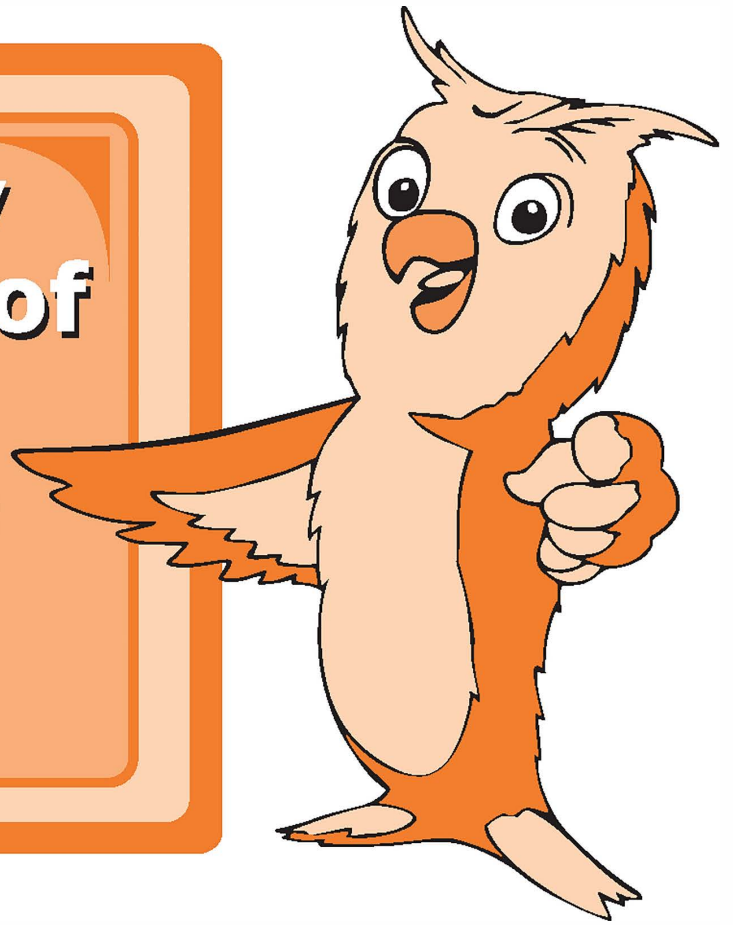


**New Jersey
Assessment of
Skills and
Knowledge
(NJ ASK)
Science 4**



**PARENT, STUDENT, AND TEACHER
INFORMATION GUIDE**

**(GUÍA DE INFORMACIÓN PARA
LOS PADRES,
ESTUDIANTES Y MAESTROS)**

Spring 2016/ Primavera 2016

New Jersey Department of Education

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PARENT INFORMATION

Description of the NJ ASK Science 4

The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) Science 4 will be aligned to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) for 2016.

NJ ASK Transition

The NJ ASK will continue to assess Science in grade 4. The Science assessment will be aligned to the NJCCCS.

NJ ASK Experience

The NJ ASK should be a rewarding experience for children. It will provide useful information about your child's knowledge and skills. Total scores as well as subscores for major knowledge areas and skills will be reported in science.

We believe the experience gained from taking this test will help your children when they take the state's tests at other grade levels, including the state's high school graduation test and end of course tests.

1. Who will be tested?

The NJ ASK Science 4 is designed to measure how well your child is achieving the state's core standards in Science (grade 4). Therefore, unless a student is participating in the Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA), **all** fourth-grade public school students must take the NJ ASK 2016. This pertains to:

- General Education students;
- Limited English Proficient (LEP) students; and
- Special Education (SE) students.

This includes most children with educational disabilities and most children whose English language skills are limited. Students with disabilities are assessed to determine whether they are achieving the standard at the level that is appropriate for them. These students are given the support they need, such as large-print type, as defined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or plans required under Section 504. It is important for as many children with disabilities as possible to participate in the NJ ASK Science 4 test.

Although these students are tested with the aid of state-approved accommodations and modifications, these students are being given the same opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge as other students who do not require additional support. Whenever possible, decisions as to which accommodations and modifications are used by a student during testing should be based on the support given to students in their usual classroom instruction.

Every student with disabilities must take the NJ ASK assessment in Science. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan determines the extent to which accommodations and modifications are used on state assessments. Students who are deemed exempt from the NJ ASK test in Science (NJ ASK 4) because of severe disabilities must take the Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA). The APA (a portfolio assessment) was first administered in 2001 and measures performance in Science (NJ ASK 4) based on each student's IEP goals as they relate to the NJCCCS. Contact your child's teacher if you have questions about which state assessment your child will take or which accommodations and modifications may be available to your child during state assessments.

In response to New Jersey's diverse language population, the Department will offer Spanish-language tests for 2016 in Science for grade 4. Please contact your local education agency for additional information.

2. What types of questions are on the NJ ASK Science 4?

The NJ ASK Science 4 has two types of questions.

The first type is multiple-choice, for which children are asked to choose one correct answer from among four choices. Multiple-choice questions add much to the reliability, or consistency, of the test because many good questions that focus on a broad range of skills can be answered by the children in a short span of time. Also, these questions are objective and do not require scoring by trained professionals.

The second type of question is the open-ended question. Children will answer these with short or long written responses. The advantage of this type of question is that it allows the children to express what they know about each question in their own words. Students may also present their response using diagrams, graphics, and/or pictures. New Jersey has many years of experience in developing and scoring these types of questions.

3. How can my child prepare for the NJ ASK Science 4?

Parents can always help by making sure their children eat well and get plenty of sleep. This is especially true at testing time.

Parents should support their children in all academic work. Children should be provided with time and a quiet place to do homework.

Parents and children should make opportunities to read to each other. Children should be encouraged to talk about school

and homework and to communicate and express ideas to their parents.

4. How long is the 2016 test?

The Spring 2016 NJ ASK Science 4 will take place on May 25, 2016 (June 1 for make-up testing). The test should take approximately 75 minutes, which includes time for distributing and collecting materials, reading directions, administering the test, and taking breaks.

5. How fair is the NJ ASK Science 4?

All test questions are carefully reviewed by trained professionals and educators to ensure that the questions are fair and are not offensive to any group of people. After the test, all questions undergo statistical analysis for any racial, ethnic, or gender bias. If a test question has poor statistical results from these analyses, it is eliminated from future tests.

Teachers, child study team members, and administrators knowledgeable about children with special needs are involved in the development of New Jersey's statewide assessments. The state also relies on educators' suggestions for accommodations to make the test accessible to these children and to allow them to demonstrate what they know.

6. How can I receive more information about the NJ ASK Science 4?

The New Jersey Department of Education has developed materials to help parents and teachers prepare students for the NJ ASK Science 4. This guide, for example, is provided through your child's school. Additional information about the NJ ASK and your child's progress in developing the skills and knowledge tested is available at your local school or district office.

The Department of Education offers information about the NJ ASK.

- Website: <http://www.state.nj.us/education>
- Office of Publications
- Office of Assessments
609-292-5622

Mailing address:

New Jersey Department of Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500



STUDENT INFORMATION

1. What is the NJ ASK Science 4?

In May, you and other students in grade 4 will take the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge, which is called NJ ASK Science 4. The test will show what skills and knowledge you are learning in science. Students will take the test one day on May 25, 2016, with a make-up day on June 1, 2016. Do the best you can to show what you have learned.

2. What are the questions like on the NJ ASK Science 4?

The NJ ASK Science 4 consists of two types of questions—multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions. A description of these items and some sample questions begin on page 6.

Note to teachers: You should carefully review this section with your students, including the completion of the sample questions provided.

3. What should I expect when I take the NJ ASK Science 4?

The Science test will have multiple-choice and open-ended questions. You will answer questions about life, physical, and earth science.

All test parts are timed. If you are done before the time is over, you may not go on to the next test part. You will find instructions on the bottom corner of each page that tell you when to continue and when to stop. If you have not finished the test part when your teacher tells you time is up, you still must stop and put your pencil down.

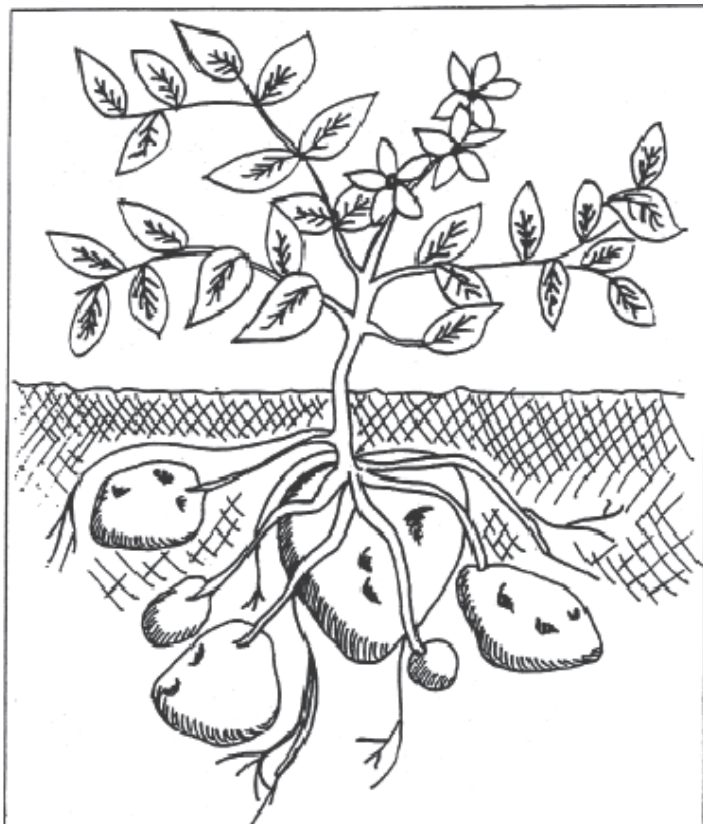
4. What else should I know about taking the NJ ASK Science 4?

When you take the NJ ASK Science 4, your teacher will give clear instructions about how to do each test part before you begin. During the test, your teacher will also let you know the time remaining for completing each test part. You may write (or print) in the extra space on a test book page when you are figuring out an answer. However, be sure to place your answers only in the spaces provided in your test booklet. Also, be sure to keep all your work within the border that surrounds each page. Your teacher will remind you of this on the morning you take the test.

If you wish, on the morning of the test, you may bring a book with you to read for pleasure. If you finish a test part before time is up and you have checked your work to be sure you have done your best, you can sit and quietly read your book.

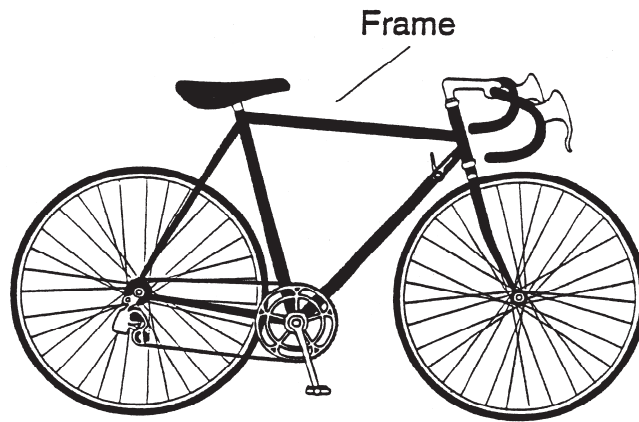
SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The NJ ASK's multiple-choice questions in grade 4 science let the students choose the correct answer from four answer choices. Again, you will darken the circle of the correct answer choice in your test booklet. These are examples of science multiple-choice questions:



1. Which part of the potato plant shown above makes the most food for the plant?
- (A) roots
 - (B) stems
 - (C) leaves
 - (D) flowers

The correct answer is C.



2. What property of matter makes aluminum a good choice to use for a bicycle frame?

- (A) color
- (B) weight
- (C) texture
- (D) height

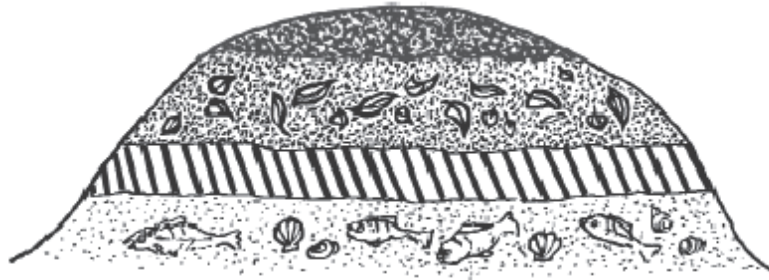
The correct answer is B.

3. Which of these will take the greatest force to stop it from falling?

- (A) a 2-kilogram steel block
- (B) a 3-kilogram box of feathers
- (C) a 5-kilogram bowling ball
- (D) a 7-kilogram sack of leaves

The correct answer is D.

The picture below shows four different rock layers in a hillside.

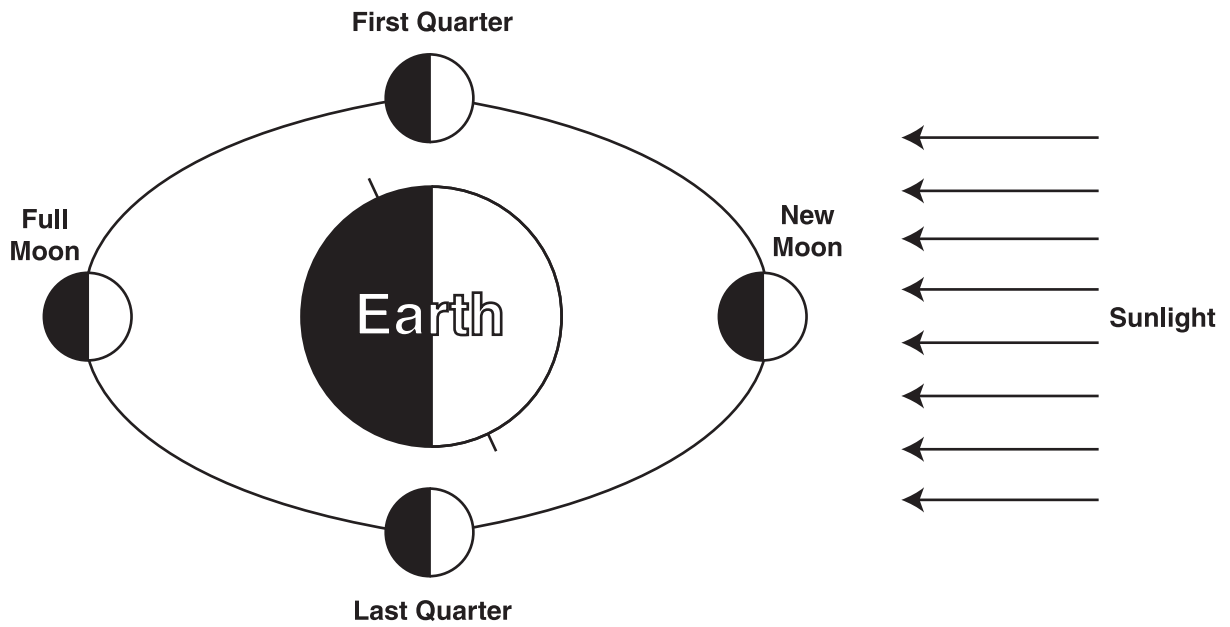


4. What is the best evidence that one of these layers of rock was formed under an ocean?
- (A) the thickness of the layer
 - (B) the type of fossils in the layer
 - (C) the number of caves in the layer
 - (D) the height above sea level of the layer

The correct answer is B.

5. Many wolves used to live in East Coast forests. Some people think it is a good idea to bring wolves back into the forests. What part of the community will probably decrease if the wolves come back to the forests?
- (A) the deer and rabbits that live in the forest
 - (B) the trees that make up the forest
 - (C) the grasses that grow in the forest
 - (D) the birds that live in trees in the forest

The correct answer is A.

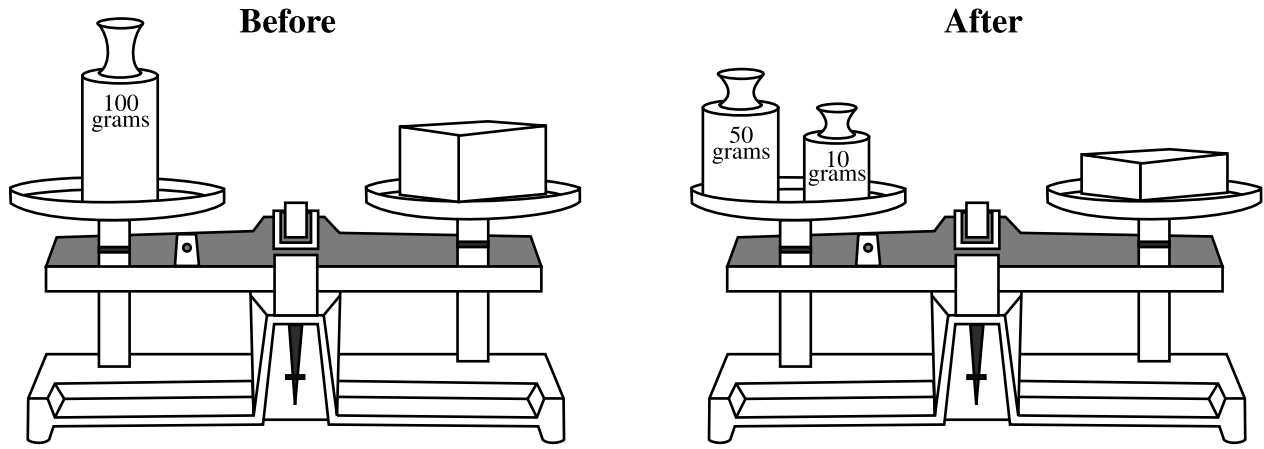


6. The diagram above shows the position of Earth during the new moon and the full moon. About how long does it take the Moon to go from the new moon to the full moon position?

- (A) 1 day
- (B) 7 days
- (C) 14 days
- (D) 28 days

The correct answer is C.

The NJ ASK's open-ended questions in grade 4 Science have no answer choices. You will write and/or draw your answers to these questions **in the spaces provided in the test booklet**. These are examples of Science open-ended questions:



7. The pictures show a piece of wood before and after it was cut. Fill in the chart below to tell about the wood that was cut.

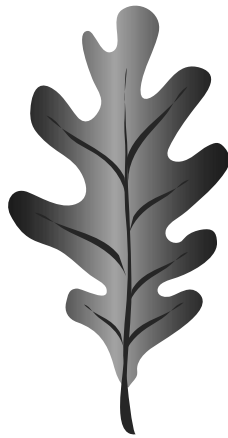
	Before	After	Amount of Change
Mass of wood in grams			

List at least two properties of the piece of wood that changed.

Sample 3-point answer

	Before	After	Amount of Change
Mass of wood in grams	100 g	60 g	40 g

The block of wood changed in size and weight because it was cut.



8. The picture above shows a leaf that Sam found. Which one of the following leaves came from the same kind of tree? Explain your answer. Give at least two reasons in your answer.



(A)



(C)



(B)



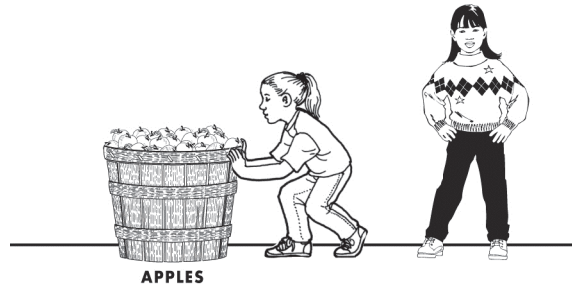
(D)

Write your answer on the lines below.

Sample 3-point answer

The answer is D because the vein patterns and shape are alike. The leaf is also smaller than the leaf in the picture above.

9. Louise is pushing a basket of apples.



- What are two things Louise could change to make it easier to push the basket?

- What is one change that would make it harder to push the basket?

Sample 3-point answer

- Louise could
 1. remove some apples
 2. get a friend to help
 3. push with greater force
- push the basket uphill, add more apples, push over a rough surface

Scoring Guide for Science Open-Ended (OE) Questions (Generic Rubric)

The zero-to-three point generic scoring rubric below was created to help readers score open-ended responses consistently. In scoring, the reader should accept the use of appropriately labeled diagrams, charts, formulas, and/or symbols that are part of the correct answer even when the question does not specifically request their use.

3-Point Response

The student response is reasonably correct, clear, and satisfactory.

2-Point Response

The student response has minor omissions and/or some incorrect or irrelevant information.

1-Point Response

The student response includes some correct information, but most of the information included in the response is either incorrect or irrelevant.

0-Point Response

The student attempts the task, but the response is incorrect, irrelevant, or inappropriate.

The above generic rubric is used as a guide to develop item-specific scoring guides or rubrics for each of the open-ended (OE) questions that appear on the New Jersey statewide assessments in science. These scoring rubrics provide the criteria for evaluating and scoring student performance and are developed by a committee of scientists and teachers. Rubrics ensure that there is consistency, fairness, and accuracy in scoring of all open-ended questions.

INFORMACIÓN PARA LOS PADRES

Descripción de la NJ ASK Ciencias 4

La evaluación de Ciencias de grado 4 se ajustará a las Normas de Contenido del Currículo Básico de Nueva Jersey (NJCCCS por sus siglas en inglés) para 2016.

Transición de la NJ ASK

La NJ ASK seguirá evaluando Ciencias en el grado 4. La evaluación de Ciencias estará alineada con NJCCCS.

Experiencia de la NJ ASK

La NJ ASK debería ser una experiencia gratificante para los niños. La evaluación proporcionará información útil sobre los conocimientos y las destrezas de su hijo/a. Se darán a conocer las puntuaciones totales, así como las puntuaciones específicas en las áreas de conocimiento y las destrezas principales correspondientes a Ciencias.

Creemos que la experiencia que se obtiene al tomar este examen ayudará a sus hijos cuando tomen los exámenes estatales en otros grados, incluso el examen de graduación de la escuela secundaria y los exámenes de fin de curso.

1. ¿Quién tomará el examen?

La NJ ASK Ciencias 4 se concibe para medir el progreso de los niños/as en sus esfuerzos por cumplir con NJCCCS. Incluye por tanto a la mayoría de los niños/as con discapacidades educativas y a la mayoría de los niños/as cuyas habilidades en inglés son limitadas. Los estudiantes con discapacidades trabajarán para cumplir con las normas acorde al nivel adecuado para ellos y con el apoyo que necesitan, como escritos impresos en letra grande. Las definiciones de estas medidas de apoyo se encuentran en sus Programas de Educación Individualizada (*Individualized Education Programs* o IEP, por sus siglas en inglés) o planes obligatorios bajo la Sección

504. Es importante que el mayor número posible de niños/as con discapacidades participen en la NJ ASK. Estos estudiantes pueden utilizar las adaptaciones y modificaciones aprobadas por el Departamento de Educación de Nueva Jersey (NJDOE, por sus siglas en inglés) para ayudarlos a demostrar lo que saben y son capaces de hacer. Las adaptaciones y modificaciones que se utilizan durante la NJ ASK deben ser las mismas que las utilizadas por esos estudiantes en otras evaluaciones llevadas a cabo en su salón de clases.

Cada estudiante con discapacidades debe completar la NJ ASK Ciencias 4. Un equipo del IEP o de la Sección 504 toma las decisiones en cuanto a la evaluación estatal y las adaptaciones y modificaciones. Si el equipo del IEP decide que un estudiante no tomará la NJ ASK Ciencias 4, el niño/a tomará la Evaluación Alternativa de Competencia (*Alternate Proficiency Assessment* o APA, por sus siglas en inglés). Esta es una evaluación del portafolio estudiantil que se administró por primera vez en 2001 y mide el desempeño en la área de Ciencias, basándose en las metas del IEP de cada estudiante con relación a NJCCCS. Comuníquese con el encargado de casos si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la evaluación estatal que su hijo/a tomará, o sobre la clase de adaptaciones y modificaciones que su hijo/a tendrá a su disposición durante la evaluación. Los estudiantes con discapacidades deben ser asignados a un grado y deben tomar el examen en su respectivo grado asignado.

En respuesta a la diversidad de idiomas en la población de Nueva Jersey, el departamento ofrecerá exámenes en español en Ciencias. Para más información, comuníquese con la agencia educativa en su localidad.

2. Qué tipos de preguntas hay en la NJ ASK Ciencias 4?

La NJ ASK Ciencias 4 incluye dos tipos de preguntas.

El primer tipo es la pregunta de opción múltiple que requiere que los estudiantes escojan la respuesta correcta entre las cuatro opciones que se les ofrecen. Las preguntas de opción múltiple sustentan la fiabilidad o conformidad del examen, ya que los niños/as pueden responder a muchas preguntas buenas que se centran en una amplia variedad de destrezas en un período de tiempo corto. Además, estas preguntas son objetivas y no requieren calificación por parte de profesionales capacitados.

El segundo tipo de pregunta es la pregunta abierta. Los niños/as las contestarán con respuestas escritas de carácter corto o largo. La ventaja de este tipo de pregunta es que permite que los niños/as expresen con sus propias palabras lo que saben sobre cada pregunta. Los estudiantes también podrán presentar algunas de sus respuestas utilizando diagramas, gráficas o dibujos.

3. ¿Cómo puede prepararse mi hijo/a para la NJ ASK Ciencias 4?

Los padres siempre pueden ayudar si se aseguran de que sus hijos/as coman bien y duerman lo suficiente. Esto es especialmente verdadero a la hora de completar exámenes.

Los padres deben apoyar a sus hijos en todas las tareas académicas. A los niños/as se les debe dar tiempo y un lugar tranquilo para hacer sus tareas.

Padres y niños/as deben crear oportunidades para leer y aprender juntos. Se debe animar a los niños/as para que hablen sobre la escuela y sus tareas, y para que comuniquen y expresen ideas a sus padres.

4. ¿Cuánto tiempo dura la evaluación del 2016?

La NJ ASK de la primavera del 2016 se realizará el 25 de mayo 2016 (el 1 de junio para el examen de recuperación). El examen tendrá una duración de aproximadamente 92 minutos, lo cual incluye el tiempo utilizado para distribuir y recolectar los materiales, leer las instrucciones y dar descansos a los estudiantes.

5. ¿Qué tan imparcial es la NJ ASK Ciencias 4?

Todas las preguntas de la prueba son revisadas cuidadosamente por profesionales capacitados y educadores para asegurarse de que las preguntas sean imparciales y que no resulten ofensivas para ningún grupo de personas. Después de la evaluación, se hace un análisis estadístico de todas las preguntas para determinar si contienen algún sesgo racial, étnico o de género. Si el análisis estadístico de cualquier pregunta de la evaluación obtiene malos resultados, la pregunta se eliminará de la evaluación en el futuro.

Los maestros, los integrantes del equipo para el estudio de los niños/as y los administradores que se especializan en niños/as con necesidades especiales participan en el desarrollo de las evaluaciones estatales de Nueva Jersey. El estado también toma en cuenta las sugerencias de los educadores en cuanto a las adaptaciones necesarias para que estos estudiantes tengan acceso a la evaluación y puedan mostrar lo que saben.

6. Cómo puedo obtener más información sobre la NJ ASK Ciencias 4?

El Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva Jersey ha producido materiales para ayudar a los padres y maestros a preparar a los estudiantes para tomar la NJ ASK Ciencias 4. Este folleto, por ejemplo, se ofrece a través de la escuela de su hijo/a. La escuela de su hijo/a y las oficinas del distrito escolar tienen información adicional sobre la evaluación NJ ASK y sobre el progreso de su hijo/a en el desarrollo de las destrezas y los conocimientos que se evalúan.

El Departamento de Educación ofrece muchas fuentes de información sobre la NJ ASK Ciencias 4.

- En Internet:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education>
- Oficina de Publicaciones
(*Office of Publications*)
- Oficina de Evaluaciones
(*Office of Assessments*)
609-292-5622

Dirección:

New Jersey Department of Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500



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