



CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

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



Life Sciences— Inherited Traits



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-LS3-2 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify similarities and differences between animal or plant parents and their offspring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

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.

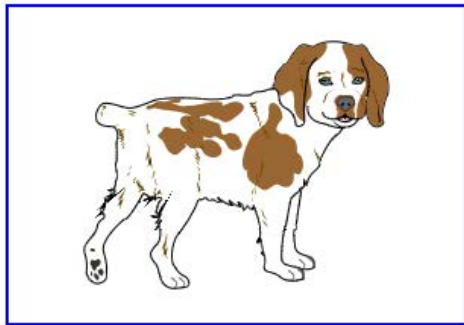
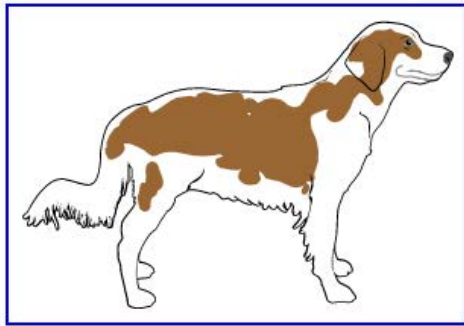
This guide presents the following information for each item:

- 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 Life Sciences](#).

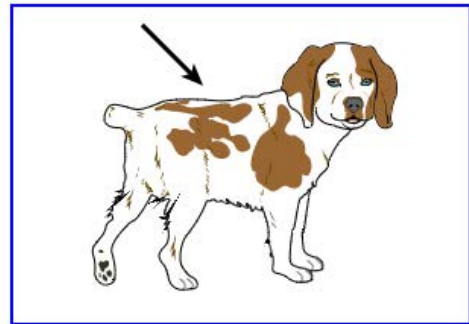
Grade Eight Practice Test Items

Item	Assessment Target
1	EU: Identify similarities and differences between animal or plant parents and their offspring.

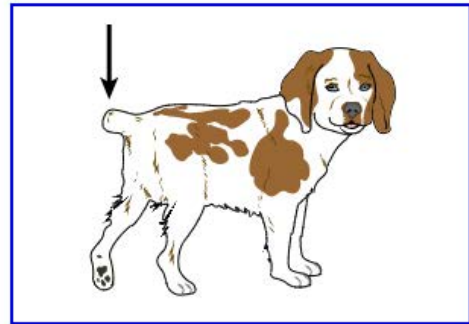


How is the puppy the same as the parent dog?

(A)

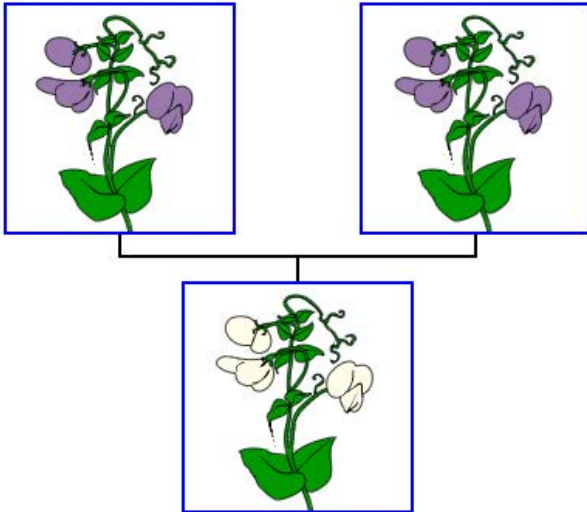


(B)



Key: A (1 point)

Item	Assessment Target
2	EU: Identify similarities and differences between animal or plant parents and their offspring.



What is different about the offspring plant?

- Ⓐ It has smaller leaves.
- Ⓑ It has white flowers.

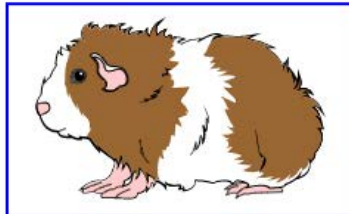
Key: B (1 point)

Grade Eight Practice Test Items

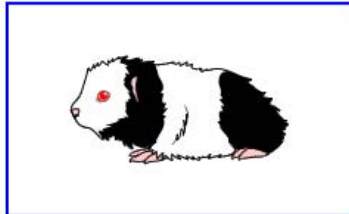
Item	Assessment Target
3	FKSA 1: Ability to identify that a variety of inherited traits passed from parents to offspring lead to differences in offspring (e.g., eye color, fur pattern, plant height).



Mother



Father



Baby

Which trait did the baby guinea pig get from the father?

- (A) color of hair
- (B) color of eyes
- (C) length of hair

Key: C (1 point)

Item	Assessment Target
4	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).



Father



Mother



Puppy

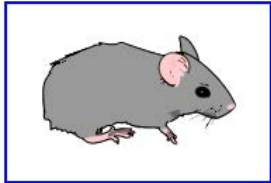
How is the puppy the same as the father?

- Ⓐ fur
- Ⓑ ears
- Ⓒ eyes

Key: B (1 point)

Grade Eight Practice Test Items

Item	Assessment Target
5	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).



Father



Mother



Child 1



Child 2

Part A

What is the same between Child 1 and Child 2?

- (A) fur color
- (B) eye color
- (C) tail length

Part B

Which parent gave Child 1 and Child 2 that characteristic?

- (A) father
- (B) mother

Key:

Part A: C (1 point)

Part B: B (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.