



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

*Washington Comprehensive
Assessment of Science (WCAS)
Online Training Test Lesson
Plan: Grade 8*

WASHINGTON COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE (WCAS)

Online Training Test Lesson Plan: Grade 8

2024

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INTRODUCTION

Students who take online assessments need opportunities to explore the features of the online assessment and to practice using the tools available to them. This document contains activities to help students practice with the online tools, navigation, and item types on the [Grade 8 Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science \(WCAS\) Training Test](#) available on the [Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program \(WCAP\) Portal](#).

Classroom time spent on this exploration and practice should be carefully limited so that the focus remains on instruction aligned to the concepts and skills in the [Washington State 2013 K–12 Science Learning Standards](#) (hereafter referred to as “the standards”). Students should use the Training Tests just enough to be able to demonstrate their understanding of science concepts and skills on the WCAS without being hindered by lack of familiarity with the online system.

Considerations:

- All students should have the opportunity to access the WCAS Training Tests before taking the WCAS itself at the end of the school year (hereafter referred to as “the summative assessment”).
- We recommend first presenting the Training Test to an entire class using a computer and projector, then following up with opportunities for students to walk through the Training Test on individual computers with varying levels of teacher guidance.
- All item types EXCEPT simulation and table input items are available on the Grade 5 Training Test. Students can practice with a table input item by interacting with Question 1 on the Grade 11 Training Test. Simulation items are not currently available on any Training Test.
- Teachers are encouraged to answer students’ inquiries and give support while students are working in the Training Test.
 - NOTE: During the summative assessment, test administrators (TA) **must** follow the *TA Script of Student Test Directions* verbatim.
- Emphasize that students should not be concerned with the science content or correct answers on the Training Test, but should concentrate on exploring the features, navigation, and tools.
- The suggestions included in this document assume students are using a computer with a mouse and keyboard for the Training Test. When using tablets or touchscreen enabled devices, the activities may need to be modified. Ideally, students should use the size of screen and type of interaction (mouse or touchscreen) that they will use during the summative assessment.
- The activities are not a checklist. There is no expectation that students complete all suggested activities. The activities do not describe all possible ways students could engage with the questions or tools.
- The activities may be modified and/or shared with any interested teacher, parent, or student.
- The Training Tests are set up for practice only; students’ answers are not scored or saved.
- The *WCAS Tool Button Sheet* (page 4 of this document) can be printed and used with students during the Training Test to help them understand the tool buttons but **cannot** be used during the summative assessment.

Questions or comments? Email us at science@k12.wa.us

Features Specific to the WCAS

Collapsible Information Sections

The WCAS includes standalone items and item clusters (information sections and related questions). Some clusters include more than one information section. Each information section is delivered along with the questions most closely associated to that information. To minimize vertical scrolling and the need to move back to previous screens within a cluster, an information section is collapsed once the next information section is provided. However, information sections that have been presented are available to the student throughout the assessment. A plus or minus icon in the heading of an information section allows that section to be expanded or hidden from view (collapsed) to suit a student's need.

Locking Questions

Some item clusters include locking questions. The locking of questions allows subsequent items or information sections to update the student with correct information and limits clueing among questions in a cluster. Students cannot change their answer to these questions once they have moved on to the next question. A green padlock icon next to the question number alerts students that they are answering a locking question. When a student starts to move to a different question, an "attention" box warns that they will not be able to change their answer once they move on. The student can either return to the question or move on and lock in their answer. After moving on, the student can return to a locked question and see their answer, but they cannot change their answer. A red padlock icon next to the question number indicates that the question is now locked.

Multipart Questions

Some questions can have multiple parts. Typically, this includes two parts (Part A and Part B). Multipart questions can include different item types (e.g., multiple choice followed by an edit task inline choice). Question parts work together to strengthen alignment to a standard. For example, a question could ask a student to evaluate a claim in Part A, and then in Part B, ask the student to identify how a particular trend in data or piece of evidence supports their evaluation of that claim.

Getting Started

You may choose to have students log in to the Training Test as Guest Users or you may want students to log in using the secure browser. See the [Quick Start document](#) for step-by-step instructions to log in to the Training Test.

Help Guide

The **Help Guide** gives an overview of the test rules and tools. The Help Guide is the same for the WCAS online training tests and summative tests.

Once students have logged in and verified their test settings, they will see the **You Are Almost Ready to Begin Your Test** page. This page provides an opportunity for students to review the Help Guide and/or their Test Settings. We suggest using the Training Test as an opportunity to walk through the entire Help Guide with students to ensure that all students fully understand the test rules and tools before they take the summative test.

Walking Through the Help Guide

The first section of the Help Guide describes how students move through a test and pause a test.

Suggestions for working with students on the Help Guide:

Have students:

Read through the “How to Move Through the Test” section.

Read through the “Pause Rules” section.

Teacher Notes:

If there is a question or question-part that is not answered when the student clicks the Next button, a warning box will pop up and list the questions that still need to be answered.

The “Questions” drop-down list only has the questions that the student has already seen.

Please emphasize to students that a locked question cannot be changed even if it is marked for review.

After pausing a Training Test, students cannot go back to any questions, even if they log back in within 20 minutes. This is because student responses are not saved for Training Tests. Students will need to restart the Training Test from the beginning after pausing.

During the summative assessment, students who log out using the “Pause” button will be able to continue testing from the last question not answered. If a student entered random text into a short-answer response box, the Test Delivery System will consider the question answered and will restart the student at the next question.

The next section in the Help Guide is “Overview of Test Screen” with an image of the tool bars at the top of the Test Delivery System screen, followed by three tables describing the universal tools available during testing.

Have students:

Find the tool buttons on the *WCAS Tool Button Sheet* and identify their uses.










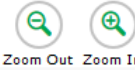










Teacher Notes:

The *WCAS Tool Button Sheet* on the following page details the tools available to all students. This page can be printed and used with students during the Training Test to help them understand the tool buttons but cannot be used during the summative assessment.

After walking students through the Help Guide, including the **Tools** and **Menu** tables, have students select the Back button at the bottom of their screen to return to the **You Are Almost Ready to Begin Your Test** page. Have students select **Begin Test Now** at the bottom of their screen to begin viewing questions.

WCAS Tool Button Sheet

This sheet may only be used during test preparation activities and the Training Test. It may **not** be used during the summative assessment.

Row	Tool Image	Tool Name	Tool Description
1		Questions Drop-Down List	Opens a menu to use to move to a different question. If you mark a question for review, it will be flagged.
2		Progress Bar	Shows how much of the test you have finished.
3		Back and Next	Moves you between screens. The Back button moves you to the previous screen. The Next button moves you to the next screen.
4		Save	Saves your response to a question. Answers on the training test are not saved even if you do click this button.
5		Help	Shows the Help Guide page at any time during the test.
6		System Settings	Used for changing the volume of Text-to-Speech.
7		Pause	Exits the test before finishing. (Raise your hand for help before choosing this button on your own).
8		Calculator	Opens the calculator.
9		Line Reader	Highlights one line of text at a time.
10		Zoom	Makes the words and pictures on the screen bigger (Zoom In) or smaller (Zoom Out).
11		Periodic Table	Opens a Periodic Table for use during the Grade 8 and Grade 11 tests.
12		Context Menu	Opens a list of tools to use with the information section or question. The list varies by item type.
13		Tutorial	Plays a video example of how to answer that type of question.
14		Mark for Review	Marks a question for you to look at again later.
15		Notepad	Saves notes you type to yourself about an information section or question to read later.
16		Highlighter	Highlight words you select.
17		Strikethrough	Crosses out answer choices.
18		Expand	Makes the stimulus cover the whole screen, or the questions cover the whole screen.
19		Glossary/ Translation	Click words with gray lines to see a definition (or translation) of the word.
20		Collapsing Information Section	Click the plus symbol to expand a section. Click the minus symbol to close it again.

GRADE 8 TRAINING TEST OVERVIEW

Table 1 (see following page) provides the metadata for each of the questions on the Grade 8 Training Test including item type, locking information, answer key, score point, and standards alignment information.

Details about each item type and a full set of item specifications are available in the [Grade 8 Test Design and Item Specifications](#) document on the [Science Assessment webpage](#). Please refer to those documents for more information about the design of the summative assessment.

If the Key column states “Rubric”, then more details about the correct answer will be provided on the following pages.

Table 1: Grade 8 Training Test Metadata

#	Title	Item Type	Lock	Key	Score Point	Performance Expectation	Item Specification	Science and Engineering Practice	Disciplinary Core Idea	Crosscutting Concept
1 A/B	Titan Images standalone	Hot Text/ Matching	No	Rubric/ Rubric	2	MS-ESS1-3	MS-ESS1-3.4	Analyzing and Interpreting Data	~	Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
2 A/B	Natural vs Modified Rubber standalone	Multiple Choice/ Multiple Choice	No	D/B	2	MS-PS1-3	MS-PS1-3.1	Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information	PS1.B	Structure and Function
3	Earthquake Damage standalone	Multiple Select	No	A, D	1	MS-ESS3-2	MS-ESS3-2.1	Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information	ESS3.B	Patterns
4	Sea Star Reproduction cluster	Grid	Yes	Rubric	2	MS-LS3-2	MS-LS3-2.2	Developing and Using Models	LS1.B LS3.B	~
5 A/B	Sea Star Reproduction cluster	Matching/ Multiple Choice	No	Rubric/ B	2	MS-LS3-2	MS-LS3-2.1	Developing and Using Models	LS1.B LS3.A LS3.B	Cause and Effect
6	Sea Star Reproduction cluster	Grid	Yes	Rubric	1	MS-LS3-1	MS-LS3-1.2	Developing and Using Models	LS3.A	~
7	Sea Star Reproduction cluster	Edit Task Inline Choice	Yes	Rubric	1	MS-LS3-1	MS-LS3-1.1	Developing and Using Models	LS3.A	Structure and Function
8	Sea Star Reproduction cluster	Short Answer	No	Rubric	1	MS-LS3-1	MS-LS3-1.3	~	LS3.B	Structure and Function

Question 1: Hot Text/Matching Standalone

Standalone items display on the entire width of the screen. This question is a **multipart question**. Multipart questions can include different item types for each part (e.g., multiple choice followed by an edit task inline choice) and students will have to scroll down to see all the parts.

Suggestions for working with students on multipart items:

Have students:

Scroll down to see the entire question.

Read the first line of the question: "The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B."

Read the entire question carefully to determine where each part of the question begins and ends.

Answer only one part of the question and select the Next button.

Teacher Notes:

Students should always scroll to be sure they are aware of all parts of a question.

This line of text is important to notice, since it tells students how many parts are related to each other. Some questions will also have a part C.

Bold text stating "Part A" and "Part B" is there to guide them. A complete response must provide answers to all parts.

An Attention box will appear, telling the student that they still need to answer the question.

Part A of Question 1 is a **hot text** item. Hot text items provide students with a list of statements and ask students to move the statements into boxes to form an ordered sequence. Sometimes statements can be used only once, sometimes they can be used more than once. Sometimes there are more statements than boxes, and not all statements are used.

Suggestions for working with students on hot text items:

Have students:

Click on a statement and move it up to an answer box. Move the statements into boxes until all the boxes are full.

Highlight parts of the question by:

Using the mouse to select a few words or a few sentences, clicking the Context Menu button, and selecting a color.

OR

Using the mouse to select a few words or a few sentences, right-clicking on the selected words, and selecting a color.

Remove highlighting by:

Using the mouse to select highlighted text, clicking the Context Menu button, and selecting Remove Highlight.

OR

Clicking the Context Menu button and selecting Reset Highlight.

Teacher Notes:

Notice that the empty boxes turn a light shade of blue, then a darker shade of blue when a student hovers over the answer box.

The Highlight tool cannot be used on all parts of a question; for example, the answer statements cannot be highlighted. Students can select the color of the highlighter. They may use different colored highlighters on different parts of the question.

Students may also use the right-click drop down menu to remove or reset highlighting.

Part B of Question 1 is a **matching** item. Matching items provide students with a table and ask the students to check boxes within the cells of the table to make identifications, classifications, or predictions. Students are informed when the boxes in a row or column may be checked once, more than once, or not at all. The test delivery system may or may not limit the number of boxes that can be checked in a row or column.

Suggestions for working with students on matching items

Have students:


Click on a box, observe the checkmark in the box, then click on the same box again.

Click on a box, observe the checkmark in the box, then click on a different box in the same row.

Click on the Context Menu button and select the Notepad tool.

OR

Right click on the screen and select the Notepad tool.

Resize the notepad window by clicking and dragging the blue resize icon () in the bottom right corner of the notepad window.


Click "Save and Close".

Teacher Notes:

This is how to select a choice (checkmark in the box) and unselect a choice (a blank box).

This is how to change from selecting one choice (checkmark in one box) to selecting another choice (checkmark in another box).

The notepad window will open in the size the student chose the next time the notepad is opened.

A pencil picture () will show up next to the question number. The note will remain with the question throughout the test. Notes saved on the notepad of one item are not available in the notepad of a different item.

Correct Answer – 1 point for Part A, 1 point for Part B

Part A: Statements are placed in the following order:

1. Minerals in the rocks on Titan. 2. Shape of large landforms. 3. Diameter of Titan. 4. Titan's orbital path around Saturn. 5. Distance between Titan and the sun

Part B: Row 1: Telescope Orbiting Earth. Row 2: Telescope Orbiting Earth. Row 3: Probe on Titan's Surface. Row 4: Spacecraft Orbiting Saturn. Row 5: Spacecraft Orbiting Earth

Question 2: Multiple Choice/Multiple Choice Standalone


Question 2 contains the glossed word “shows”. The Glossary words are available to all students. Translated glossary words are a Designated Support that is not available on the Training Test. For the summative test, Translations Glossaries can be set for students in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE); see the [Guidelines on Tools, Supports, and Accommodations \(GTSA\)](#) document for more details.

Suggestions for working with students on glossed words:

Have students:

Move their cursor over the glossed word.

Click on the word.

Resize the glossary window by clicking and dragging the blue resize icon () in the bottom right corner of the glossary window.

Use their cursor to move the glossary window around on the screen so they can see the entire question.

Teacher Notes:

The word becomes highlighted in blue.

A window pops up with the glossed word at the top, the word “Glossary” in blue, and a definition for the glossed word.

The glossary window can be closed by selecting the X in the top right corner of the window.

Part A and Part B of this question are **multiple choice** items. Multiple choice items typically provide four options. The student selects one option for each question part by clicking the circle in front of the option.

Suggestions for working with students on multiple choice items:

Have students:

Notice the circles have letters inside them.

Observe the circles turn gray when clicked.

Click the circle in front of one option then click the circle in front of another option.

Strikethrough an option by:

Clicking the Context Menu button and selecting the Strikethrough tool to turn strikethrough mode on, then clicking on an option or multiple options.

OR

Right-clicking on an option and selecting Strikethrough from the menu that appears. Notice the circles have letters inside them.

Select an option as the correct answer and place a strikethrough on the same option.

Teacher Notes:

This is a clue that only one answer option will be selected.

The circle returns to white if the clicked a second time.

The gray circle moves from the first option selected to the second option selected, showing students that they can only select one option at a time. Help students understand this is one way they can change their answer.

Remind students that they can refer to the Help Guide if they need assistance during the summative test. To turn off "strikethrough mode," students need to click outside the box that appears around all options. When using "right-click" students must right-click on each option individually to strikethrough multiple options.

An option can have both a strikethrough and the bubble filled. When this happens, the system will ignore the strikethrough and count the filled bubble as the answer the student has selected.

Correct Answer – 1 point for Part A, 1 point for Part B

Part A: Option D

Part B: Option B

Question 3: Multiple Select Standalone

Question 3 is a **multiple select** item. Multiple select items provide five or more options. The student selects options by clicking the box in front of each option. The direction will indicate how many options a student should select to complete the item.

Suggestions for working with students on multiple select items:

Have students:

Note the boxes do not have letters inside them.

Select only one box, and then select the Next button.

Click the given number boxes and observe that they are unable to check any more boxes; then have them uncheck one box and check a different box.

Practice the Strikethrough tool like they did with the multiple choice item (Question 2).

Locate the glossed words in this question.

Select the first option and observe that a box appears around the option; then press the "Tab" key on the keyboard and observe that the box around the option moves to the next option (the spacebar on the keyboard can be used to select that option).

Teacher Notes:

This is a clue that more than one answer option will be selected. Remind students that the question will tell them in a bold font how many options to choose.

An Attention box appears, telling the students that they still need to answer a question before moving to the next page. The test will only allow the students to move on from a multiple select item after selecting the correct number of boxes.

Students can check more than one box, but only as many boxes as indicated in the directions. To change their answer, a student must unselect one option (deleting the checkmark) to select another option (adding a checkmark).

Inform students that if a checked box has strikethrough, the system will ignore the strikethrough and accept the checked box as an answer.

"Shows" and "probability" are glossed.

Work with students to understand how to use the "Tab" key (to move down the list) and "Shift+Tab" keys (to move up the list) to move between options and how to use the spacebar to select or un-select options.

Correct Answer – 1 point

Option 1 and Option 4

Questions 4–8: Sea Star Reproduction Cluster

Question 4 starts a cluster. Note that clusters are displayed with an information section pane and question pane on the same screen. The information section takes up the left 40% of the screen, while the question pane takes up the right 60% of the screen. The Expand buttons are at the top of the screen on the border of these two panes, which allows the student to expand either pane to a width of 90% of the screen.

Suggestions for working with students on item clusters:

Have students:

Use the gray scroll bar in the border between the information section and questions to read all the information.

Click the right Expand arrow to expand the information section. Click the left Expand arrow to return to the default setup. Click the left Expand arrow to expand the question pane. Click the right Expand arrow to return to the default setup.

Use the Highlight tool to highlight parts of the information section.

Click the Line Reader tool at the top right of the screen; use the up and down arrows to move the Line Reader box. The Line Reader tool image turns orange. Click the Line Reader tool again to turn off the Line Reader.

Teacher Notes:

Depending on type of device and/or zoom level students may also need to scroll horizontally to be sure they see all of the text in the Student Solutions diagram.

The Expand tool can help students focus on one part of the screen (information section or question) at a time. Expanding the information section or question pane may also reduce the amount of scrolling required.

Pictures cannot be highlighted.

The Line Reader tool helps students focus on one line of text at a time.

Question 4: Grid (locking question)

Question 4 is a **grid** item. Grid items ask students to interact with the screen by clicking, drawing arrows, and/or moving symbols, labels, or other graphical objects on the screen. In this grid item, students are asked to drag objects into sea stars to model all possible genetic combinations in asexual reproduction and sexual reproduction.

Suggestions for working with students on grid items:

Have students:

Drag an object into one of the sea stars.

Use the Mouse Pointer button to the left of the Delete button to move an object in the answer space.

Use the Delete tool to remove an object from a sea star and replace it with a different object.

Teacher Notes:

The objects may be dragged and dropped in any order. Note that each object in this item may be used multiple times.

Students can move objects by clicking and dragging them with the mouse pointer.

Students can re-order the objects as many times as they want to before moving on. Encourage students to use the Delete button to remove any object in the answer space that they do not want as part of their answer. Students should not leave extra objects in the answer space.

Question 4 is a **locking question**. The locking of questions allows subsequent items or information sections to update the student with correct information and limits clueing among questions within a cluster. When a student moves to another question, an Attention box warns that they will not be able to change their answer once they move on. The student can either return to the question or move forward and lock in their answer. After moving on, students can return to locked questions and see their answer, but they cannot change their answer.

Suggestions for working with students on locking questions:

Have students:

Notice the padlock icon next to the question number and observe that the padlock is green; answer the question and select the Next button.

Change their answer and select the Next button; click "Yes" when the Attention box appears.

Select the Back button and observe that the padlock is now red, and they cannot change their answer to that question.

Teacher Notes:

An Attention box warns students that they will not be able to change their answer if they continue. Have students select "No" to go back to the question.

Help students understand that they must be completely finished with a locked question before they move to another page or Pause their test. Remind students that they can always see the locked question, their answer, and the information section even though they have moved on, but they cannot change their answer.

Correct Answer – 2 points

Asexual reproduction:

One long, black allele and one short, black allele in at least one sea star offspring.

AND

Sexual reproduction:

One long, black allele and one long, white allele AND one long, black allele and one short, white allele AND one short, black allele and one, short white allele each in at least three sea star offspring.

OR


One long, black allele and one long, white allele AND one long, white allele and one short, black allele AND one short, black allele and one, short white allele each in at least three sea star offspring.


Question 5: Matching Item/Multiple Choice

Note that there is a new information section associated with Question 5, labeled "Section 2." Some clusters include more than one information section. Each information section is delivered along with the questions most closely associated to that information. Students should read the new section before working with the new page of questions.

Suggestions for working with students on collapsing information sections:

Have students:

Click the plus icon () in the heading of Section 1.

Scroll down to see the new information section at the bottom of the first section. Then, scroll back up and click the minus icon () in the heading of Section 1.

Click the right Expand arrow to expand the information section. Click the left Expand arrow to return to the default setup.

Teacher Notes:

The information section that was used for the previous questions will expand.

The first information section collapses and is hidden from view.

Expanding the information section may reduce the amount of scrolling required.

Part A of Question 5 is a **matching** item.

Suggestions for working with students on this matching item:

Have students:

View the tutorial by:

Clicking the Context Menu button and selecting the Tutorial tool.

OR

Right-clicking on the screen and selecting Tutorial from the menu that appears.

Use the Context Menu to select the Mark for Review tool.

Teacher Notes:

Most of the tutorial videos do not use science content as example items. The tutorials should be used to remind students about how the item type functions, not what the correct answer is for that particular question.

Have students notice the flag that now appears next to the question number at the top of the question pane and next to the question number in the Questions drop-down list.

Part B of Question 5 is a **multiple choice** item.

Suggestions for working with students on this multiple choice item:

Have students:

Select the first option and observe that a box appears around the option; then press the "Tab" key on the keyboard and observe that the box around the option moves to the next option (the spacebar on the keyboard can be used to select that option).

Select the Questions drop-down list, which is located just above the Save and Pause buttons and select Question 4. Use the Context Menu to select the Mark for Review tool.

Use the drop-down list again to move to the last number on the list.

Teacher Notes:

Work with students to understand how to use the "Tab" key (to move down the list) and "Shift+Tab" keys (to move up the list) to move between options and how to use the spacebar to select or un-select options.

The student is returned to Questions 4. The only information section that appears is "Section 1—Sea Star Reproduction". When students reach the **You have finished testing, please check your answers** page at the end of the test, have them return to these two questions. They will be able to change their response to Question 5, but not Question 4, which is locked.

The last question on the drop-down list will have an orange triangle next to it, indicating the student has not interacted with the question.

Correct Answer – 2 points

Part A: Row 1: Asexual Reproduction. Row 2: Both. Row 3: Sexual Reproduction. Row 4: Both.

Part B: Option B

Question 6: Grid (locking question)

Question 6 is a **locking grid** item. Note that there is a new information section associated with Question 6, labeled "Section 3." Some clusters include more than one information section. Each information section is delivered along with the questions most closely associated to that information. Students should read the new section before working with the new page of questions.

Suggestions for working with students on this grid item:

Have students:

View the tutorial like they did with the matching item (Question 5).

Drag a label into one of the boxes.

Drag one object on top of another object in the same box.

Select the Calculator button and explore how it works.

Teacher Notes:

Remind students that they can view a tutorial for any item as they move through the test.

The objects may be dragged and dropped in any order. Note that each object in this item may be used only one time. Some items allow students to use the same object multiple times.

Some grid items allow students to move multiple objects into the same box. When students stack objects on top of each other only the top object is recognized by the computer.

The Grade 8 WCAS has a scientific calculator. A calculator is available for **all** grade levels of the summative assessment, for all items, even though students will not need to use it for every item. See [Appendix A](#) for more information. If the student uses the Calculator tool to do the calculation, they must still input their answer into the blue cell. None of the work done in the Calculator is saved or scored.

Correct answer – 1 point

Labels are placed in the following order:

Sticky foot gene → Sticky foot protein → Sticky foot trait

Question 7: Edit Task Inline Choice (locking question)

Question 7 is a **locking edit task inline choice** item. Edit task inline choice items provide partially completed sentences, which students complete by selecting words, phrases, letters, or numbers from drop-down lists.

Suggestions for working with students on this edit task inline choice item:

Have students:

Click in one blank space.

Click on a choice in the list.

Click on another choice in the list and observe that the answer in the blank space has changed.

Fill in all the blank spaces in a sentence.

Select the Periodic Table button and explore how it works, including how it can be resized by dragging the bottom right corner with the cursor, how to use the scroll bars on the bottom and on the right to see more of the table, and how it can be closed by selecting the x in the top right corner.

Teacher Notes:

A drop-down list will appear.

The blank space has been filled in with that choice.

Help students understand that this is how they can change their answers.

Only one drop-down list can be seen at a time. Students cannot move on from an edit task inline choice item until all blanks are filled.

The Grade 8 WCAS has the Periodic Table available for all questions, although it may only be needed for a few.

Correct Answer – 1 point

A mutation changes the structure of the gene which can change the structure and function of the protein.

Question 8: Short Answer

Short answer items provide a response box into which students type their answer. Some short answer items first ask students to choose from a list of options before typing in the response box.

Suggestions for working with students on this short answer item:

Have students:

Click in one of the choice boxes and then select the Next button.

Type a short sentence, then edit that sentence by changing, adding and/or removing words, adding punctuation, or other changes.

Type a long enough paragraph to see the gray scroll bar appear.

Teacher Notes:

Attention appears, telling the student that they still need to answer question 8. A strong word of caution: Any mark, including a space, will be accepted by the test delivery system as a response. Some students may choose to enter random or incomplete text into the box so the test delivery system will allow them to move on to the next page of questions. They might intend to return to this question later, but this can become a problem if the student's test becomes paused for any reason, or if the question is a locking question, even if the student has marked the question for review.

Any interaction with the question, even typing and then deleting characters will be accepted by test delivery system as a response.

The response box does not change size, but students can fill the box and then type more if needed.

Correct answer – 1 point

If the student selected, "Beneficial mutation" then they should type something like, "The sea star could move more easily to catch prey/avoid predators if its feet don't stick to rocks as much," or, "The mutation is beneficial because less sticky protein means the sea star can move more quickly without getting stuck on objects."

OR

If the student selected, "Harmful mutation" then they should type something like, "The sea star can't open prey as easily as when the protein was stickier," or, "The sea star can be pulled off of rocks by predators more easily."

REVIEW AND LOGOUT

After a student answers the last question of the Training Test and clicks the Go On arrow, a new page titled **You have finished testing, please check your answers** appears. The page lists the question numbers in boxes and provides students a final opportunity to check their work on any questions.

You have finished testing, please check your answers.

If you need to review your answers, select the question number you wish to review. A flag icon appears for any question that you marked for review.

Questions:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

End Test

Click here if you are ready to end your test. This action cannot be undone and you will not be able to go back to your test. Please make sure you have checked all your answers.

Suggestions for working with students on review page:

Have students:

Notice whether any questions have been flagged with the Mark for Review tool.

Click on a question number to return to any question, whether or not the question has been flagged and try to change their answer to the question.

While on a question, use the Questions dropdown to return to the review page.

Click the End Test button. An Attention box appears with a check box. Select the box and then click Yes.

Teacher Notes:

A blue flag will show next to the number. Note that students can still submit a test using the Submit Test button even with questions Marked for Review.

Remind students that they cannot change a locking question after it has been locked, even if it has been flagged with the Mark for Review tool.

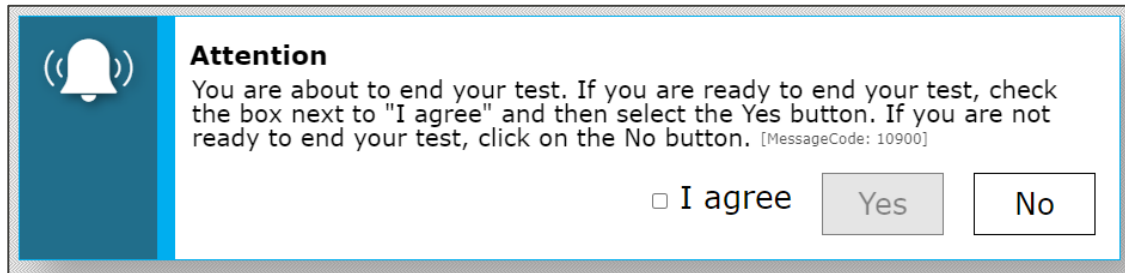
During summative testing, students should wait for directions from a TA before they click the End Test button.

Students should only click the **End Test** button when they are finished answering all questions on the Training Test.

Please note the following:

- Students should check that they are completely done answering all questions before clicking End Test.
- We recommend that students wait for directions from a teacher before they click End Test.

When students select the End Test button, an attention box appears:



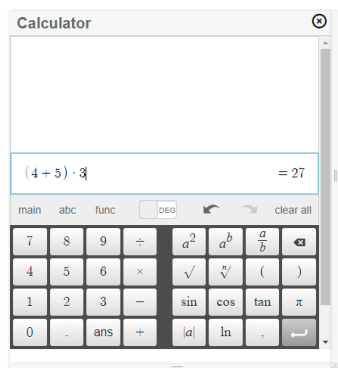
Students should select "I agree" and "Yes" if they have answered all questions on the Training Test.

The last screen that students see is the **Your Test Summary** page. This page serves as confirmation that the test was submitted, and the student can log out of the browser. There are no actual test scores shown on this page.

Once the **Log Out** button is selected, the browser returns to the **Please Sign In** page.

APPENDIX A: ONLINE CALCULATOR

Students in grade 8 have access to a scientific calculator. In the scientific calculator, students enter numeric expressions that the calculator evaluates according to the order of operations. The value of the expression is displayed on the same line, to the right, in real time. When students change an expression, the value will be updated in real time. The scientific calculator includes several functions, shown across three tabs, but the tab labeled “main” is the only one students should need for the summative assessment.



Students should become familiar with the functionality of the calculator prior to the summative assessment. The calculator is the same Desmos calculator used during Smarter Balance Mathematics tests. The calculators are available on the [Desmos website](https://www.desmos.com/calculator) for use outside of the Training Test.

General Calculator Comments

- What the student enters into the calculator is not recorded for the purpose of answering a question. Students must still answer questions using the directions given in the questions.
- Using the **Zoom In** button will increase the font size of the calculator.
- Each calculator can be moved on the screen using the mouse, and can be resized using the tabs on the right-hand side and bottom of the calculator.
- Calculators retain information that is typed into the calculator until the student moves to another page, such as when they use the **Next** or **Back** buttons. Students can open and close the calculator as they work through the question or question(s) on the same page without losing work done on the calculator.
- When the calculator is unable to process what the student has entered, a yellow caution triangle (⚠) will display. Hovering the cursor over the yellow triangle shows text related to the issue, such as: “Sorry, I don’t understand this.” or “This calculator does not support this type of equation.”

Functionality Comments

- Students can enter expressions using the buttons on the calculator or the number keys on the keyboard.
- Both calculators include an Undo (↶) and Redo (↷) button.
- The backspace key on the keyboard or the back arrow with an x on it (⬅x) can be used to delete the most recent entry.
- The answer to an expression shows on the right. The enter button on the keyboard or the gray arrow (➡) in the bottom right corner of the calculator can be used like an equal (=) sign.
- Students can use the value of one expression in subsequent expressions by using the “ans” button on the calculator.

APPENDIX B: OTHER RESOURCES

The Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program online test portal, known as the [WCAP Portal](https://wa.portal.cambiumast.com), hosts information about all of Washington's online tests, including Smarter Balanced assessments. Most of the files were produced by OSPI in cooperation with our online testing vendor and are related to the other systems accessed through the WCAP Portal. The homepage for the site is <https://wa.portal.cambiumast.com>.

Additional resources can be accessed by selecting the "Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS)" card from the portal homepage. The next screen organizes resources based on task, such as information on **Scores and Reporting** and **Webinars and Trainings**.

The **WCAS Accessibility Supports** card contains documents related to the other systems accessed through the WCAP Portal. Key to note in this section is the [Guidelines on Tools, Supports and Accommodations for State Assessments \(GTSA\)](#) document, which contains information for users who have questions about testing a student who requires additional supports.

The **WCAS Accommodated Materials** card contains training test resources for students who take the WCAS using a paper booklet.

Preparing for the WCAS is where educators can find:

- The *Online TA Script of Student Directions* that Test Administrators (TAs) are required to use when administering the summative assessment.
- The *TA Interface User Guide* document, which is the comprehensive guide to using the Test Administration Interface for summative testing.
- The *Test Administration Manual (TAM)*, which contains guidance on policy and procedures for administering summative assessments.

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Download this material in PDF at [WCAS Educator Resources](#) (<http://www.ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/testing/state-testing/washington-comprehensive-assessment-science/wcas-educator-resources>). This material is available in alternative format upon request. Contact the Front Desk at 360-725-6000.



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