

# Illinois Science Assessment 2022 Sample Questions



ISBE  
Illinois Science Assessment  
Safe Exam Browser Installation & Troubleshooting  
01/31/2022

Overview  
This document contains instructions for the installation and management of the Safe Exam Browser (SEB) used for the Illinois Science Assessment.

**Illinois Science Assessment 2022 Sample Questions** are a crucial component of understanding how students in Illinois are evaluated in their science knowledge and skills. The Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) is designed to assess the science proficiency of students in grades 5, 8, and high school. This article aims to provide an overview of the assessment, its structure, sample questions, and how students can prepare effectively.

## Overview of the Illinois Science Assessment

The Illinois Science Assessment is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which emphasize a three-dimensional approach to science education. The assessment evaluates students' understanding in three key areas:

1. **Disciplinary Core Ideas:** Fundamental concepts in physical science, life science, and earth and space science.
2. **Science and Engineering Practices:** Skills involved in the scientific process, including planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and engaging in argument from evidence.
3. **Crosscutting Concepts:** Concepts that hold true across various scientific disciplines, such as patterns, cause and effect, and systems thinking.

The ISA is administered once a year, typically in the spring, and it includes a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and performance tasks.

## Structure of the Assessment

The Illinois Science Assessment is structured to provide a comprehensive evaluation of students' science knowledge and skills. Here's a breakdown of its components:

## 1. Assessment Format

- Multiple-Choice Questions: Students choose the correct answer from several options.
- Short Answer Questions: Students provide written responses to demonstrate their understanding of scientific concepts.
- Performance Tasks: Students engage in hands-on activities or simulations that require them to apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

## 2. Scoring and Reporting

The ISA is scored on a scale that measures students' performance levels, typically categorized as:

- Exceeds Expectations
- Meets Expectations
- Does Not Meet Expectations

Students receive individual score reports, which provide insights into their strengths and areas for improvement.

## Sample Questions from the 2022 Assessment

Sample questions are invaluable for preparing for the Illinois Science Assessment. Below are some example questions that reflect the types of content and skills assessed.

### Grade 5 Sample Questions

#### 1. Disciplinary Core Ideas:

- Question: What is the primary function of the roots of a plant?
- A) To absorb sunlight
- B) To transport nutrients
- C) To anchor the plant and absorb water
- D) To produce flowers
- Correct Answer: C

#### 2. Science and Engineering Practices:

- Question: A class conducted an experiment to test the effect of light on plant growth. They placed one group of plants in a sunny window and another group in a dark closet. What is the best way to improve the reliability of their results?
- A) Use more plants in each group
- B) Change the type of plants used
- C) Measure the plants every day
- D) Use different soil types
- Correct Answer: A

## **Grade 8 Sample Questions**

### **1. Crosscutting Concepts:**

- Question: Which of the following best describes how energy flows through an ecosystem?
- A) Energy is created by producers and lost as heat.
- B) Energy flows from producers to consumers and is recycled.
- C) Energy moves in a one-way direction from consumers to producers.
- D) Energy is transferred directly from the sun to decomposers.
- Correct Answer: A

### **2. Performance Task:**

- Task: You are given a set of data showing the temperatures of two different cities over a month. Analyze the data to determine which city experienced more temperature fluctuations and explain your reasoning using the data provided.

## **High School Sample Questions**

### **1. Disciplinary Core Ideas:**

- Question: What is the primary reason that tectonic plates move?
- A) They are pushed by the Earth's rotation.
- B) They float on a molten layer of the mantle.
- C) They are pulled by the gravity of the moon.
- D) They are pushed by the heat of the sun.
- Correct Answer: B

### **2. Science and Engineering Practices:**

- Question: During a lab experiment, students measure the pH of different solutions. Which of the following statements best describes the importance of conducting multiple trials?
- A) It makes the experiment more complex.
- B) It helps confirm that the results are accurate and reliable.
- C) It allows students to gather more data than needed.
- D) It prevents any errors from occurring.
- Correct Answer: B

## **Preparing for the Illinois Science Assessment**

Preparation for the Illinois Science Assessment involves several strategies that can help students succeed.

### **1. Familiarize with the Standards**

Students should understand the Next Generation Science Standards, as the assessment is closely aligned with these frameworks. Reviewing the standards can help students identify the key concepts and skills they need to master.

## **2. Practice with Sample Questions**

Working through sample questions and past assessments can familiarize students with the format and types of questions they will encounter. Resources such as the Illinois State Board of Education website provide sample items and practice tests.

## **3. Engage in Hands-On Experiments**

Since the assessment includes performance tasks, students should engage in hands-on experiments that apply scientific concepts. This can enhance their understanding and prepare them for practical applications.

## **4. Study Collaboratively**

Group study sessions can be beneficial for discussing concepts, sharing insights, and quizzing each other on various subjects. Collaborative learning often leads to deeper understanding and retention of information.

## **5. Seek Additional Resources**

Utilizing study guides, educational websites, and tutoring can provide students with additional support and resources to reinforce their learning.

## **Conclusion**

The Illinois Science Assessment 2022 serves as an essential tool for evaluating students' scientific knowledge and skills. By understanding the structure of the assessment and practicing with sample questions, students can effectively prepare for the ISA. With a focus on the three dimensions of science education, the assessment not only measures knowledge but also fosters critical thinking and practical application. Preparing well for the ISA can lead to improved outcomes, helping students excel in their science education and future academic pursuits.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the purpose of the Illinois Science Assessment?**

The Illinois Science Assessment measures student proficiency in science standards to ensure that students are prepared for college and careers in STEM fields.

## **Where can I find sample questions for the 2022 Illinois Science Assessment?**

Sample questions for the 2022 Illinois Science Assessment can be found on the Illinois State Board of Education's official website, where they provide resources for educators and students.

## **What grade levels are assessed in the Illinois Science Assessment?**

The Illinois Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8, and high school (typically during the junior year).

## **What types of questions are included in the Illinois Science Assessment?**

The Illinois Science Assessment includes multiple-choice, short answer, and performance tasks that assess students' understanding of scientific concepts and practices.

## **How does the Illinois Science Assessment align with the Next Generation Science Standards?**

The Illinois Science Assessment is designed to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), focusing on three-dimensional learning that integrates content knowledge, science practices, and crosscutting concepts.

## **What resources are available for teachers to prepare students for the Illinois Science Assessment?**

Teachers can access preparation resources such as practice tests, instructional guides, and professional development opportunities on the Illinois State Board of Education's website to help students succeed on the assessment.

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