



CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

California Alternate Assessment for Science Practice Items Scoring Guide *for* Grade Eight



Earth and Space Sciences— Earth's Energy



California Assessment of
Student Performance and Progress

California Alternate Assessment for Science Practice Test Scoring Guide

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Assessed Standards

The CAA for Science measures the Science Core Content 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 Core Content 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; and at the simplest level the essential understandings (EU) are the basic scientific concepts that students should understand. This is presented as a continuum in the figure below.



In this practice test the following connector will be assessed:

MS-ESS2-1 Earth's Systems

Identify relationships between components in a model of energy flows and matter cycles within and among Earth's systems, including the Sun and Earth's interior as primary energy sources.

Table 1. MS-ESS2-1, FKSA and EU

Assessment Target	Definition	Students Will Be Able To...
FKSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to identify relationships between components in a model of energy flows and matter cycles (e.g., weathering, erosion, sedimentation) among Earth's systems, with the Sun as the primary energy source. (FKSA 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the effect of frost wedging on the breakup of rocks Identify the effect of plant roots growing in rock fissures on the breakup of rocks Identify the role of water on erosion of sediments Identify the role of wind on erosion of sediments Identify the process of forming layers of rock and soil (sediments) Identify the Sun as the driver of weathering and erosion due to its role in the water cycle and formation of wind
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify types of Earth materials that can be located at the surface (exterior) and/or in the interior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify common materials used by humans that are found on or in the crust of Earth

Introduction to Practice Test Scoring Guide

The California Alternate Assessment for Science Practice Test Scoring Guide provides details about the items, assessment targets, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for the California Alternate Assessment 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.
- 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.

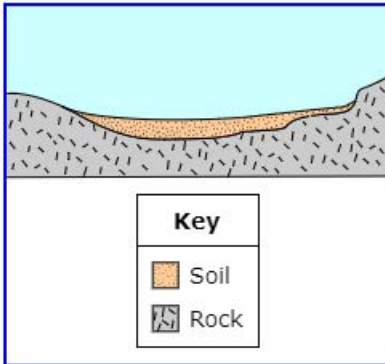
This guide presents the following information for each item:

- Assessment Target: FKSA or EU being assessed
- Static presentation of the item: static presentation of item from test administration system
- Static presentation of student response field(s): static presentation of response field from test administration system
- Answer key or exemplar: expected student response or example response from score point value
- Rubric and applicable score points for items where appropriate: score point representations for student responses

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 an Orienting Activity that is nongraded before each set of items. Please be sure to complete the Orienting Activity for each connector with 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 Earth and Space Sciences](#).

Grade Eight Practice Test Items

Item	Assessment Target
1	EU: Identify types of Earth materials that can be located at the surface (exterior) and/or in the interior.

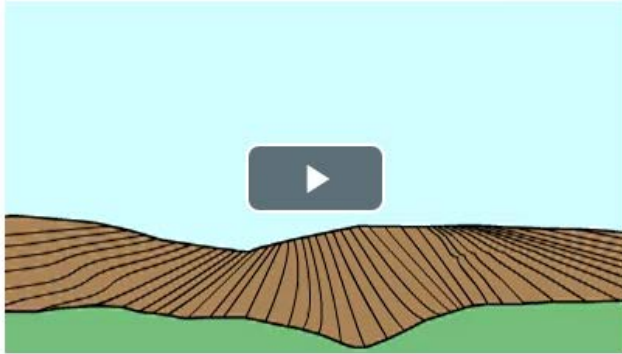


Where is soil found?

- (A) on the surface
- (B) deep underground

Key: A (1 point)

Item	Assessment Target
2	FKSA 1: Ability to identify relationships between components in a model of energy flows and matter cycles (e.g., weathering, erosion, sedimentation) among Earth's systems, with the Sun as the primary energy source.



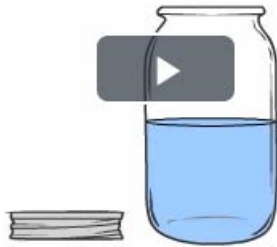
What causes the dirt to move in the video?

- Ⓐ water
- Ⓑ wind

Key: B (1 point)

Grade Eight Practice Test Items

Item	Assessment Target
3	FKSA 1: Ability to identify relationships between components in a model of energy flows and matter cycles (e.g., weathering, erosion, sedimentation) among Earth's systems, with the Sun as the primary energy source.

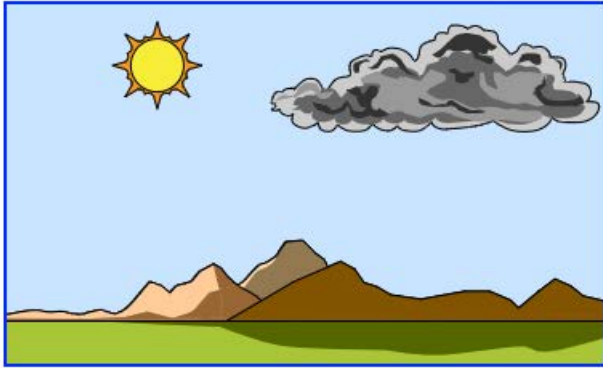


What happens to the rocks and dirt when the water stopped moving?

- Ⓐ The bigger rocks sink.
- Ⓑ They all float.
- Ⓒ They all sink.

Key: A (1 point)

Item	Assessment Target
4	FKSA 1: Ability to identify relationships between components in a model of energy flows and matter cycles (e.g., weathering, erosion, sedimentation) among Earth's systems, with the Sun as the primary energy source.



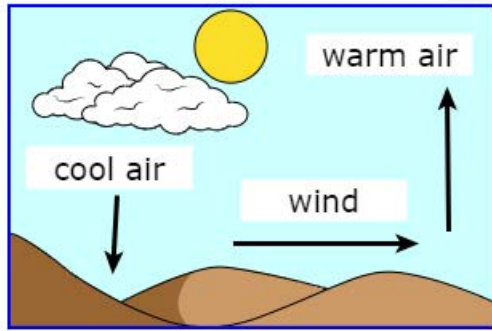
What warms the ground?

- Ⓐ the Moon
- Ⓑ the Sun
- Ⓒ Earth

Key: B (1 point)

Grade Eight Practice Test Items

Item	Assessment Target
5	FKSA 1: Ability to identify relationships between components in a model of energy flows and matter cycles (e.g., weathering, erosion, sedimentation) among Earth's systems, with the Sun as the primary energy source.



Part A

What causes the wind to blow?

- (A) movement of cool and warm air
- (B) birds flying in the air

Part B

What warms the air?

- (A) the Sun
- (B) clouds

Key:

Part A: A (1 point)

Part B: A (1 point)

Rubric:

(2 points) The student selects the correct responses in both Part A and Part B.

(1 point) The student selects the correct response in either Part A or Part B, but not both.