s horses took their nightly rest by the trackless seas of the unknown West.

3 In terror his father watched him, and as he called to him in a voice of anguished warning that was drowned by the whistling rush of the air currents through the wings of Icarus and the moist whisper of the clouds as through them he cleft a way for himself, there befell the dreaded thing. It seemed as though the strong wings had begun to lose their power. Like a wounded bird Icarus fluttered,
lunged sidewise from the straight, clean line of his flight, recovered himself, and fluttered again. And then, like the bird into whose soft breast the sure hand of a mighty archer has driven an arrow, downwards he fell, turning over and yet turning again, downwards, ever downwards, until he fell with a plunge into the sea that still was radiant in shining emerald and translucent blue.

Excerpt from “Icarus” by Jean Lang, from A Book of Myths. In the public domain.

**Passage 2: Icarus**

by John G. Saxe

I

1 All modern themes of poesy are spun so very fine,
   That now the most amusing muse, e gratia, such as mine,
   Is often forced to cut the thread that strings our recent rhymes,
   And try the stronger staple of the good old classic times.

II

5 There lived and flourished long ago, in famous Athens town,
   One Daedalus, a carpenter of genius and renown;
   ('Twas he who with an auger taught mechanics how to bore,—
   An art which the philosophers monopolized before.)

III

His only son was Icarus, a most precocious lad,

10 The pride of Mrs. Daedalus, the image of his dad;
   And while he yet was in his teens such progress he had made,
   He’d got above his father's size, and much above his trade.

IV

Now Daedalus, the carpenter, had made a pair of wings,
   Contrived of wood and feathers and a cunning set of springs,
15 By means of which the wearer could ascend to any height,
   And sail about among the clouds as easy as a kite!

V

“O father,” said young Icarus, “how I should like to fly!
   And go like you where all is blue along the upper sky;
   How very charming it would be above the moon to climb,
20 And scamper through the zodiac, and have a high old time!
VI
"Oh wouldn’t it be jolly, though,—to stop at all the inns;
To take a luncheon at ’The Crab,’ and tipple at ’The Twins’;
And, just for fun and fancy, while careering through the air,
To kiss the Virgin, tease the Ram, and bait the biggest Bear?

VII
25 "O father, please to let me go!" was still the urchin’s cry;
"I’ll be extremely careful, sir, and won’t go very high;
Oh if this little pleasure-trip you only will allow,
I promise to be back again in time to fetch the cow!"

VIII
"You’re rather young,” said Daedalus, “to tempt the upper air;
30 But take the wings, and mind your eye with very special care;
And keep at least a thousand miles below the nearest star;
Young lads, when out upon a lark, are apt to go too far!"

IX
He took the wings—that foolish boy—without the least dismay;
His father stuck ’em on with wax, and so he soared away;
35 Up, up he rises, like a bird, and not a moment stops
Until he’s fairly out of sight beyond the mountain-tops!

X
And still he flies—away—away; it seems the merest fun;
No marvel he is getting bold, and aiming at the sun;
No marvel he forgets his sire; it isn’t very odd
40 That one so far above the earth should think himself a god!

XI
Already, in his silly pride, he’s gone too far aloft;
The heat begins to scorch his wings; the wax is waxing soft;
Down—down he goes!—Alas!—next day poor Icarus was found
Afloat upon the Aegean Sea, extremely damp and drowned!

L’ENVOI
45 The moral of this mournful tale is plain enough to all:—
Don’t get above your proper sphere, or you may chance to fall;
Remember, too, that borrowed plumes are most uncertain things;
And never try to scale the sky with other people’s wings!

"Icarus” by John G. Saxe, from The Wit and
Humor of America. In the public domain.
Item(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>Content Standard</th>
<th>DOK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading for Literature</td>
<td>Craft and Structure</td>
<td>RL.9.4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read this sentence from Passage 1.

“Down, down, he darted, so near the water that almost the white-tipped waves caught at his wings as he skimmed over them.” (paragraph 2)

What is the effect of this sentence?

- **A**. The sentence evokes a sense of mystery.
- **B**. The sentence foreshadows events to come.
- **C**. The sentence creates an element of surprise.
- **D**. The sentence develops a contrast between settings.

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

**Option Rationales**

**Choice A**: Although the sentence foreshadows the danger that is to come, the repetition of these words does not create a sense of mystery.

**Choice B**: **Key** – The repetition of these words foreshadows events to come from the last sentence of the passage. "... downwards, ever downwards, until he fell with a plunge into the sea."

**Choice C**: Although Icarus lags in the beginning of his flight and this sentence now shows him flying without hesitation, the repetition of these words does not create a sense of surprise.

**Choice D**: Icarus is described as very close to the water in this moment, and later he flies at higher levels. However, the author does not try to develop a contrast between these two settings.
The structure of Passage 2 is framed by an introduction at the beginning and a conclusion at the end. What effect does this structure have on the passage?

- **A**  It lends consistency to the setting.
- **B**  It allows the lessons to be highlighted.
- **C**  It provides additional background for the plot.
- **D**  It elaborates on the development of the characters.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

**Option Rationales**

**Choice A:*** Although an introduction and conclusion usually have this intended function, this is not the effect framing has on this text.

**Choice B: Key*** – This structure allows the author to highlight or reiterate the moral of the story in the concluding stanza.

**Choice C:*** Although this is the usual function of an introduction, it is not the effect that the framing has on this passage.

**Choice D:*** Although the conclusion refers to the moral of the story derived from the characters’ actions, it does not describe the development of the characters.
Option Rationales

Part A
Choice A: Key - Icarus becomes carried away with the success he experiences when he begins to fly with more skill. When the sun-god smiles on him, he feels so fearless and strong that he could take on Olympus.

Choice B: Although both Icarus and Daedulus take flight together in the beginning of the passage with man-made wings, this is a detail, and not the central idea of the passage.
**Choice C:** Although the mariners and goat-herders view the “monster birds” as strange sights, this is a detail and not the central idea of the passage.

**Choice D:** Although Daedalus shouts out a warning to Icarus, this is a detail, and not the central idea of the passage.

**Part B**
**Choice A:** This detail supports the development of the idea of distrusting the unusual or unnatural.

**Choice B:** Key - This detail supports Icarus’s sense of freedom and his subsequent determination to compete with the gods. He imagines that he can compete alongside them as an equal.

**Choice C:** The family relationship is important in the story, but the relationship between the two does not change. The father provides warnings which the son does not heed; there is no evidence that their relationship changes as a result.

**Choice D:** This detail supports the development of the incorrect option about the idea of working together to obtain a goal.
Passage 1 and Passage 2 portray the relationship between Daedalus and Icarus differently. Click on the table to show whether each statement describes the relationship between father and son in Passage 1 only, in Passage 2 only, or in both passages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Passage 1</th>
<th>Passage 2</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A father is concerned about his son’s sense of judgment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A father allows his son to negotiate for more freedom.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A father feels helpless to assist his son.</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1 Point)
Ancient Greeks valued a competitive spirit and the act of winning against an opponent. Select two sentences from Passage 1 that show how Icarus represents this value.

“Like a bird that wheels and soars and dives as if for lightness of heart, so did Icarus, until each feather of his plumage had a sheen of silver and of gold. Down, down, he darted, so near the water that almost the white-tipped waves caught at his wings as he skimmed over them. Then up, up, up he soared, ever higher, higher still, and when he saw the radiant sun-god smiling down on him, the warning of Daedalus was forgotten. As he had excelled other lads in foot races, now did Icarus wish to excel the birds themselves. Daedalus he left far behind, and still upwards he mounted. So strong he felt, so fearless was he, that to him it seemed that he could storm Olympus, that he could call to Apollo as he swept past him in his flight, and dare him to race for a wager from the Aegean Sea to where the sun-god’s horses took their nightly rest by the trackless seas of the unknown West.” (paragraph 2)

(1 Point) For this item, a full-credit (1 point) response includes any two of the three highlighted sentences.