Organization of the California Science Test

The California Science Test (CAST) is an untimed computer-based assessment that consists of six test segments and a student survey. Students take the CAST in grade five (G5), in grade eight (G8), and once in high school (HS)—that is, grade ten, eleven, or twelve. The test is divided into two sections, one with discrete (stand-alone) test items and the other with performance tasks (a group of test items developed for a single science concept or phenomenon). Segments within a section are presented in random order.

- Segments 1 and 2 contain discrete test items.
- Segment 3 contains either discrete test items **or** a performance task.
- Segments 4, 5, and 6 are performance tasks, with four to six test items included in each. Students will receive at least one performance task from each of the three science domains: Earth and Space Sciences, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

Segment 1

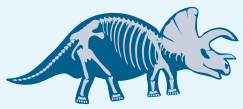
Discrete Items

G5: 13 items
G8: 14 items
HS: 16 items

Segment 2

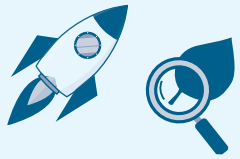
Discrete Items

G5: 13 items
G8: 14 items
HS: 16 items



Segment 3

Discrete Items
or
Performance Task



Segment 4

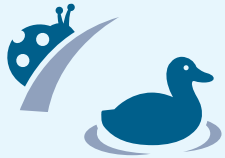
Performance Task

4–6 items

Segment 5

Performance Task

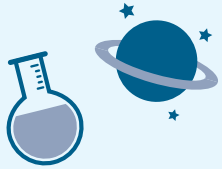
4–6 items



Segment 6

Performance Task

4–6 items



Student Survey

3–4 questions

A review screen at the end of each test segment prompts students to review their answers in that segment. When administering the CAST over multiple sessions, it is recommended that the test be paused at the end of a test segment.

The last portion of the CAST is a brief student survey that will assist with improving the test. Students in grades five and eight will be required to answer three questions, and high school students will answer four.

For more information about administering the CAST, refer to the "Science Assessments" section of the *California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Online Test Administration Manual*, located on the CAASPP Manuals and Instructions web page at https://www.caaspp.org/administration/instructions/index.html.

For more information, visit the California Department of Education CAST web page at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp.

March 2023