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California Assessment of Student  
Performance and Progress

# California Alternate Assessment Practice Test Scoring Guide



## Earth and Space Sciences High School

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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 HS-ESS2-5 and HS-ESS1-4.

## HS-ESS2-5 Earth's Systems

***Observe and identify the effect of water on the Earth's materials and surface processes (e.g., stream transportation and deposition, erosion, frost wedging).***

**Table 1. HS-ESS2-5, FKSA and EU**

| Assessment Target | Definition   | Students Will Be Able To...   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| FKSA              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the effects of water on the Earth's materials and surface processes. (FKSA 1)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the effects of fast-moving water on hillsides</li> <li>Identify that when fast-moving water slows, it drops rocks and dirt on the bottom of the waterway</li> <li>Identify that when water repeatedly freezes in cracks, it can eventually cause the cracks to become bigger</li> <li>Identify that layers of soil and rock can build up where fast-moving water slows and drops rock and soil</li> </ul> |
| EU                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize that water can erode rocks and soil.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify that water can move rocks and soil</li> </ul>   |

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

*Using a model, describe how Earth's motion causes changes over time (e.g., seasons, ice ages).*

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

| Assessment Target | Definition   | Students Will Be Able To...   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| FKSA              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to use a model to describe how the Earth's motion causes changes over time. (FKSA 1)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify how the motion of Earth causes day and night</li> <li>Identify how the motion and tilt of Earth causes the seasons</li> <li>Identify the season in the northern hemisphere based on the location and tilt of Earth relative to the Sun</li> </ul> |
| EU                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify orbiting objects in the solar system.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the Sun in a diagram of the solar system</li> <li>Identify the Moon in a diagram of the solar system</li> <li>Identify planets in a diagram of the solar system (does not include name of individual planets)</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—High School Earth and Space Sciences](#).

## Example of Item Metadata

| Item | Key            | Science Connector | Assessment Target                                  |
|------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| 1    | A<br>(1 point) | HS-ESS2-5         | EU: Recognize that water can erode rocks and soil. |

## High School Earth and Space Sciences Practice Test Items

| Item | Key   | Science Connector | Assessment Target   |
|------|---|-------------------|---|
| 1    | A<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS2-5         | EU: Recognize that water can erode rocks and soil.  |
| 2    | B<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS2-5         | EU: Recognize that water can erode rocks and soil.  |
| 3    | C<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS2-5         | FKSA 1: Identify the effects of water on the Earth's materials and surface processes.       |
| 4    | C<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS2-5         | FKSA 1: Identify the effects of water on the Earth's materials and surface processes.       |
| 5    | It makes waterfalls.<br>It makes valleys.<br>(2 points) The student selects the two correct responses.<br>(1 point) The student selects one of the correct responses. | HS-ESS2-5         | FKSA 1: Identify the effects of water on the Earth's materials and surface processes.       |
| 6    | B<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS1-4         | EU: Identify orbiting objects in the solar system.  |
| 7    | A<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS1-4         | EU: Identify orbiting objects in the solar system.  |
| 8    | A<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS1-4         | FKSA 1: Ability to use a model to describe how the Earth's motion causes changes over time. |
| 9    | The first choice (Earth with light on the side facing the Sun and darkness on the other side)<br>(1 point)  | HS-ESS1-4         | FKSA 1: Ability to use a model to describe how the Earth's motion causes changes over time. |



Item metadata table continuation showing item 10

| Item | Key   | Science Connector | Assessment Target   |
|------|---|-------------------|---|
| 10   | <p><b>Part A:</b> First box: the second choice (The north pole of Earth is tilted toward the Sun.)</p> <p>Second box: the third choice (The north pole of Earth is tilted away from Earth.)</p> <p>(1 point)</p> <p><b>Part B:</b> A</p> <p>(1 point)</p> | HS-ESS1-4         | FKSA 1: Ability to use a model to describe how the Earth's motion causes changes over time. |