California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

California Alternate Assessment
Practice Test Scoring Guide

Life Sciences Grade Eight

California Alternate Assessment for Science Practice Test Scoring Guide

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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 MS-LS3-2 and MS-LS1-7.

MS-LS3-2 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Use a model, through observation, to identify that a variety of inherited traits passed from parents to offspring lead to differences in offspring (e.g., eye color, fur pattern, plant height).

Table 1. MS-LS3-2, FKSA and EU

Assessment Target	Definition	Students Will Be Able To…
FKSA	• Ability to identify that a variety of inherited traits passed from parents to offspring lead to differences in offspring (e.g., eye color, fur pattern, plant height). (FKSA 1)	• When shown the two parents of a plant or animal, identify the parent that contributed a specific trait to a plant or animal offspring • When shown the two parents of a plant or animal, identify which parents contributed specific traits to two or more plant or animal offspring
EU	• Identify similarities and differences between animal or plant parents and their offspring.	• Identify a trait that is similar when comparing a (plant or animal) parent and offspring • Identify a trait that is different when comparing a (plant or animal) parent and offspring

MS-LS1-7 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Identify the outcome of the process of breaking down food molecules (e.g., sugar) as the release of energy, which can be used to support other processes within the organism.

Table 2. MS-LS1-7, FKSA and EU

Assessment Target	Definition	Students Will Be Able To…
FKSA	• Ability to identify the outcome of the process of breaking down food molecules (e.g., sugar) as the release of energy (FKSA1) • Identify ways in which energy from food can be used to support other processes within the organism. (FKSA2)	• Identify examples of life processes that require energy from food • Recognize that energy from food is used for life processes such as circulation and respiration • Identify a simple example of the process by which food is broken down and then energy is distributed throughout the body • Identify two life processes that require energy from food
EU	• Recognize that food taken in by an organism is broken down and used by an organism for growth.	• Recognize an example that shows that humans and animals need food to grow • Recognize that humans and animals need food for energy

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 8 Life Sciences*.

Example of Item Metadata

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
1	A (1 point)	MS-LS3-2	EU: Identify similarities and differences between animal or plant parents and their offspring.

Grade Eight Life Sciences Practice Test Items

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
1	A (1 point)	MS-LS3-2	EU: Identify similarities and differences between animal or plant parents and their offspring.
2	B (1 point)	MS-LS3-2	EU: Identify similarities and differences between animal or plant parents and their offspring.
3	C (1 point)	MS-LS3-2	FKSA 1: Ability to identify that a variety of inherited traits passed from parents to offspring lead to differences in offspring (e.g., eye color, fur pattern, plant height).
4	B (1 point)	MS-LS3-2	FKSA 1: Ability to identify that a variety of inherited traits passed from parents to offspring lead to differences in offspring (e.g., eye color, fur pattern, plant height).
5	**Part A:** C (1 point) **Part B:** B (1 point)	MS-LS3-2	FKSA 1: Ability to identify that a variety of inherited traits passed from parents to offspring lead to differences in offspring (e.g., eye color, fur pattern, plant height).
6	A (1 point)	MS-LS1-7	EU: Recognize that food taken in by an organism is broken down and used by an organism for growth.
7	B (1 point)	MS-LS1-7	EU: Recognize that food taken in by an organism is broken down and used by an organism for growth.
8	C (1 point)	MS-LS1-7	FKSA 2: Identify ways in which energy from food can be used to support other processes within the organism.
9	A (1 point)	MS-LS1-7	FKSA 1: Ability to identify the outcome of the process of breaking down food molecules (e.g., sugar) as the release of energy.

Item metadata table continuation showing item 10

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
10	**First box:** mouth **Second box:** throat **Third box:** stomach (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.	MS-LS1-7	FKSA 1: Ability to identify the outcome of the process of breaking down food molecules (e.g., sugar) as the release of energy.