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California Assessment of Student  
Performance and Progress

# California Alternate Assessment Practice Test Scoring Guide



## Earth and Space Sciences Grade Five

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# 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 4-ESS3-2 and 4-ESS1-1.

## 4-ESS3-2 Earth Processes and Human Activity

***Identify and compare human solutions to reduce the impact of a natural Earth process (e.g., earthquake, flood, volcanic activity) on humans.***

**Table 1. 4-ESS3-2, FKSA and EU**

Assessment Target	Definition	Students Will Be Able To...
FKSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to identify a human solution to reduce the impact of a natural Earth process on humans. (FKSA 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify human solutions for minimizing the impact of natural hazards</li> <li>Identify human solutions that increase the safety of individuals during natural hazard events</li> </ul>
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize that different types of hazards result from natural Earth processes (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify natural hazards when shown pictures or videos of natural hazards</li> </ul>

## 4-ESS1-1 Earth's Place in the Universe

***Identify patterns of fossils and rock formations that show how the Earth's surface has changed over time.***

**Table 2. 4-ESS1-1, FKSA and EU**

Assessment Target	Definition	Students Will Be Able To...
FKSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to identify patterns of fossils and rock formations that show how the Earth's surface has changed over time. (FKSA 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify how the Earth's surface has changed using evidence of fossils</li> <li>Identify how the Earth's surface has changed using evidence of rock formations</li> </ul>
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Match fossils with a landscape that has changed (e.g., marine fossils in an area previously covered by water).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize that a fossil originated in a different type of landscape than where it was found</li> </ul>

## 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 Earth and Space Sciences](#).

**Example of Item Metadata**

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
1	A (1 point)	4-ESS3-2	EU: Recognize that different types of hazards result from natural Earth processes (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions).

## Grade Five Earth and Space Sciences Practice Test Items

Item	Key	Science Connector	Assessment Target
1	A (1 point)	4-ESS3-2	EU: Recognize that different types of hazards result from natural Earth processes (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions).
2	B (1 point)	4-ESS3-2	EU: Recognize that different types of hazards result from natural Earth processes (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions).
3	B (1 point)	4-ESS3-2	FKSA 1: Ability to identify a human solution to reduce the impact of a natural Earth process on humans.
4	B (1 point)	4-ESS3-2	FKSA 1: Ability to identify a human solution to reduce the impact of a natural Earth process on humans.
5	get under a table stand in a doorway (2 points) The student selects the two correct responses. (1 point) The student selects one of the correct responses.	4-ESS3-2	FKSA 1: Ability to identify a human solution to reduce the impact of a natural Earth process on humans.
6	A (1 point)	4-ESS1-1	EU: Match fossils with a landscape that has changed (e.g., marine fossils in an area previously covered by water).
7	B (1 point)	4-ESS1-1	EU: Match fossils with a landscape that has changed (e.g., marine fossils in an area previously covered by water).
8	C (1 point)	4-ESS1-1	FKSA 1: Ability to identify patterns of fossils and rock formations that show how the Earth's surface has changed over time.
9	C (1 point)	4-ESS1-1	FKSA 1: Ability to identify patterns of fossils and rock formations that show how the Earth's surface has changed over time.
10	<b>Part A:</b> A (1 point) <b>Part B:</b> C (1 point)	4-ESS1-1	FKSA 1: Ability to identify patterns of fossils and rock formations that show how the Earth's surface has changed over time.