

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment

Science Item and Scoring Sampler



2018-2019 **Grade 4**

Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction—September 2018

SCIENCE TEST DIRECTIONS

On the following pages are the Science questions. There are two types of questions.

Multiple-Choice Questions:

Some questions will ask you to select an answer from among four choices. These questions will be found in your test booklet.

For the multiple-choice questions:

- Read each question, and choose the best answer.
- Record your choice in the answer booklet.
- Only one of the answers provided is the correct response.

Open-Ended Questions:

Other questions will require you to write your response. These questions will be found in your answer booklet.

For the open-ended questions:

- Be sure to read the directions carefully.
- If the question asks you to do two tasks, be sure to complete both tasks.
- If the question asks you to compare, be sure to compare. Also, if the question asks you to explain, describe, or identify, be sure to explain, describe, or identify.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SCORING GUIDELINES FOR SCIENCE OPEN-ENDED ITEMS

2 Points

- The response demonstrates a *thorough* understanding of the scientific content, concepts, and procedures required by the task(s).
- The response provides a clear, complete, and correct response as required by the task(s). The response may contain a minor blemish or omission in work or explanation that does not detract from demonstrating a *thorough* understanding.

1 Point

- The response demonstrates a *partial* understanding of the scientific content, concepts, and procedures required by the task(s).
- The response is somewhat correct with *partial* understanding of the required scientific content, concepts, and/or procedures demonstrated and/or explained. The response may contain some work that is incomplete or unclear.

0 Points

- The response provides *insufficient* evidence to demonstrate any understanding of the scientific content, concepts, and procedures as required by the task(s) for that grade level.
- The response may show only information copied or rephrased from the question or *insufficient* correct information to receive a score of 1.

Special Categories within zero reported separately:

Blank.......Blank, entirely erased, entirely crossed out, or consists entirely of whitespace

RefusalRefusal to respond to the task

Off Task.....Makes no reference to the item but is not an intentional refusal

Foreign LanguageWritten entirely in a language other than English

IllegibleIllegible or incoherent

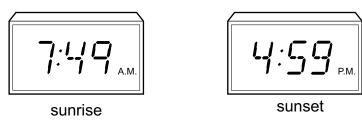
MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1. Over the past hundred years, people have built new and better roads in Pennsylvania. What is one possible **negative** effect of this technology?
 - A. Transportation has become less expensive.
 - B. Traveling greater distances is more difficult.
 - C. Wildlife habitats are separated into smaller areas.
 - D. Mail delivery services take longer to reach people.

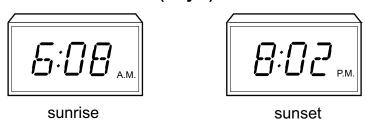
Item Information	
Alignment	S4.A.1.1.2
Answer Key	С
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	11%
p-value B	16%
p-value C	63% (correct answer)
p-value D	10%
Option Annotations	 A. Decreased expense would be a positive effect, not a negative effect. B. New and better roads make traveling greater distances easier, not more difficult. C. Key: Roads can separate wildlife habitats into smaller areas and negatively impact species that live in the areas. D. New and better roads allow mail to be delivered more quickly, not more slowly.

2. Use the drawings below to answer the question.

Sunrise and Sunset Times for Erie, PA (January 1)



Sunrise and Sunset Times for Erie, PA (May 1)



Which change occurred between January 1 and May 1?

- A. The amount of daylight increased.
- B. The average air temperature decreased.
- C. Earth rotated more quickly around its axis.
- D. Earth made one revolution around the Sun.

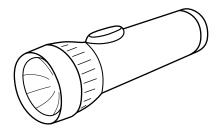
Item Information	
Alignment	S4.A.1.3.1
Answer Key	A
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	65% (correct answer)
p-value B	7%
p-value C	16%
p-value D	12%
Option Annotations	 A. Key: The time between sunrise and sunset increased between January 1 and May 1. B. The drawings show times, not temperatures. C. The speed of Earth's rotation does not change during the year. D. Earth makes one revolution around the Sun in one year, not in four months.

- **3.** A student wants to measure the depth of each snowfall in January. Which tools are **most** helpful for gathering and recording the data?
 - A. shovel and calculator
 - B. beaker and stopwatch
 - C. balance and computer
 - D. meterstick and calendar

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.A.1.3.1
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	15%
p-value B	11%
p-value C	10%
p-value D	64% (correct answer)
Option Annotations	 A. Neither a shovel nor a calculator is a tool for measuring. B. A beaker can be used to measure volume, but not length. A stopwatch can be used to measure time in seconds and minutes, but not days and months. C. A balance can be used to measure mass. A computer is not a tool for measuring. D. Key: The meterstick will allow the student to record the depth of snow in centimeters, and the calendar will allow the student to record the day of the month.

4. Use the drawing below to answer the question.

Flashlight



A student wants to compare how long a flashlight will continue to shine using different brands of batteries. How can the student make sure that the test is fair?

- A. Test the same brand of batteries in two flashlights.
- B. Test each brand of batteries in the same flashlight.
- C. Test different sizes of batteries in the same flashlight.
- D. Test whether some flashlights can work with only one battery.

S4.A.2.1.2
В
3
24%
54% (correct answer)
11%
11%
 A. The student wants to compare different brands of batteries, not the same brand. B. Key: Using different brands of batteries in the same flashlight will limit the number of variables. C. Only one size of battery will work in the flashlight. D. The student wants to compare different brands of batteries, not different

5. Use the table below to answer the question.

Student Observations

Year	Arrival Date of Merganser Ducks
1	February 22
2	March 3
3	March 10
4	February 28

A student observes the first day merganser ducks arrive at a lake each year during their migration. When will the merganser ducks **most likely** arrive at the lake in year 5?

- A. February 15 to 22
- B. around February 15
- C. mid-April to late April
- D. late February to mid-March

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.A.2.1.3
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	14%
p-value B	11%
p-value C	21%
p-value D	54% (correct answer)
Option Annotations	A. The earliest that merganser ducks have been observed is February 22, so it is unlikely that they will arrive before this date.B. The earliest that merganser ducks have been observed is February 22, so it
	is unlikely that they will arrive before this date. C. The merganser ducks were observed arriving between February 22 and March 10, as it is unlikely they will arrive as lete as April
	March 10, so it is unlikely they will arrive as late as April. D. Key: The merganser ducks have been observed arriving at the lake between February 22 and March 10 in previous years, so they will most likely continue this pattern in future years.

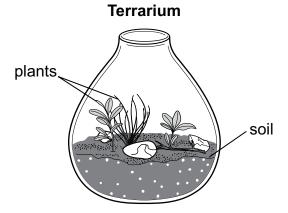
- **6.** Which system is partly natural and partly human-made?
 - A. a pen that writes in blue ink
 - B. a tree that produces edible fruit
 - C. a mountain that erodes over time
 - D. a coral reef that grows on old train cars

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.A.3.1.1
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	28%
p-value B	23%
p-value C	8%
p-value D	41% (correct answer)
Option Annotations	A. Both the pen and ink are human-made.
	B. Both the tree and fruit are natural.
	C. Both the mountain and the process of erosion are natural.
	D. Key: The coral reef is natural and the train cars are human-made.

- 7. A student described human-made systems and natural systems. Which characteristic was **most likely** used to describe both systems?
 - A. grows larger
 - B. needs oxygen
 - C. has multiple parts
 - D. is powered by electricity

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.A.3.1.1
Answer Key	С
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	14%
p-value B	31%
p-value C	41% (correct answer)
p-value D	14%
Option Annotations	 A. Human-made systems do not grow larger. B. Human-made systems do not need oxygen. C. Key: Both human-made systems and natural systems have multiple parts. D. Natural systems are not powered by electricity.

8. Use the drawing below to answer the question.



How does the soil help the plants in the terrarium?

- A. The soil absorbs sunlight for the plants.
- B. The soil produces energy for the plants.
- C. The soil provides the plants with a place to grow.
- D. The soil protects the plants from other organisms.

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.A.3.1.2
Answer Key	С
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	18%
p-value B	25%
p-value C	47% (correct answer)
p-value D	10%
Option Annotations	 A. Plants absorb sunlight to grow. They do not get sunlight from the soil. B. Plants make their own energy from sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide. They do not get energy from the soil. C. Key: Plants grow in soil. D. The soil does not protect the plants from other organisms.

- 9. How do the human nose and lungs work together?
 - A. The nose filters air that is processed in the lungs.
 - B. The nose brings in food that is digested in the lungs.
 - C. The nose lets out energy that is produced by the lungs.
 - D. The nose senses odors that are understood by the lungs.

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.B.1.1.4
Answer Key	A
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	64% (correct answer)
p-value B	6%
p-value C	16%
p-value D	14%
Option Annotations	A. Key: Air is inhaled through the nose, filtered, and then processed in the lungs.
	B. The nose and lungs are part of the respiratory system, not the digestive system.
	C. The nose filters air that is processed in the lungs. The nose does not let out energy that is produced by the lungs.
	D. The nose has sensors that receive information about smells, but this information is processed by the brain, not the lungs.

10. Use the lists below to answer the question.

Lists of Traits

List A

List B

scar on right knee

- brown eyes
- 5 feet tall
- curly hair
- likes to sing

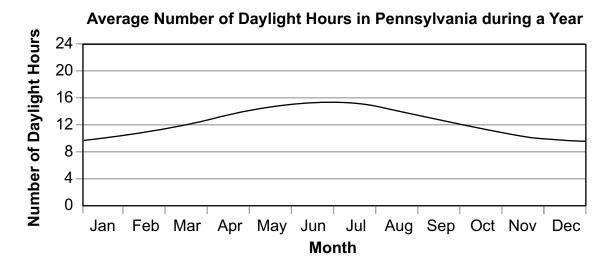
 - long hair

How are these lists of traits different?

- A. Only the traits in List A can change.
- Only the traits in List B are formed naturally. B.
- C. Only the traits in List A are inherited from parents.
- D. Only the traits in List B can affect a person's survival.

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.B.2.2.1
Answer Key	С
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	14%
p-value B	18%
p-value C	57% (correct answer)
p-value D	11%
Option Annotations	 A. The traits in both lists can change over time. B. The traits in both lists can be formed naturally. C. Key: The traits in List A are controlled by genes passed on from the parents. D. The traits in List B would be unlikely to affect a person's survival.

11. Use the graph below to answer the question.



Plants and animals respond to changes in their natural environment. Which natural response can **most likely** be predicted due to the changing amounts of daylight shown in the graph?

- A. Birds will migrate north between July and December.
- B. Birds will migrate south between January and March.
- C. Plants will absorb the most energy between May and July.
- D. Plants will absorb the most energy between March and May.

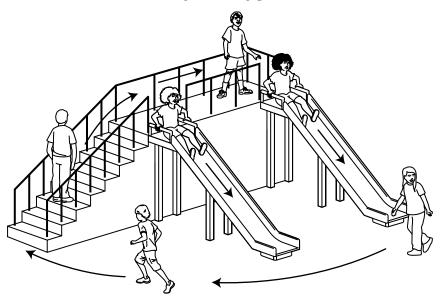
Item Information	
Alignment	S4.B.3.2.3
Answer Key	С
Depth of Knowledge	3
p-value A	20%
p-value B	20%
p-value C	49% (correct answer)
p-value D	11%
Option Annotations	 A. Birds migrate south, not north, between July and December. B. Birds migrate north, not south, between January and March. C. Key: The numbers of hours of daylight are greatest between May and July, allowing plants to absorb the most energy during this time. D. The numbers of hours of daylight are greatest between May and July, not between March and May.

- **12.** A log burns in a fireplace. Nearby, a light bulb is glowing. How are the fire and the light bulb alike?
 - A. Both create new energy.
 - B. Both absorb light energy.
 - C. Both release light energy.
 - D. Both use electrical energy.

Item Information			
Alignment	S4.C.2.1.2		
Answer Key	С		
Depth of Knowledge	2		
p-value A	10%		
p-value B	13%		
p-value C	70% (correct answer)		
p-value D	7%		
Option Annotations	 A. Energy is not created by either the fire or the light bulb. B. Both sources release light energy. They do not absorb it. C. Key: The fire and the light bulb both release energy in the form of light. D. The fire does not use electrical energy. 		

13. Use the drawing below to answer the question.





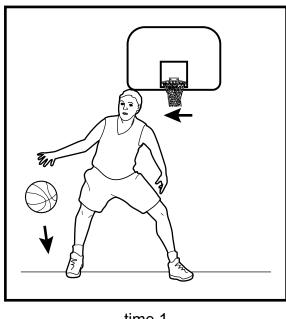
A schoolyard playground reminded a student of an electrical circuit. Which type of circuit would the student **most likely** describe using the playground?

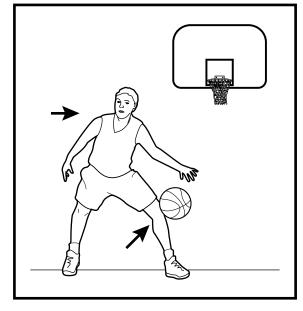
- A. a series circuit because there is only one way up to the top
- B. a series circuit because the students can only go down the slides
- C. a parallel circuit because the students change directions as they are playing
- D. a parallel circuit because students have two ways to slide down to the ground

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.C.2.1.3
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	3
p-value A	23%
p-value B	12%
p-value C	13%
p-value D	52% (correct answer)
Option Annotations	 A. The circuit is parallel, not series, because there is more than one path to the ground. B. The circuit is parallel, not series, because there is more than one path to the ground. C. The arrows do not indicate that the students can change direction while playing. D. Key: Parallel circuits have more than one path for the current to flow; the two slides show this split.

14. Use the drawing below to answer the question.

Student Playing Basketball





time 1

time 2

Which statement **best** describes the movement of the student and the ball in the drawing?

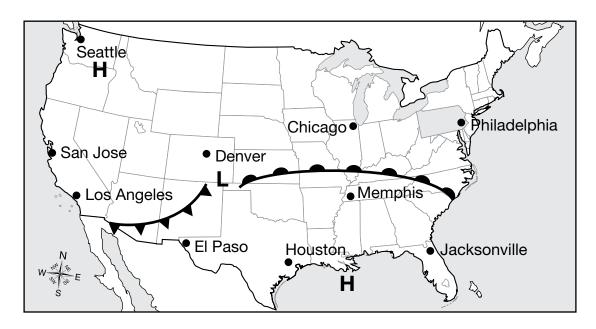
- The student is only moving from side to side, while the basketball is only moving up and down.
- The student is mostly moving up and down, while the basketball is mostly moving from side B. to side.
- C. The student is only moving up and down, while the basketball is moving up and down and from side to side.
- D. The student is mostly moving from side to side, while the basketball is moving from side to side and up and down.

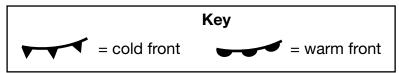
Item Information	
Alignment	S4.C.3.1.2
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	22%
p-value B	10%
p-value C	11%
p-value D	57% (correct answer)
Option Annotations	 A. The basketball is also moving from side to side, not just up and down. B. The student is moving from side to side, not up and down. Also, the basketball is moving up and down and from side to side. C. The student is moving from side to side, not up and down. D. Key: The student is moving from side to side, and the basketball is moving both up and down and from side to side.

- **15.** A student lives near a lake. Which observation is the student **most likely** to make about the lake?
 - A. The water is fresh rather than salty.
 - B. The lake empties into a larger body of water.
 - C. The water flows quickly from high to low areas.
 - D. The lake completely dries up during some seasons.

Item Information				
Alignment	S4.D.1.3.1			
Answer Key	A			
Depth of Knowledge	2			
p-value A	49% (correct answer)			
p-value B	20%			
p-value C	20%			
p-value D	11%			
Option Annotations	 A. Key: Most lakes contain fresh water. B. Rivers, not lakes, empty into larger bodies of water. C. Lakes contain still water. They do not flow. D. Lakes are usually too large to completely dry up. 			

16. Use the weather map below to answer the question.





Which type of front is likely to arrive soon in Philadelphia?

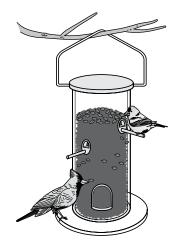
- A. cold front from the north
- B. cold front from the south
- C. warm front from the north
- D. warm front from the south

Item Information	
Alignment	S4.D.2.1.2
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
p-value A	11%
p-value B	10%
p-value C	35%
p-value D	44% (correct answer)
Option Annotations	 A. There is no cold front to the north of Philadelphia. B. There is no cold front to the south of Philadelphia. C. There is no warm front to the north of Philadelphia. D. Key: There is a warm front to the south of Philadelphia, and it will most likely move northeast and affect Philadelphia.

OPEN-ENDED ITEM

17. Use the drawing below to answer the question.





A student wants to learn more about birds. The student fills and hangs a bird feeder from a tree outside a window.

Part A: Identify an appropriate tool for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day.

Part B: Describe how using binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder.

SCORING GUIDE

#17 Item Information

Alignment	S4.A.2.2.1	Depth of Knowledge	2	Mean Score	1.50	
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Item-Specific Scoring Guideline

Score	Description
2	The response demonstrates a <i>thorough</i> understanding of how to identify appropriate tools or instruments for specific tasks and describes the information they can provide (e.g., measuring: length – ruler, mass – balance scale, volume – beaker, temperature – thermometer, making observations: hand lens, binoculars, telescope) by • identifying an appropriate tool for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day and • describing how using binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder.
	The response is clear, complete, and correct.
1	The response demonstrates a partial understanding of how to identify appropriate tools or instruments for specific tasks and describes the information they can provide (e.g., measuring: length – ruler, mass – balance scale, volume – beaker, temperature – thermometer, making observations: hand lens, binoculars, telescope) by • identifying an appropriate tool for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day
	or
	 describing how using binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder.
	The response may contain some work that is incomplete or unclear.
0	The response provides <i>insufficient</i> evidence to demonstrate any understanding of the concept being tested.

Note: No deductions should be taken for misspelled words or grammatical errors.

Responses that will receive credit:

Part A (1 point):

- A balance scale
- A measuring cup
- A beaker
- A ruler

Part B (1 point):

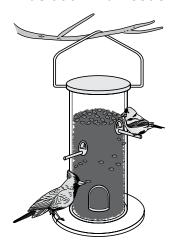
- Binoculars make objects that are far away appear closer and larger. The student will be able to see markings and colors on the birds better using the binoculars than without using them.
- Binoculars help a student see small details on the birds that may help the student identify the birds that visit the feeder.
- Using the binoculars may help the student observe locations away from the feeder, like where the birds go to build a nest after they leave the feeder.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Response Score: 2 points

17. Use the drawing below to answer the question.

Birds at a Bird Feeder



A student wants to learn more about birds. The student fills and hangs a bird feeder from a tree outside a window.

Part A: Identify an appropriate tool for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day.

Use a ruler and make markings.

Part B: Describe how using binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder.

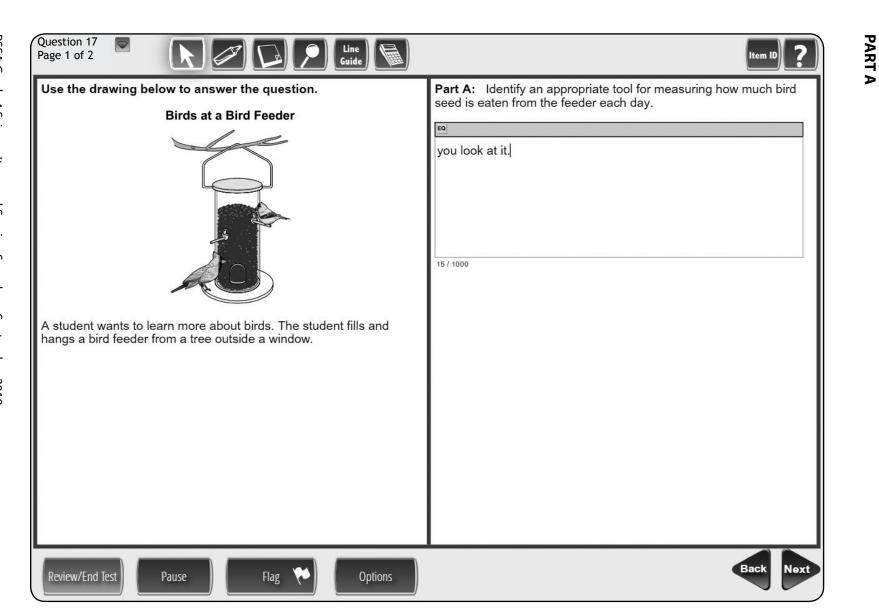
Binoculars help by making bird look closer. Then that student will see more detail in the feathers witch Can help identify the bird.

This response demonstrates a *thorough* understanding of how to identify appropriate tools or instruments for specific tasks and describes the information they can provide. In part A, the response ("ruler") identifies an appropriate tool for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day. In part B, the response ("... making bird look closer. Then that student will see more detail in the feathers witch can help identify the bird") accurately describes how binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder. The response is clear, complete, and correct.

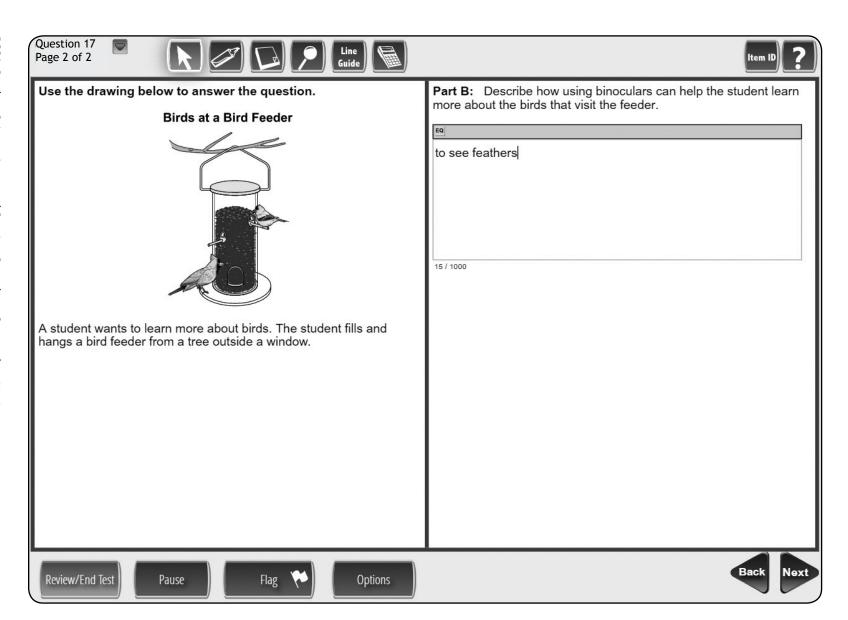
STUDENT RESPONSE

Response Score: 1 point





PART B



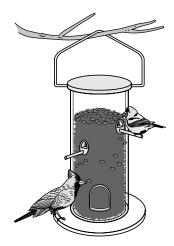
This response demonstrates a *partial* understanding of how to identify appropriate tools or instruments for specific tasks and describes the information they can provide. In part A, the response ("you look at it") does not identify a tool that can be used for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day and does not receive any credit. In part B, the response ("to see there feathers") accurately describes how binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder. The response contains some work that is incomplete or unclear.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Response Score: 0 points

17. Use the drawing below to answer the question.





A student wants to learn more about birds. The student fills and hangs a bird feeder from a tree outside a window.

Part A: Identify an appropriate tool for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day.

It eats about 3,000 seeds a day

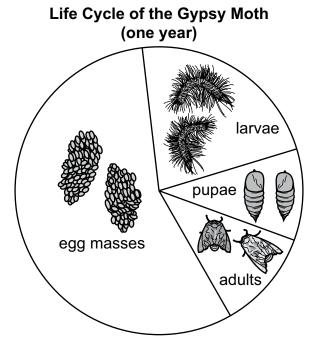
Part B: Describe how using binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder.

about 8 birds see it a day

This response provides *insufficient* evidence to demonstrate any understanding of how to identify appropriate tools or instruments for specific tasks or describe the information they can provide. In part A, the response ("It eats about 3,000 seeds a day") does not identify a tool that can be used for measuring how much bird seed is eaten from the feeder each day and does not receive any credit. In part B, the response ("about 8 birds see it a day") does not describe how the binoculars can help the student learn more about the birds that visit the feeder and does not receive any credit.

OPEN-ENDED ITEM

18. Use the diagram below to answer the question.



The diagram shows the life cycle of the gypsy moth.

Part A: Complete the life cycle of the gypsy moth by filling in the missing stages in the correct order below.	
adults	

Part B: Describe one way that the larva stage is different from the egg mass stage.

AFTER YOU HAVE CHECKED YOUR WORK, CLOSE YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET AND TEST BOOKLET SO YOUR TEACHER WILL KNOW YOU ARE FINISHED.



SCORING GUIDE

#18 Item Information

Alignment	S4.B.1.1.5	Depth of Knowledge	2	Mean Score	1.11
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Item-Specific Scoring Guideline

Score	Description
2	The response demonstrates a <i>thorough</i> understanding of how to describe the life cycles of different organisms (e.g., moth, grasshopper, frog, seed-producing plant) by • filling in the missing stages of the gypsy moth life cycle in the correct order and • describing one way that the larva stage is different from the egg mass stage. The response is clear, complete, and correct.
1	The response demonstrates a partial understanding of how to describe the life cycles of different organisms (e.g., moth, grasshopper, frog, seed-producing plant) by • filling in the missing stages of the gypsy moth life cycle in the correct order or • describing one way that the larva stage is different from the egg mass stage. The response may contain some work that is incomplete or unclear.
0	The response provides <i>insufficient</i> evidence to demonstrate any understanding of how to describe the life cycles of different organisms.

Note: No deductions should be taken for misspelled words or grammatical errors.

Responses that will receive credit:

Part A (1 point):

adults → egg masses → larva → pupae

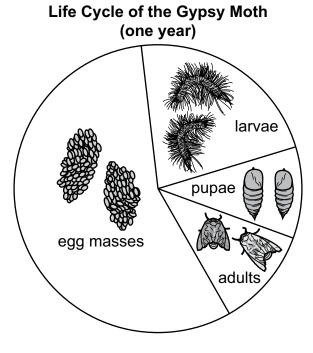
Part B (1 point):

- The moth larvae can move and the egg masses are unable to move.
- The larva stage shows larva as individuals, but the eggs clump together in groups.
- The larva stage is shorter than the egg mass stage.
- The larva stage occurs at a different time of year than the egg mass stage.
- The larvae develops from the egg masses, but the eggs develop from the adults.
- Moth larvae develop from the egg masses, but the moth pupa develops from a larva.
- The egg masses look smooth, but the moth larvae look hairy.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Response Score: 2 points

18. Use the diagram below to answer the question.



The diagram shows the life cycle of the gypsy moth.

Part A: Complete the life cycle of the gypsy moth by filling in the missing stages in the correct order below.

adults --- egg masses --- larvae --- pupae

Part B: Describe one way that the larva stage is different from the egg mass stage.

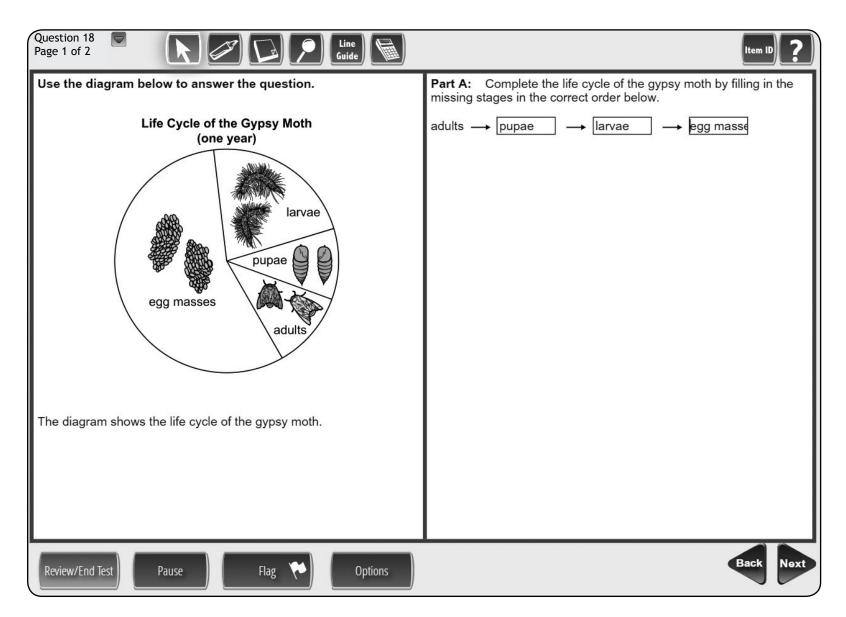
The gypsy moth is in the larva stage for a shorter time than the egg mass stage.

This response demonstrates a *thorough* understanding of how to describe the life cycles of different organisms. In part A, the missing stages of the gypsy moth life cycle are in the correct order ("egg masses —> larvae —> pupae"). In part B, the response ("The gypsy moth is in the larva stage for a shorter time than the egg mass stage") correctly describes one way that the larva stage is different from the egg mass stage. The response is clear, complete, and correct.

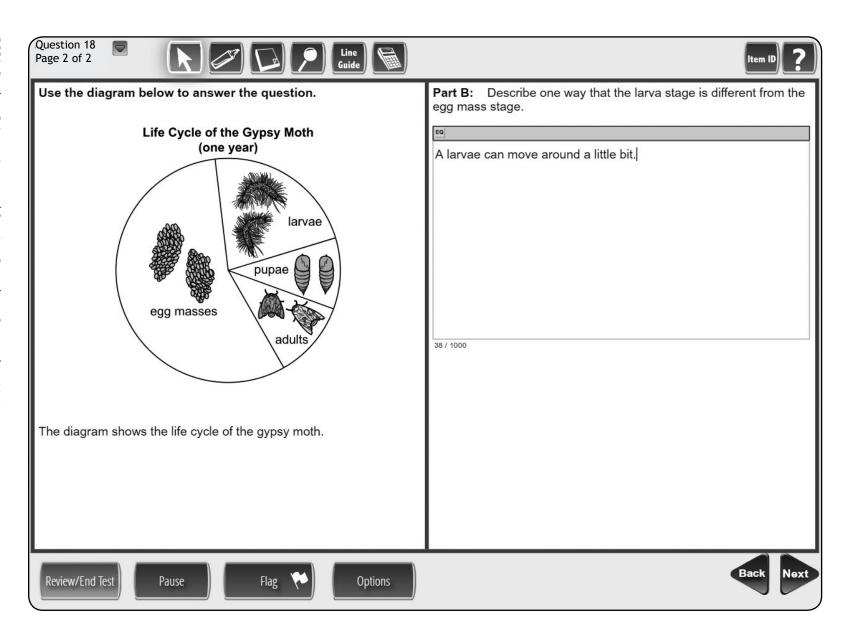
AFTER YOU HAVE CHECKED YOUR WORK, CLOSE YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET AND TEST BOOKLET SO YOUR TEACHER WILL KNOW YOU ARE FINISHED.





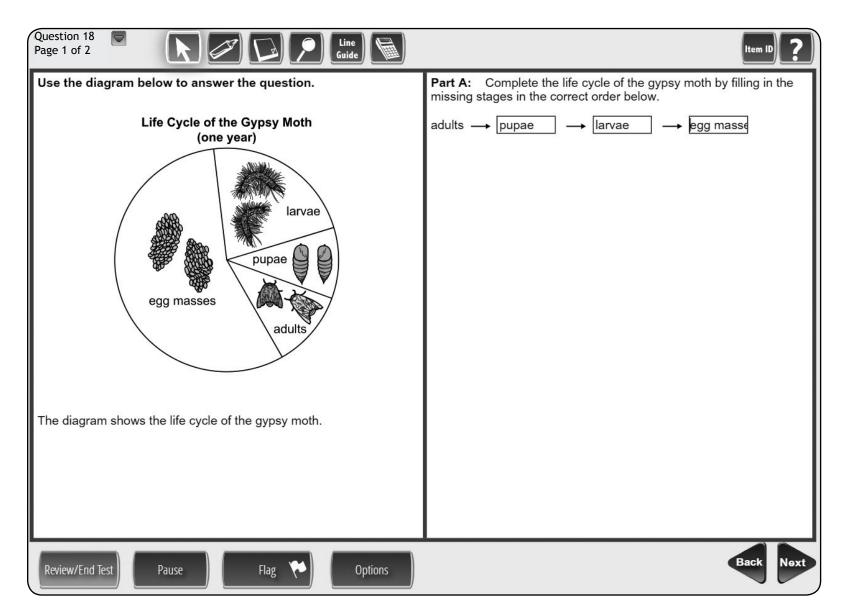


PART B

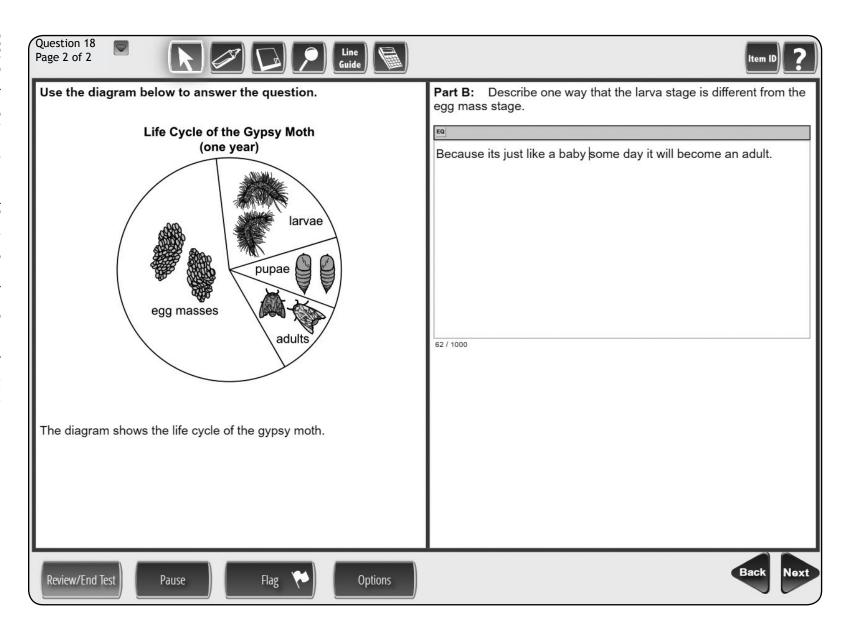


This response demonstrates a partial understanding of how to describe the life cycles of different organisms. In part A, the stages of the gypsy moth life cycle are in an incorrect order ("pupae \longrightarrow larvae \longrightarrow egg masses") and receive no credit. In part B, the response ("A larvae can move around a little bit") correctly describes one way that the larva stage is different from the egg mass stage.

PART A



PART B



This response provides *insufficient* evidence to demonstrate any understanding of how to describe the life cycles of different organisms. In part A, the stages of the gypsy moth life cycle are in an incorrect order ("pupae —> larvae —> egg masses") and receive no credit. In part B, the response ("Because its just like a baby some day it will become an adult") does not describe a way the larva stage is different from the egg mass stage and does not receive any credit.

SAMPLE ITEM SUMMARY

MULTIPLE-CHOICE

Sample Number	Alignment	Answer Key	Depth of Knowledge	p-values A	p-values B	p-values C	<i>p</i> -values D
1	S4.A.1.1.2	С	2	11%	16%	63%	10%
2	S4.A.1.3.1	A	2	65%	7%	16%	12%
3	S4.A.1.3.1	D	2	15%	11%	10%	64%
4	S4.A.2.1.2	В	3	24%	54%	11%	11%
5	S4.A.2.1.3	D	2	14%	11%	21%	54%
6	S4.A.3.1.1	D	2	28%	23%	8%	41%
7	S4.A.3.1.1	С	2	14%	31%	41%	14%
8	S4.A.3.1.2	С	2	18%	25%	47%	10%
9	S4.B.1.1.4	A	2	64%	6%	16%	14%
10	S4.B.2.2.1	С	2	14%	18%	57%	11%
11	S4.B.3.2.3	С	3	20%	20%	49%	11%
12	S4.C.2.1.2	С	2	10%	13%	70%	7%
13	S4.C.2.1.3	D	3	23%	12%	13%	52%
14	S4.C.3.1.2	D	2	22%	10%	11%	57%
15	S4.D.1.3.1	А	2	49%	20%	20%	11%
16	S4.D.2.1.2	D	2	11%	10%	35%	44%

OPEN-ENDED

Sample Number	Alignment	Points	Depth of Knowledge	Mean Score
17	S4.A.2.2.1	2	2	1.50
18	S4.B.1.1.5	2	2	1.11