THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



FOR TEACHERS ONLY

RATING GUIDE FOR WRITTEN TEST, PART II

This rating guide contains detailed directions for rating student responses to Part II of the written test in Elementary-Level Science. All raters should become familiar with the detailed directions before beginning to rate student responses.

Appendix A provides two charts. The performance levels chart translates final scores into four performance levels. The conversion chart translates a student's raw scores on the written and performance tests to a final score.

Appendix B provides three charts that link the individual questions on the test to the *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum K-4*. This core curriculum is based on the *New York State Learning Standards in Mathematics, Science, and Technology*.

Any clarifications or changes to this rating guide will be posted on the NYS Education Department website at <u>http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/</u> at the end of the May test administration period. Check this web page before starting the scoring process and and several times during the scoring period.

Questions regarding this test should be directed to Ann Crotty in the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Instructional Technology at (518) 474-5922.

Note: Retain this rating guide for future use. Do not return it to SED.

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Detailed Directions for Rating Part II of the Written Test

This guide contains detailed directions and criteria for rating student responses to the questions in Part II of the written test. Raters should become familiar with the detailed directions and rating criteria before beginning to rate the student responses. Refer to the 2004 Manual for Administrators and Teachers pages 14-17 for suggestions about organizing the rating process.

In rating the student responses, follow the procedure outlined below.

- 1. Familiarize yourself with the system your school is using for processing the answer papers and recording the student scores. For example, scores may be transferred to each student's scannable answer sheet or to the Class Record Sheet.
- 2. Have a test booklet on hand. Read each Part II question carefully. Note exactly what is required.
- 3. Carefully read the criteria provided in this guide for rating each question. Look at the sample responses for each point value.

Note: These samples represent actual student responses that have been transcribed.

- 4. When answers appear in **bold**, allow credit for <u>only</u> those answers. In other cases, examples of correct answers are provided. Correct answers include, but are not limited to, these answers. Other responses that convey the same general meaning as those given in this guide should also receive credit. Raters must use their judgement to decide if the student's answer meets the criteria. You may find it helpful to discuss questionable student responses with other raters.
- 5. Discuss with other raters the requirements of each question and the rating criteria. When you are certain that you clearly understand the requirements and criteria, you are ready to begin rating the student responses.
- 6. It is recommended that you rate all the student responses to one question or group of questions before proceeding to the next question or group of questions. This method helps ensure that the rating criteria are applied consistently.
- 7. Students should *not* lose credit for incorrect spelling, grammar, capitalization, or punctuation.
- 8. In responses to questions where a specific number of answers are required (e.g., identify three materials, give two examples), if the student provides more than the required number of answers, score only the required number, in the order in which they appear.
- 9. Record the number of credits you allow for each question in the table provided on the back cover of the test booklet. The maximum number of credits for each question appears in the table.

- 10. When you have finished rating all the Part II questions, add the credits allowed for each question to obtain the total raw score for Part II.
- 11. The total raw score for Part II can be transferred to the student's scannable answer sheet. Check to be certain that the student name on the test booklet matches the name on the answer sheet. Scores may also be transferred to the Class Record Sheet if your school uses it.
 - **Note:** Some schools will transfer a score for each Part II question rather than a total raw score for Part II. These are local decisions that depend on the answer sheet your school uses.
- 12. Add the student's raw score for Part II to the raw score for Part I to determine the student's total raw score for the written test. Use the conversion chart in Appendix A to convert the written and performance test raw scores to a final score for the student.

- **31** [1] Allow 1 credit for **orange juice** *or* **juice** *or* **o.j.**.
- **32** [1] Allow 1 credit for a correct reason to include calcium in a healthy diet.

Correct answers include:

- helps our bodies grow strong bones
- It builds strong teeth.
- to get the right nutrients
- It helps us to grow.

Note: Do not allow credit for "to be healthy," since this is stated in the question.

Do not allow credit for general statements like "it is good for you."

- **33** [1] Allow 1 credit for **two** or **2** or **twice**.
- **34** [2] Allow a maximum of 2 credits, 1 for each factor that might have caused a decrease in the deer population.

Correct answers include:

- not enough food/not enough plants
- Some deer were not able to find proper shelter.
- There was an increase in predators.
- Some deer were not able to find enough water.
- bad weather
- There was an increase in hunting.
- disease
- The habitat was destroyed or damaged (flood, fire, humans, etc.).
- hit by cars
- pollution
- Some of the deer moved away.
- There was construction in the area.
- There were too many deer and they had to compete for food.
- The deer didn't reproduce.

Incorrect answers include:

— The deer died.

35 [2] *a* Allow 1 credit for correctly explaining why some birds migrate.

Correct answers include:

- Birds migrate because they are unable to find food in cold climates.
- Birds migrate to go to their breeding grounds.
- It is too cold here.
- instinct
- *b* Allow 1 credit for a correct description of another way that animals adapt to seasonal changes.

Correct answers include:

- a snowshoe hare changing its color in the winter
- shedding their fur in spring
- growing more fur in the winter
- Squirrels store nuts for the winter.
- Bears/skunks/reptiles hibernate in the winter.
- birds changing feather color during mating season
- Humans wear warmer clothes in the winter.
- Some animals eat another kind of food in the winter.
- gain weight/get fat/get bigger
- hibernate
- store food

Note: Do *not* accept flying south since it was given in part *a*.

A specific animal name is *not* needed for an answer to be correct.

Incorrect answers include:

- They get used to the weather. (This simply restates the question.)
- **36** [1] Allow 1 credit for correctly identifying *two* living organisms in the diagram. Do *not* allow credit for only one correct answer.

Correct answers include:

- fish
- plants/green plant
- snail
- **37** [1] Allow 1 credit for correctly identifying *two* nonliving objects in the diagram. Do *not* allow credit for only one correct answer.

Correct answers include:

- rock
- castle
- air pump
- sunlight
- gravel
- water

- **38** [1] Allow 1 credit for **oak tree** *or* **tree**.
- **39** [1] Allow 1 credit for **mouse**.
- **40** [1] Allow 1 credit for correctly explaining how the nutrients from the mouse go back to the food chain.

Correct answers include:

- The body will rot and be reused.
- The mouse will decompose.
- The mouse will be eaten by another animal.
- It will disintegrate into the soil.
- mouse decays
- 41 [2] *a* Allow 1 credit for describing one positive way the organisms living in the area have been affected by the changes shown in the diagrams.

Correct answers include:

- More people have housing.
- Animals have food from the feeders.
- They built apartments so people could live there.
- put up feeders for animals
- backed up the stream and made a pond for the fish
- *b* Allow 1 credit for describing one *negative* way the organisms living in the area have been affected by the changes shown in the diagrams.

Correct answers include:

- A wetland where plants/animals lived was destroyed.
- loss of habitat for plants/animals
- There will be more people and that will scare off animals.
- People sometimes have cats and dogs, which are predators of some wildlife.
- cut down trees where animals lived
- cut down trees that give people oxygen
- fewer trees for birds and squirrels to build their nests
- There will be less oxygen for people because the trees were cut down.
- Food sources changed.
- **Note:** Correct answers must include a reference to organisms. Simple observations based on the diagrams should *not* receive credit. For example: trees were cut down, houses were built.

Appendix A

New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test May 2004

Performance Levels Chart Conversion Chart for Determining a Student's Final Test Score

Note: Use for May 2004 test only.

The chart on the next page defines the four performance levels for this test. The state-designated level of performance for this test is a final score of 65 or higher (level 3 and 4). Students scoring below 65 (levels 1 and 2) must be provided with academic intervention services according to section 100.2(ee)(i) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. The chart provides the score range and a brief description of student performance for each level.

The conversion chart is presented on the page following the performance levels chart. To determine the student's final test score, locate the student's raw score for the performance test across the top of the chart and the student's raw score for the written test down the left side of the chart. The point where those two scores intersect is the student's final test score. For example, a student receiving a performance test raw score of 12 and a written test raw score of 37 would receive a final test score of 80.

Performance Levels for Final Score Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test

Level	Final Test Score Range	Description of Student Performance
4	85–100	 Meeting the Standards with Distinction A student demonstrates superior understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student demonstrates superior elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student demonstrates superior understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.
3	65–84	 Meeting the Standards The student demonstrates understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student demonstrates elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student demonstrates understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.
2	45–64	 Not Fully Meeting the Standards The student demonstrates only minimal understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for each of the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student demonstrates minimal elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student demonstrates minimal understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.
1	0–44	 Not Meeting the Standards The student is unable to demonstrate understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student is unable to demonstrate elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. The student is unable to demonstrate understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.

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	Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Written Test 2004 – Raw Score											S A	I –	†0 (ətt	isZ	[-Λ.	16JI	uəu	uəl	4 E	əpe.	eı																				

Appendix B

New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test

May 2004 Written Test Performance Test Form A

Reference to *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K-4* Reference to Process Skills Based on Standard 4 Reference to Core Curriculum for Individual Test Questions

Note: Core curriculum is based on NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics,	Reference to Elementary-Level Science Core	Pert Que	formance Form A stion Nur	May 2004 Written Test	
<i>Science, and Technology</i> Standard/Area	Key Idea or Performance Indicator	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Question Number
Standard 1	M1 Abstraction and symbolic representation are used to communicate mathematically.	1, 2, 4, 5		1	
Mathematical Analysis	M2 Deductive and inductive reasoning are used to reach mathematical conclusions. M3 Critical thinking skills are used in the solution of			3, 5	16
	mathematical problems.	1, 2, 4	1, 3	1	23
	S1.1 Ask "why" questions in attempts to seek greater understanding concerning objects and events they have observed and heard about.				
Standard 1 Scientific Inquiry Key Idea 1	S1.2 Question the explanations they hear from others and read about, seeking clarification and comparing them with their own observations and understandings.		4		
	S1.3 Develop relationships among observations to construct descriptions of objects and events and to form their own tentative explanations of what they have observed.		2		34
	S2.1 Develop written plans for exploring phenomena or for evaluating explanations guided by questions or proposed explanations they have helped formulate.				
Standard 1 Scientific Inquiry Key Idea 2	S2.2 Share their research plans with others and revise them based on their suggestions.				
	S2.3 Carry out their plans for exploring phenomena through direct observation and through the use of simple instruments that permit measurement of quantities such as length, mass, volume, temperature, and time.			1	
	S3.1 Organize observations and measurements of objects and events through classification and the preparation of simple charts and tables.		1, 3		
Standard 1 Scientific Inquiry	S3.2 Interpret organized observations and measurements, recognizing simple patterns, sequences, and relationships.		2, 4	2, 3	16, 31, 32, 33
Key Idea 3	S3.3 Share their findings with others and actively seek their interpretations and ideas.		4		
	S3.4 Adjust their explanations and understandings of objects and events based on their findings and new ideas.			4, 5	
Standard 1 Engineering Design	T1.1 -T1.5 Engineering design is an iterative process involving modeling and optimization to develop technological solutions to problems within given constraints.			4	

NYS Learning		Pert	formance	Test	M 2004		
Stanaaras jor Mathematics,	Reference to <i>Elementary-Level Science Core</i>	Que	Form A stion Nur	nber	Written Test		
Science, and Technology Standard/Area	<i>Curriculum Grades K-4</i> Key Idea or Performance Indicator	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Question Number		
	1 Information technology is used to retrieve, process, and communicate information as a tool to enhance learning.				18		
Standard 2 Information Systems	2 Knowledge of the impacts and limitations of information systems is essential to its effectiveness and ethical use.						
	3 Information technology can have positive and negative impacts on society, depending upon how it is used.						
	1 Earth and celestial phenomena can be described by principles of relative motion and perspective.				1, 16		
	2 Many of the phenomena that we observe on Earth involve interactions among components of air, water, and land.				2, 7, 8, 18		
Standard 4 Physical Setting	3 Matter is made up of particles whose properties determine the observable characteristics of matter and its reactivity.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2		3, 4, 6, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 28		
	4 Energy exists in many forms, and when these forms change energy is conserved.		1, 2		4, 5, 6, 22, 25, 26		
	5 Energy and matter interact through forces that result in changes in motion.		3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	27, 30		
	1 Living things are both similar to and different from each other and from nonliving things.				36, 37		
	2 Organisms inherit genetic information in a variety of ways that result in continuity of structure and function between parents and offspring.				9		
	3 Individual organisms and species change over time.				10, 11, 12, 13, 24, 34		
Standard 4 Living Environment	4 The continuity of life is sustained through reproduction and development.				14, 31, 32		
	5 Organisms maintain a dynamic equilibrium that sustains life.				15, 29, 35, 36, 37		
	6 Plants and animals depend on each other and their physical environment.				34, 38, 39, 40		
	7 Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the physical and living environment.				41		

NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics,	Reference to Elementary-Level Science Core	Pert Que	formance Form A estion Nur	May 2004 Written Test	
<i>Science, and Technology</i> Standard/Area	Key Idea or Performance Indicator	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Question Number
	1 Systems Thinking Through systems thinking, people can recognize the commonalities that exist among all systems and how parts of a system interrelate and combine to perform specific functions.				25
	2 Models Models are simplified representations of objects, structures, or systems used in analysis, explanation, interpretation, or design.				17, 18, 25, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40
Standard 6 Interconnectedness: Common Themes	3 Magnitude and Scale The grouping of magnitudes of size, time, frequency, and pressures or other units of measurement into a series of relative order provides a useful way to deal with the immense range and the changes in scale that affect the behavior and design of systems.				
	4 Equilibrium and Stability Equilibrium is a state of stability due either to a lack of change (static equilibrium) or a balance between opposing forces (dynamic equilibrium).				30
	5 Patterns of Change Identifying patterns of change is necessary for making predictions about future behavior and conditions.			2, 3	
	6 Optimization In order to arrive at the best solution that meets criteria within constraints, it is often necessary to make trade-offs.			5	41
Standard 7	1 Connections The knowledge and skills of mathematics, science, and technology are used together to make informed decisions and solve problems, especially those related to issues of science/technology/society, consumer decision-making, design, and inquiry into phenomena.				19
Interdisciplinary Problem Solving	2 Strategies Solving interdisciplinary problems involves a variety of skills and strategies, including effective work habits; gathering and processing information; generating and analyzing ideas; realizing ideas; making connections among the common themes of mathematics, science, and technology; and presenting results.				

Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K-4 Reference to Process Skills Based On Standard 4

		Perforn	nance Test	Form A	May 2004
	Process Skills–General Skills	Qu	estion Num	ber	Written Test
		Station	Station	Station	Question
		1	2	3	Number
i	follow safety procedures in the classroom, laboratory, and field				
	safely and accurately use the following tools: hand lens,				
ii	ruler (metric), balance, gram weights, spring scale,	124			
	thermometer (C ^o , F ^o), measuring cups, graduated cylinder, timepiece(s)	-, -, .			
iii	develop an appreciation of and respect for all learning environments (classroom, laboratory, field, etc.)				
	manipulate materials through teacher direction and free				
1V	discovery				
v	use information systems appropriately				
	select appropriate standard and nonstandard	1.0.4			20
V1	measurement tools for measurement activities	1, 2, 4			28
vii	estimate, find, and communicate measurements, using standard and nonstandard units	1, 2, 4, 5			23
viii	use and record appropriate units for measured or calculated values	2, 5			
ix	order and sequence objects and/or events				
X	classify objects according to an established scheme				17
xi	generate a scheme for classification				
xii	utilize senses optimally for making observations				
xiii	observe, analyze, and report observations of objects and	3	1, 3	1	
	events				
xiv	observe, identify, and communicate patterns			2, 3	
xv	observe, identify, and communicate cause and effect relationships	3			
	generate appropriate questions (teacher and student				
xvi	based) in response to observations, events, and other				
	experiences				
xvii	then accurately interpret results				
	collect and organize data, choosing the appropriate				
xviii	representation: journal entries, graphic representations,				
	drawings/pictorial representations				
xix	make predictions based on prior experiences and/or information			2, 3, 5	
vv	compare and contrast organisms/objects/events/ in the		2 4		
	living and physical environments		2, 7		
xxi	identity and control variables/factors			4	
	plan, design, and implement a short-term and long-term				
XXII	nroblem				
	communicate procedures and conclusions through oral				
XX111	and written presentations				

Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Written Test – May 2004 Reference to Core Curriculum for Individual Test Questions

Question Number	MST Learning Standard	Area within Standard 4 (PS or LE)	Key Idea or Major Understanding	Other Standards, Key Ideas, or Major Understandings	Process Skills Based on Standard 4 (p. 11 in core)
1	4	PS	1.1a		
2	4	PS	2.1c		
3	4	PS	3.2b	3.2a, 3.2c	
4	4	PS	4.1d	3.2b	
5	4	PS	4.1a		
6	4	PS	4.1c	3.1e	
7	4	PS	2.1c		
8	4	PS	2.1c		
9	4	LE	2.1a		
10	4	LE	3.1c	3.1a	
11	4	LE	3.1b		
12	4	LE	3.1b		
13	4	LE	3.1c		
14	4	LE	4.1e		
15	4	LE	5.2c		
16	1		S 3.2	M 2.1b; St 4 PS 1.1a, 1.1b	
17 6			KI 2	St 4 PS 3.1f	skill x
18	4	PS	2.1b	St 2 KI 1; St 6 KI 2	
19	7		KI 1	St 4 PS 3.2b	
20	4	PS	3.1b	3.1c	
21	4	PS	3.1e	3.1c	
22	4	PS	4.1b	4.1d	
23	1		M 3.1a	St 4 PS 3.1e	skill vii
24	4	LE	3.1b		
25	4	PS	4.1e	St 6 KI 1 & 2	
26	4	PS PC	4.1b	4.1a, 4.1c	
2/	4	PS DC	5.1d	2.1.	-1-:11:
28	4	PS LE	3.1e	3.1C	SK111 V1
29	4	LE	3.3a VI 4	5.50 St 4 DS 5 10 5 1f	
30	0		<u>KI 4</u>	514F55.10, 5.11 St 4 I E 4 2b	
31	1		$S_{3,2}$	St 4 LE 4.20	
32	1		\$ 3.2a	St 4 LL 4.20	
34	1 	IF	6.1f	3.2a: St 1 S1 3	
35	4	LE	5.11	5.2a, 57 1 51.5	
36	4	LE	5.1a	1 1: St 6 KI 2	
37	4	LE	1 1c	5 1: St 6 KI 2	
38	4	LE	6.2a	St 6 KI 2	
39	4	LE	6.2b	St 6 KI 2	
40	4	LE	6.1d	6.1b; St 6 KI 2	
41	4	LE	7.1c	St 6 KI 6	