Sample Items for Grade 7: "Biography of Amelia Earhart, "Amelia Earhart: Life and Disappearance," and "Earhart's Final Resting Place Believed Found"

Sample Item 2: Questions and Standards	Sample Item 2: Answers and Advances
Part A Question: Below are three claims that one could make based on the article "Earhart's Final Resting Place Believed Found." **Claims** Earhart and Noonan lived as castaways on Nikumaroro Island. Earhart and Noonan's plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean. People don't really know where Earhart and Noonan died. **Highlight the claim that is supported by the most relevant and sufficient evidence within "Earhart's Final Resting Place Believed Found."**	**Part A Item Advances:** The skill of reading closely and weighing evidence to assess the strength or weakness of a claim is essential to college and career readiness. The first part of this Technology Enhanced Constructed-Response item resembles questions that have traditionally appeared on reading assessments. It calls on students to show their understanding of how well a claim is supported. However, determining the relevant strength of a claim sets the stage for Part B, which is an advance on past testing practice. **Part A Answer Choice Rationales:** The author of the text suggests the possibility of Earhart and Noonan living as castaways, but the passage does not offer convincing evidence that proves this theory. Although there may be evidence that could be used to support the second claim, it is strongly refuted within the text of the article ("virtually indisputable that the airplane was on land"). The textual evidence is the strongest for the third claim because that is the central focus of the article; we still don't know the location of Earhart and Noonan's final resting place.
Part B Question: **Click on two facts within the article that best provide evidence to support the claim selected in Part A.**	**Part B Item Advances:** Part B of this Technology Enhanced Constructed-Response item takes the item in a new direction, calling for more thorough interaction with the text. Students not only must determine which claim is most strongly supported (Part A) but also must provide evidence to establish the accuracy of their answer. Part B asks students to find two facts from the text that support their answer, illustrating one of the key shifts in CCSS assessment: use of textual evidence. Additionally, this item helps the student gather information and details for use on the Prose Constructed Response item that will conclude the Research Simulation Task. It also mirrors what students should do when performing research. **Part B Answer Choice Rationales:** There are several lines in the text that support the claim that people are uncertain of the exact location of Noonan's and Earhart's demise: For example, • "Books, movies and television specials about her disappearance abound as well as speculation about her fate."

	• "Theories proliferated that she was a spy, that she was captured by the Japanese, that she died in a prisoner-of-war camp, and that she survived and returned to live her life as a New Jersey housewife."
Sample Item 2: Alignment	
An Explanation of Alignment: The item meets the PARCC Assessment Claim, and these standards and aligns with the evidence statements as students must trace and evaluate the strength of three claims about a text and weigh the level of support provided for each. In addition, this item helps the student gather information and details for use on the final essay. This process mirrors what we should see in a research project, where each revisiting of a text helps the student "build and present information."	**An Overview of the Claim, Standards, and Evidence Statements Assessed** **PARCC Assessment Claim**: Reading Information: Students read and demonstrate comprehension of grade-level complex informational texts. Standard RI.7.1: Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. Evidence Statements for RI.7.1*:* *The student's response* • *For RI.7.1, provides several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly.* • *For RI.7.1, provides several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of inferences drawn from the text.* Standard RI.7.8: *Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.* Evidence Statement for RI.7.8*:* *The student's response* • *For RI 8, demonstrates ability to trace an argument and specific claims in a text.* • *For RI 8, provides an evaluation of whether the reasoning is sound in an argument.* • *For RI 8, provides an evaluation of whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.*
Sample Item 2: Scoring Points and Rationale	

Scoring Rationale: Past tests would have given credit for a right answer regardless of how a student arrived at the answer, but the PARCC assessment reflects the key shift of requiring close reading by offering credit for Part B only if Part A is correct.	**Scoring Points:** • 2 points when students correctly answer Part A and identify two facts or ideas from the article that support that claim (Part B) • 1 point for correctly answering Part A and identifying one fact or idea from the article that supports that claim (Part B) • 0 points if Part A is not correctly answered

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