TCAP Science
Grade 5 Assessment Overview

Science Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the science grade 5 assessment. The science assessment will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through measurement of student mastery and will require students to demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of the three dimensions of science education: disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts and support the vertical alignment embedded within the standards.

The science TCAP assessment for **grade 5** is administered in **two** subparts. Calculators *are not* allowed on the grade 5 assessment.

The science assessment for **grade 5** is administered using a **paper-based test booklet and separate answer document**. All answers for each possible item type will be submitted by students writing in the answer document.

For more information on TCAP assessments, click here.

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the testing administration windows on the department's website.

Within the state testing window, testing schedules are established **by the district at the school and/or district level**. It is the district's discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule.

Test Administration Subpart Timing and Structure

The following timing details are applicable to the science assessment for grade 5. The testing structure below reflects the total of both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

Grade	Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Calculator Allowed?	Summary
5th	• 45 minutes • 25–28 items	• 45 minutes • 25–28 items	No	• Total Time: 90 minutes • Total Items: 51-55

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Assessment Blueprints

Assessment blueprints are designed to show educators a summary of what will be assessed on each assessment. This resource is designed to help educators as they plan for the upcoming school year. Assessment blueprints can be found here (under the "Science" tab).

Item Types

The TCAP science assessment for **Grade 5** is administered using **Discrete** and **Cluster** items which are **Selected Response**. These item types are used in multiple ways to elicit responses that demonstrate understanding of the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science.

Discrete items contain a single question paired with a stimulus or phenomenon. Discrete items can be *Multiple Choice* or *Multiple Select* and will assess more than one dimension of the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science.

Cluster items contain a series of up to eight consecutive questions which share a stimulus or phenomenon. Cluster item sets are designed to fully address the multidimensionality of the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science. The only item types that will appear as part of the cluster item sets are *Selected Response* items. Individual questions within a cluster are worth one point each and are independent of one another for reporting purposes.

Selected Response items used for the TCAP science assessments can include:

- *Multiple Choice* – These are items with four answer options and only one correct answer. Multiple Choice items are worth one point each.
- *Multiple Select* – These are items with more than four answer options and multiple correct answers. Multiple Select items are worth two points each and students can earn partial credit.

Additional Resources

The department has provided the following resources to support educators and students:

- **SchoolNet** is a TDOE-provided assessment platform. Resources include released items and various formative assessments across all TCAP-assessed contents and grade levels. There are ready-made assessments, as well as item banks for users to access and create custom assessments. SchoolNet can be accessed here.

- **The Assessment Development LiveBinder** houses resources from the TDOE Assessment Team. Examples of resources include blueprints, assessment overviews, practice tests, item releases, and additional test practice items. The Assessment Development LiveBinder can be found here.

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- **TestNav** is the summative assessment platform utilized for administering TCAP assessments. Resources include a TestNav Tutorial and Test Practice Items. TestNav can be found here. TestNav can be found [here.](#) Use the directions below for access:
  - Select Tutorials (below the login prompt).
  - Under the desired resource, click Start.
  - Enter your name as "Guest" and select Start.

Additional Information

Please visit the [department's website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.

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