ACT Aspire™ Exemplar Test Items

We invite educators, administrators, and policy makers to learn about ACT Aspire by viewing this collection of sample test items and tasks. There is a variety of content illustrated here, scattered across grade bands, and showing different types of test questions and formats.

These Exemplar items are best accessed on a desktop or laptop computer rather than on a tablet iPad or smartphone. The platform in which the ACT Aspire Exemplar Test Items are currently housed does not represent the final platform on which the ACT Aspire assessment will be delivered.

Login Information

To view the ACT Aspire Exemplar Items visit: tn.actaspire.org

Use the appropriate username and password for the subject area you wish to view.

Subject	Username	Password
English	english	actaspire
Reading	reading	actaspire
Math	math	actaspire
Science	science	actaspire
Writing Grade 9	writing9	actaspire
Writing Grade 8	writing8	actaspire
Writing Grade 7	writing7	actaspire
Writing Grade 6	writing6	actaspire
Writing Grade 5	writing5	actaspire
Writing Grade 4	writing4	actaspire
Writing Grade 3	writing3	actaspire

Tech Support

For tech support related to the platform experience for this set of ACT Aspire Exemplar Test Items, please contact 888-802-7502 or actaspire_implementation@actaspire.org.

For assistance with the functionality of the embedded TestNav tools please visit Avocet at:

http://actaspire.avocet.pearson.com/actaspire/Home#5040

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ACT Aspire™ Science

Introduction and Answer Key Document

The ACT Aspire Science Tests focus on the assessment of science practices using real-world scientific scenarios. At the earlier grades, topics generally focus on everyday student discovery rather than formal science. The scenarios in the upper grade assessments include student investigations, formal scientific research, formal scientific data from references, and students or scientists providing competing explanations for real scientific phenomena.

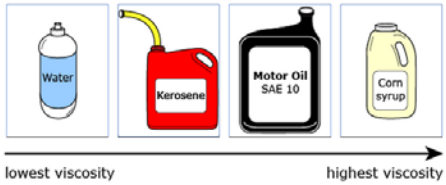
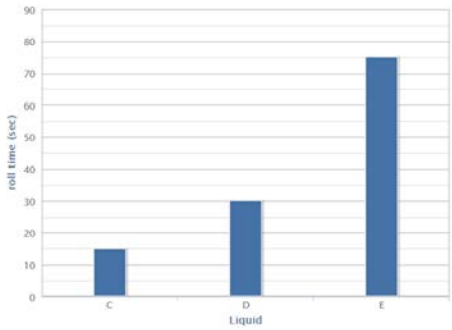
The content of the tests includes material from biology (life sciences at the earlier grades), chemistry and physics (physical science at the earlier grades), and Earth/space sciences (for example, geology, astronomy, and meteorology). Advanced knowledge in these areas is not required, but background knowledge acquired in general, introductory science courses may be needed to answer some of the questions in the upper grade assessments. The tests do not, however, sample specific content knowledge with enough regularity to make inferences about a student's attainment of any broad area, or specific part, of the science content domain. The ACT Aspire tests stress science practices over recall of scientific content, complex mathematics skills, and reading ability. To that end, the ACT Aspire Science Tests assess science practices in three domains: *Interpretation of Data*; *Scientific Investigation*; and *Evaluation of Models, Inferences, and Experimental Results*.

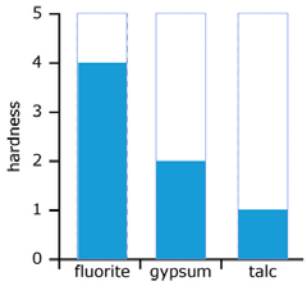
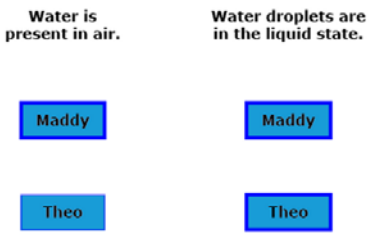
The ACT Aspire tests currently include multiple choice items, technology enhanced items (computer-based delivery only), and constructed response tasks. In the technology enhanced items, students must carry out actions such as moving objects, typing in their answers, and manipulating bar and line graphs to provide their responses. The constructed response tasks require students to produce, rather than select, a response. Constructed response tasks assess complex reasoning or thinking skills by providing opportunities for students to explain, justify, critique, create, propose, produce, design, or otherwise demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in ways that are not typically assessed through multiple choice items. Constructed response tasks are scored according to scoring criteria unique to each item. The scoring criteria identify the specific information a student needs to include for a valid and complete response. Depending on the item, a holistic rubric may also be used to score the item. The holistic rubric is used to assess the overall proficiency of the response allowing for differentiation among multiple skill levels.

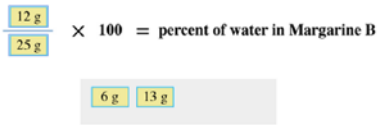
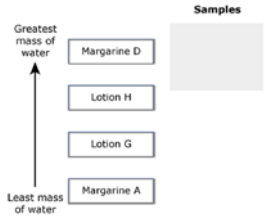
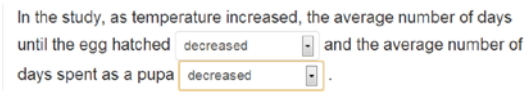
Answer Key Document

The next pages show the correct response for each selected response and technology enhanced item, as well as identifies the grade level band represented by the item.

Science Exemplar Answer Key

Sequence	Grade	Item Type	Correct Response
1	Early HS	Selected Response	D
2	Early HS	Selected Response	D
3	Early HS	Technology Enhanced	
4	Early HS	Technology Enhanced	
5	Early HS	Constructed Response	Not provided
6	Early HS	Constructed Response	Not provided
7	8-9	Selected Response	D
8	8-9	Selected Response	A
9	8-9	Technology Enhanced	
10	8-9	Technology Enhanced	A & D
11	8-9	Constructed Response	Not provided
12	8-9	Constructed Response	Not provided
13	8-9	Selected Response	D
14	8-9	Selected Response	C

Sequence	Grade	Item Type	Correct Response
15	8-9	Technology Enhanced	
16	8-9	Technology Enhanced	
17	8-9	Constructed Response	Not provided
18	8-9	Constructed Response	Not provided
19	7	Selected Response	A
20	7	Selected Response	D
21	7	Technology Enhanced	
22	7	Technology Enhanced	
23	7	Constructed Response	Not provided
24	7	Constructed Response	Not provided
25	6	Selected Response	C
26	6	Selected Response	B

Sequence	Grade	Item Type	Correct Response
27	6	Technology Enhanced	
28	6	Technology Enhanced	
29	6	Constructed Response	Not provided
30	6	Constructed Response	Not provided
31	4-5	Selected Response	C
32	4-5	Selected Response	B
33	4-5	Technology Enhanced	
34	4-5	Technology Enhanced	
35	4-5	Constructed Response	Not provided
36	4-5	Constructed Response	Not provided
37	3	Selected Response	C
38	3	Selected Response	B
39	3	Technology Enhanced	
40	3	Technology Enhanced	
41	3	Constructed Response	Not provided
42	3	Constructed Response	Not provided