


Organization of the California Alternate Assessment for Science

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is an untimed, computer-based assessment administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose individualized education program indicates the use of an alternate assessment. The assessment is aligned with alternate achievement standards—called the Science Core Content Connectors—which are linked to the performance expectations from the California Next Generation Science Standards. Eligible students take the assessment in grades five and eight and once in high school (grade ten, eleven, or twelve).


This assessment consists of three separate, embedded performance tasks (PTs). Each PT contains fifteen test questions specific to one of the three science domains, which are Earth and Space Sciences, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences. Each PT assesses three Connectors. Each Connector segment includes an orienting activity followed by five questions at three levels of increasing complexity.

Administer each of the three performance tasks at any time throughout the year!

Directions for Administration


One Performance Task

Orienting Activity 1	1	2	3	4	5
Orienting Activity 2	6	7	8	9	10
Orienting Activity 3	11	12	13	14	15

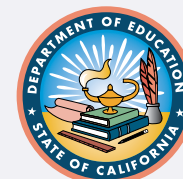


Test examiners administer the three embedded PTs in any order, at any time, throughout the school year. Each PT is administered to the student in a one-on-one setting by a trained test examiner shortly after the student has received instruction on the related science content.

To administer the CAA for Science, use the following references:

- Preparing for Administration under the Test Administration Documentation, California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), CAAs section on the [CAASPP and ELPAC Administer a Test Session web page](#) to learn about administering the test
- [CAASPP and ELPAC CAA for Science Administration Planning Guides web page](#) to schedule three PTs throughout the instructional year
- [CAASPP and ELPAC CAA for Science Form Assignments web page](#) for the required administration scripts and any necessary graphics to determine assigned form for each of the three PTs
- *Directions for Administration* found in the secure [Test Operations Management System](#) containing the required administration scripts and necessary graphics

For more information, visit [California Department of Education CAA for Science web page](#).



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