

CAST Training Tests, Practice Tests, and Interim Assessments

At-a-Glance

This document provides a side-by-side comparison of training tests, practice tests, and interim assessments for the California Science Test (CAST) to help teachers decide which tool best fits their needs.

Information	Training Tests	Practice Tests	Interim Assessments
Purpose	Familiarize students with the testing interface, available accessibility resources, and the different question types.	Familiarize students with the format and structure of the CAST, including a representative sample of questions and content.	Provide teachers with information on student performance to help gauge students' knowledge and skills through either a standardized (for example, benchmark) or nonstandardized (for example, formative) manner.
Grade Levels	One test is available for each grade span—grades three through five, grades six through eight, and high school.	One test is available for each tested grade level: grades five, eight, and high school.	Two interim assessments, which include performance expectations from all three science domains, are available for grades three through five. Two interim assessments for each of the three science domains are available for middle school and high school.
Items	There are 7 items composed of a variety of item types. The training test is not fully representative of all possible item types included in the CAST.	There are 40–50 items composed of a wide variety of discrete items and three performance tasks—one performance task for each science domain.	There are 14–16 items composed of 9–10 discrete items and one performance task consisting of 5–6 items.
Scoring	Scoring guides are not available.	Scoring guides are available to assist in scoring.	Answer keys and hand scoring guides are available. Results are reported once all scoring (including hand scoring) has been completed and submitted. Every CAST Interim Assessment includes one item that requires hand scoring.
Logon	Access is available to anyone through a guest logon on the CAASPP & ELPAC Practice and Training Tests web page.	Access is available to anyone through a guest or secure logon on the CAASPP & ELPAC Practice and Training Tests web page.	Access is available to local educational agency staff who log on with their assigned Test Operations Management System credentials.

Find additional information on the [CAASPP & ELPAC Practice and Training Tests web page](#).