California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

California Alternate Assessment
Practice Test Scoring Guide

Physical Sciences Grade Five

California Alternate Assessment for Science Practice Test Scoring Guide

Table of Contents

Assessed Standards

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science measures the Science Core Content Connectors (Science Connectors) and is administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve). The Science Connectors are derived from the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) performance expectations (PEs). They provide alternate standards to guide science instruction and assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The PEs that the assessed Science Connectors are derived from can be found in the CAA for Science blueprint document at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caascienceblueprint.docx.

These Science Connectors are further broken down into assessment targets. The assessment targets are comprised of the focal knowledge, skills, and abilities (FKSAs), which describe what students should know and be able to do in science; at the simplest level, the essential understandings (EUs) are the basic scientific concepts that students should understand. This is presented as a continuum in the figure that follows.

This practice test is intended to assess Science Connectors 4-PS4-2 and 5-PS1-2.

4-PS4-2 Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

Recognize that an object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eye.

Table 1. 4-PS4-2, FKSA and EU

Assessment Target	Definition	Students Will Be Able To…
FKSA	• Ability to recognize that an object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eye. (FKSA 1)	• Identify the correct path of light that enables a person to see • Identify that light must enter the eye in order to see • Identify that light must reflect off an object in order for the object to be seen • Identify that light must reflect off an object and enter a person's eye for the person to see the object • Complete a diagram to create the correct path light must travel in order for an object to be seen
EU	• Compare the quality of sight before and after dimming a light source.	• Identify light as necessary to see • Identify darkness as a condition that impairs sight • Identify the resulting views when the brightness of light changes

5-PS1-2 Matter and Its Interactions

Recognize, through observation, that the total weight of matter is conserved by comparing the weight of an object before and after it changes from a liquid to a solid and from a solid to a liquid.

Table 2. 5-PS1-2, FKSA and EU

Assessment Target	Definition	Students Will Be Able To…
FKSA	• Ability to recognize that the total weight of matter is conserved by comparing the weight of an object before and after it changes from a liquid to a solid and from a solid to a liquid (e.g., water in a clear plastic bag that is frozen and defrosted has the same weight). (FKSA 1)	• Identify the weight of the substance after it has changed states • Identify that the weight is not changed when a substance changes state • Recognize that conservation of weight can be observed by measuring the weight of the object before and after it changes state
EU	• Recognize the change in state from liquid to solid or from solid to liquid of the same material.	• Identify whether a substance is a liquid or a solid • Recognize that when a substance changes from one state to another it is still the same substance

Introduction to Practice Test Scoring Guide

The *CAA for Science Practice Test Scoring Guide* provides details about the items, assessment targets, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for the CAA for Science practice test items. The items selected for the practice test are designed to reflect the student experience while being administered the CAA for Science assessment. This includes

- a range of student response types, and
- a breadth of difficulty levels across the items, ranging from easier to more difficult items.

It is important to note that not all student response types are fully represented on every practice test, but a distribution can be observed across all the practice tests. The items presented are reflective of refinements and adjustments to language based on pilot test results and expert recommendations from both content and accessibility perspectives.

This scoring guide should be used alongside the online practice tests, which can be accessed at https://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html.

The following information is presented in a metadata table for each item in the practice test.

Item: This is the number that corresponds to the test question as it appears in the practice test.

Key: This represents the correct answer(s) to the item and includes the score point value for the item and its parts. Items are worth either one or two points.

Science Connector: This references the alternate achievement standard linked to a CA NGSS performance expectation.

Assessment Target: This references the FKSA or EU that an item is assessing.

All items in a practice test are designed to be administered in conjunction with their corresponding *Directions for Administration (DFA)*. In addition, each practice test contains a nongraded Orienting Activity before each set of items. Please be sure to present the Orienting Activity for each Science Connector to the student before moving on to the items. For more information regarding Orienting Activities, please refer to the *Practice Test Directions for Administration—Grade 5 Physical Sciences*.

Example of Item Metadata

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
1	B (1 point)	4-PS4-2	EU: Compare the quality of sight before and after dimming a light source.

Grade Five Physical Sciences Practice Test Items

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
1	B (1 point)	4-PS4-2	EU: Compare the quality of sight before and after dimming a light source.
2	A (1 point)	4-PS4-2	EU: Compare the quality of sight before and after dimming a light source.
3	A (1 point)	4-PS4-2	FKSA 1: Ability to recognize that an object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eye.
4	**First box:** the Sun **Second box:** chair (1 point)	4-PS4-2	FKSA 1: Ability to recognize that an object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eye.
5	**First box:** flashlight **Second box:** flower **Third box:** eye (2 points) The student matches all three correct responses. (1 point) The student matches one or two of the correct responses, but not all three.	4-PS4-2	FKSA 1: Ability to recognize that an object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eye.
6	A (1 point)	5-PS1-2	EU: Recognize the change in state from liquid to solid or from solid to liquid of the same material.
7	B (1 point)	5-PS1-2	EU: Recognize the change in state from liquid to solid or from solid to liquid of the same material.

Item metadata table continuation showing items 8–10

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
8	C (1 point)	5-PS1-2	FKSA 1: Ability to recognize that the total weight of matter is conserved by comparing the weight of an object before and after it changes from a liquid to a solid and from a solid to a liquid (e.g., water in a clear plastic bag that is frozen and defrosted has the same weight).
9	B (1point)	5-PS1-2	FKSA 1: Ability to recognize that the total weight of matter is conserved by comparing the weight of an object before and after it changes from a liquid to a solid and from a solid to a liquid (e.g., water in a clear plastic bag that is frozen and defrosted has the same weight).
10	**Part A:** B (1 point) **Part B:** B (1 point)	5-PS1-2	FKSA 1: Ability to recognize that the total weight of matter is conserved by comparing the weight of an object before and after it changes from a liquid to a solid and from a solid to a liquid (e.g., water in a clear plastic bag that is frozen and defrosted has the same weight).