



# **NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

## **NSCAS–Alternate Practice Test**

**English Language Arts (NSCAS-AAELA)  
and Mathematics (NSCAS-AAM)**

# **Grade 3 ADMINISTRATION MANUAL**

Assessments for the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System are administered by the  
Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)

P.O. Box 94987      Lincoln, Nebraska 68509      (402) 314-3013

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Nebraska Department of Education provides districts and schools with tools to assist in delivering focused instructional programs aligned to the state assessment system. These tools include Table of Specifications documents, administration manuals, and grade-specific practice tests. This practice test is a useful tool for Nebraska educators in the preparation of local instructional programs and the statewide NSCAS Alternate Assessment.

## PURPOSE AND USES

This practice test contains test questions (items) that have been written to align to the assessment extended indicators that are based on the Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Standards. The test questions provide examples of the types of questions that will appear on an operational NSCAS Alternate Assessment in ELA, mathematics, and science. All practice test questions have been through a rigorous review process to ensure alignment with the assessment extended indicators. The purpose of the practice test is to ensure that students and test administrators have the opportunity to become familiar with a variety of items and to confirm that each student has appropriate access to any accommodations needed prior to test day.

## DOK

In addition to being aligned to the extended indicators, the practice test items were also developed with a particular emphasis on cognitive complexity, or depth of knowledge (DOK). The DOK level is provided for each item in this practice test in the Administrator's Test Booklet information. DOK measures the level of cognitive demand required to complete an assessment item. The following descriptions show the expectations of the DOK levels in greater detail. NSCAS Alternate items are classified based on DOK stages—subsets of the four DOK levels. The stages include responding, reproducing, recalling at DOK 1, and basic reasoning at DOK 2.

- **Level 1, Stage 2** requires students to display the ability to copy, replicate, repeat, reenact, mirror, or match text.
- **Level 1, Stage 3** requires the ability to recite or recall facts or information.
- **Level 2, Stage 4** requires processing beyond recall and observation. This requires both comprehension and subsequent processing of text as well as making decisions on how to approach a problem. It also involves ordering and classifying text as well as identifying patterns, relationships, and main points.

## ITEM FORMAT

The NSCAS Alternate is composed of multiple-choice (MC) items to assess the student's mastery of the Nebraska College- and Career-Ready Extended Indicators. All MC items have three answer choices: two distractors and one correct answer. Distractors represent common misconceptions, incorrect logic, common misinterpretations, unsound reasoning, casual reading, etc. A correct response to an MC item is worth one point.

## DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICE TEST ITEMS

The practice tests contain the test administrator's directions for each item with the information outlined below. The practice tests are organized by content area in a given grade with the Administrator's Test Booklet for all items appearing first, followed by the Student Test Book at the end.

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator #LA_E.3.V.1.a Context Clues DOK Level 1, Stage 3	This information is provided to support the test administration process. LA_E.3.V.1 indicates the assigned indicator to which the item is aligned. Context Clues indicates the focus of the skills in this domain. DOK Level 1, Stage 3 indicates the DOK level and stage.
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>	The text in italics is only for the Test Administrator and is <i>not</i> to be read aloud.
SAY	<p>Follow along as I read this sentence. <i>Indicate.</i></p> <p>The dog runs through the <u>gate</u> and down the sidewalk.</p> <p>The word "gate" has a line under it. <i>Indicate.</i></p>	The text in bold print must be read aloud <i>word-for-word</i> by the Test Administrator.
ASK	<p>Which picture shows a "gate"?</p> <p><i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i></p> <p>A. a gate</p> <p>B. a doghouse</p> <p>C. a door</p>	This information appears only in the print-on-demand student test book. Test Administrators should instruct students to disregard this information if they ask.

Letters corresponding to response options are only on the Test Administrator's page.

NSCAS ALTERNATE	Question 1	STUDENT TEST BOOK
Indicator #LA_E.3.V.1.a		ELA Grade 3

The dog runs through the gate and down the sidewalk.



**NSCAS–ALTERNATE  
English Language Arts**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.RP.2 Main Character DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i></li><li>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i></li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Follow along as I read this story. <i>Indicate.</i></b> <b>Bill goes to the library with his mother and his sister, Anna. He likes to get books about animals. Bill's favorite books are about elephants.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Who is the main character in the story?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>Anna</b> B. <b>Bill</b> C. <b>mother</b>

Bill goes to the library with his mother and his sister, Anna. He likes to get books about animals. Bill's favorite books are about elephants.

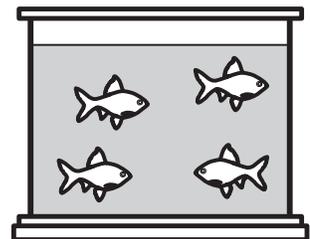
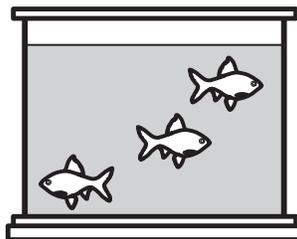
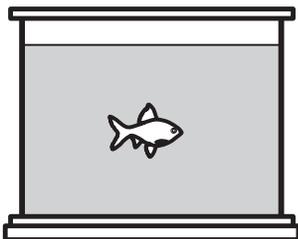
**Anna**

**Bill**

**mother**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.RP.6 Literal Questions DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place student test page in front of the student.</li><li>• Call student's attention to the page.</li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Follow along as I read this sentence. Indicate.</b> <b>Jason got a fish for his fish tank.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which picture shows Jason's fish tank?</b> <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. fish tank with one fish B. fish tank with three fish C. fish tank with four fish

Jason got a fish for his fish tank.



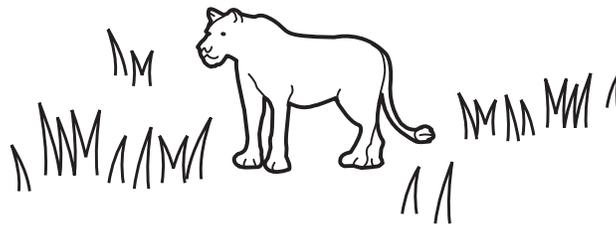
<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.RI.1</b> <b>Central Idea</b> <b>DOK Level 1, Stage 2</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i></li> <li>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i></li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Follow along as I read this paragraph about lions.</b> <i>Indicate.</i> <b>Lions live in Africa. They live in grasslands. Lions hunt for food mostly at night.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>What is this paragraph mostly about?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>food</b> B. <b>grasslands</b> C. <b>lions</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # LA\_E.3.RI.1

### Question 3

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
ELA Grade 3

Lions live in Africa. They live in grasslands. Lions hunt for food mostly at night.



**food**

**grasslands**

**lions**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.RI.2 Important Event DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<p><b>Follow along as I read this paragraph. Indicate.</b>  <b>Hannah is making a sandwich. First, she puts two slices of bread on a plate. Next, she spreads peanut butter on one slice of bread. Finally, Hannah puts the two slices of bread together.</b></p>
<b>ASK</b>	<p><b>What does Hannah do first when making a sandwich?</b>  <i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. <b>puts the bread on a plate</b>  B. <b>puts the bread slices together</b>  C. <b>puts peanut butter on the bread</b></p>

Hannah is making a sandwich. First, she puts two slices of bread on a plate. Next, she spreads peanut butter on one slice of bread. Finally, Hannah puts the two slices of bread together.

**puts the bread on a plate**



**puts the bread slices together**

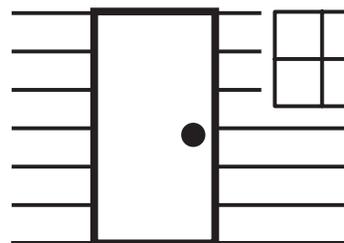
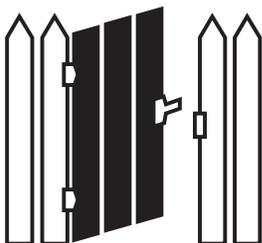


**puts peanut butter on the bread**



<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.V.1.a</b> <b>Context Clues</b> <b>DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Follow along as I read this sentence.</b> <i>Indicate.</i> <b>The dog runs through the <u>gate</u> and down the sidewalk.</b> <b>The word "gate" has a line under it.</b> <i>Indicate.</i>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which picture shows a "gate"?</b> <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. a gate B. a doghouse C. a door

The dog runs through the gate and down the sidewalk.



<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.V.1.c</b> <b>Word Structure</b> <b>DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i></li><li>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i></li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Here is a picture.</b> <i>Indicate.</i>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which word matches the picture?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>pen</b> B. <b>penny</b> C. <b>pennies</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # LA\_E.3.V.1.c

### Question 6

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
ELA Grade 3



**pen**

**penny**

**pennies**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.V.2.c</b> <b>Word Relationships</b> <b>DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i></li><li>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i></li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Follow along as I read this sentence. Indicate.</b> <b>The big dog chews on his toy.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which word means the toy belongs to the dog?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>big</b> B. <b>his</b> C. <b>toy</b>

The big dog chews on his toy.

**big**

**his**

**toy**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.3.W.1.b End Punctuation DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i></li><li>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i></li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Follow along as I read this sentence.</b> <i>Indicate and read without inflection.</i> <b>Did you like the movie</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which mark should go at the end of this sentence?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>exclamation point</b> B. <b>period</b> C. <b>question mark</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # LA\_E.3.W.1.b

### Question 8

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
ELA Grade 3

Did you like the movie

!

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?



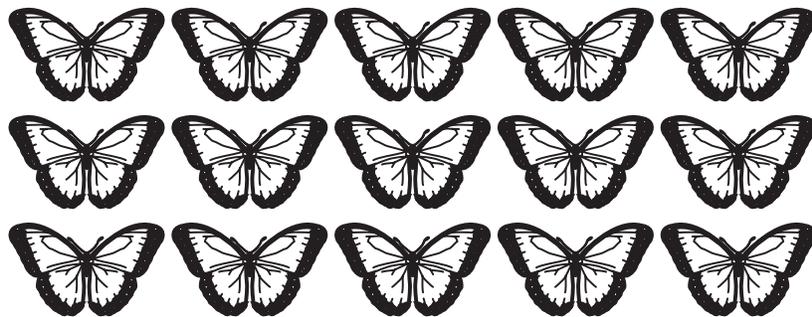
**NSCAS-ALTERNATE  
MATHEMATICS**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.N.1.a</b> <b>Whole Numbers</b> <b>DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i></li><li>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i></li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Here are some butterflies.</b> <i>Indicate.</i>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>How many butterflies are there?</b> <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. <i>ten</i> B. <i>fourteen</i> C. <i>fifteen</i>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.3.N.1.a

### Question 1

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 3



**10**

**14**

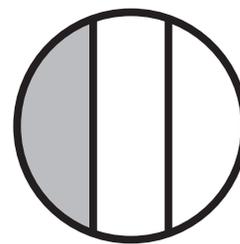
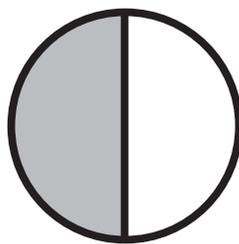
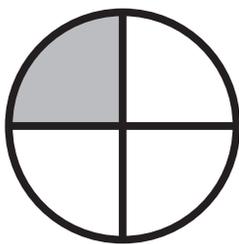
**15**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.N.2.a</b> <b>Unit Fractions</b> <b>DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li><li>Call student's attention to the page.</li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Here are three circles. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which circle shows one-fourth shaded?</b> <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. circle A B. circle B C. circle C

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.3.N.2.a

## Question 2

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 3

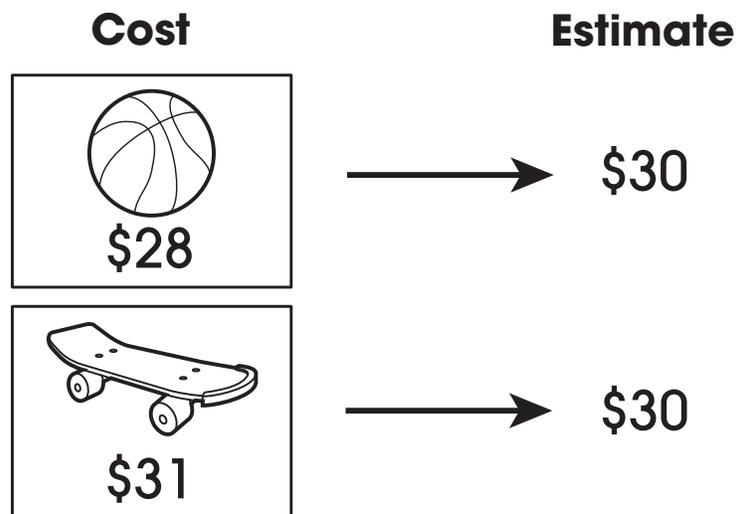


<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.A.1.b Estimate Sums DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<p>Raul wants to buy a basketball and a skateboard. The basketball costs twenty-eight dollars (<i>indicate</i>), and the skateboard costs thirty-one dollars (<i>indicate</i>).</p> <p>Raul estimates that he will need thirty dollars for each item. <i>Indicate</i>.</p>
<b>ASK</b>	<p>About how much money does Raul need to buy BOTH the basketball and the skateboard? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. <b>fifty dollars</b> B. <b>sixty dollars</b> C. <b>seventy dollars</b></p>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.3.A.1.b

### Question 3

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 3



**\$50**

**\$60**

**\$70**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.A.1.d Authentic Problems DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<p><b>Follow along as I read these sentences. Indicate.</b>  <b>Amy made five necklaces. Kate made some necklaces too. Together, they made nine necklaces.</b>  <b>Here is the equation five plus box equals nine. Indicate.</b></p>
<b>ASK</b>	<p><b>Which number belongs in the box to show how many necklaces Kate made?</b>  <i>Indicate and read answers.</i>  A. <b>four</b>  B. <b>eight</b>  C. <b>fourteen</b></p>

Amy made 5 necklaces. Kate made some necklaces too. Together, they made 9 necklaces.

$$5 + \square = 9$$

**4**

**8**

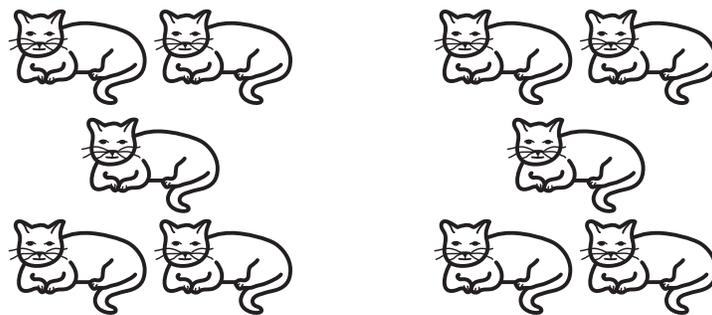
**14**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.A.1.f Multiplication Models DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Here are two groups of cats. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which problem goes with the picture?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>two times five</b> B. <b>two plus five</b> C. <b>five minus two</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.3.A.1.f

### Question 5

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 3



**2 × 5**

**2 + 5**

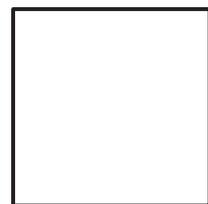
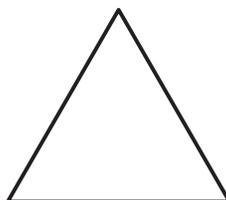
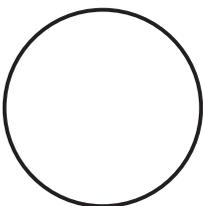
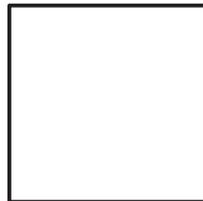
**5 - 2**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.G.1.a</b> <b>Two-Dimensional Shapes</b> <b>DOK Level 1, Stage 2</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i></li><li>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i></li></ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Here is a square.</b> <i>Indicate.</i>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which shape is a square?</b> <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. <i>circle</i> B. <i>triangle</i> C. <i>square</i>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.3.G.1.a

### Question 6

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 3

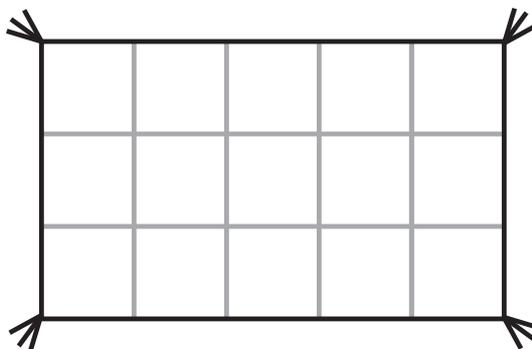


<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.G.2.b</b> <b>Area</b> <b>DOK Level 2, Stage 4</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Here is a rug. Indicate.</b> <b>The rug is five units long and three units wide. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>What is the area of the rug, in square units?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>ten</b> B. <b>fifteen</b> C. <b>twenty</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.3.G.2.b

### Question 7

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 3



**10**

**15**

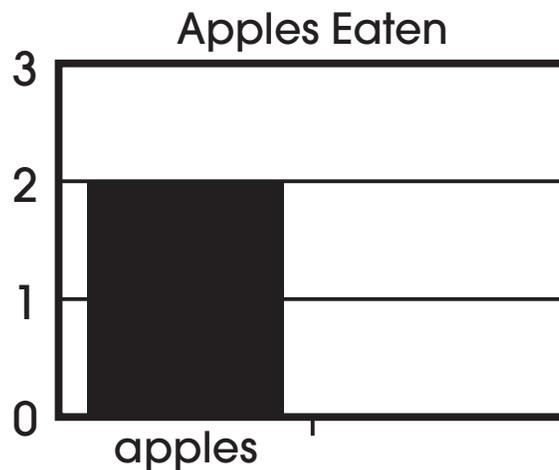
**20**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.3.D.1.a</b> <b>Characteristics of a Bar Graph</b> <b>DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>This graph shows how many apples were eaten. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>How many apples were eaten?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>three</b> B. <b>two</b> C. <b>one</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.3.D.1.a

**Question 8**

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 3



**3**

**2**

**1**

**NSCAS–Alternate**  
**Grade 3**  
**Practice Administration Manual**

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**NSCAS** NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED  
ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

## **NSCAS–Alternate Practice Test**

**English Language Arts (NSCAS-AAELA)  
and Mathematics (NSCAS-AAM)**

# **STUDENT TEST BOOKLET**

## **Grade 3**

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**NSCAS-ALTERNATE**  
**English Language Arts**

**Question 1**

**Bill goes to the library with his mother and his sister, Anna. He likes to get books about animals. Bill's favorite books are about elephants.**

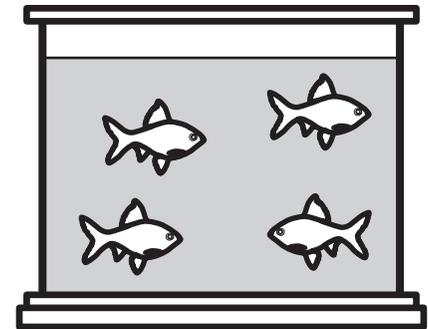
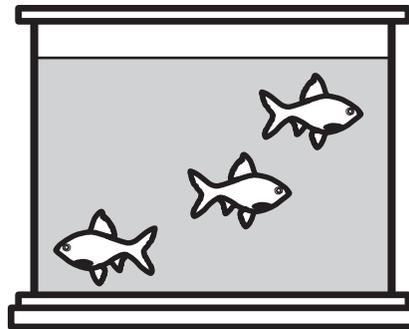
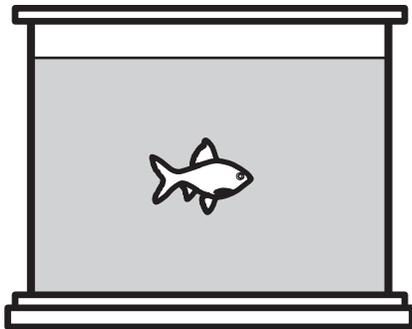
**Anna**

**Bill**

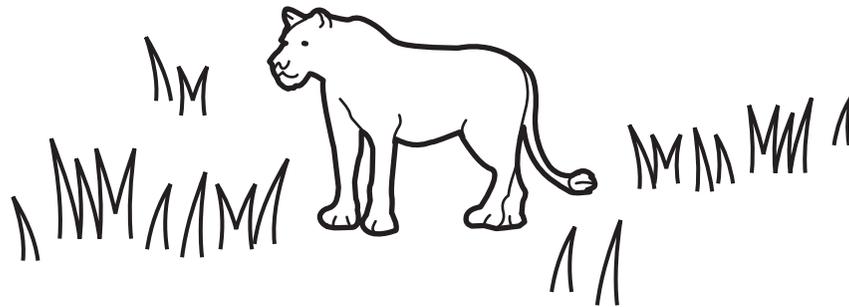
**mother**

## Question 2

Jason got a fish for his fish tank.



Lions live in Africa. They live in grasslands. Lions hunt for food mostly at night.



**food**

**grasslands**

**lions**

### Question 4

Hannah is making a sandwich. First, she puts two slices of bread on a plate. Next, she spreads peanut butter on one slice of bread. Finally, Hannah puts the two slices of bread together.

**puts the bread on a plate**



**puts the bread slices together**

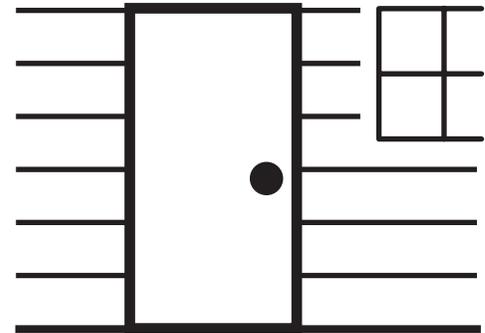
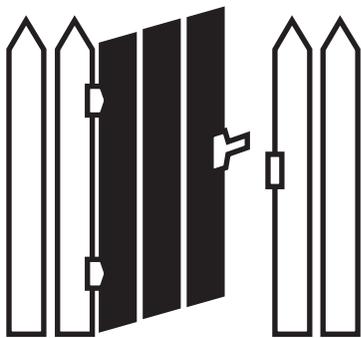


**puts peanut butter on the bread**



**Question 5**

The dog runs through the gate and down the sidewalk.



### Question 6



**pen**

**penny**

**pennies**

**Question 7**

The big dog chews on his toy.

**big**

**his**

**toy**

**Question 8**

Did you like the movie

!

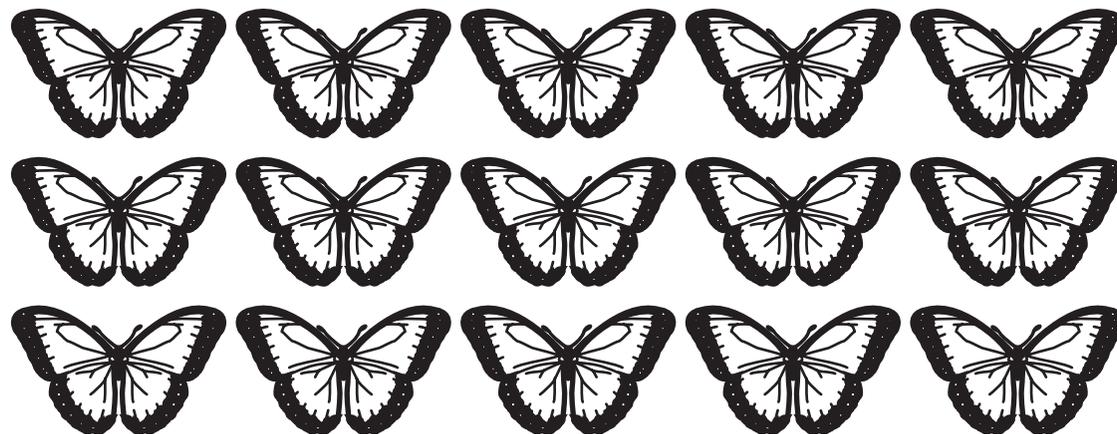
.

?



**NSCAS-ALTERNATE  
MATHEMATICS**

### Question 1

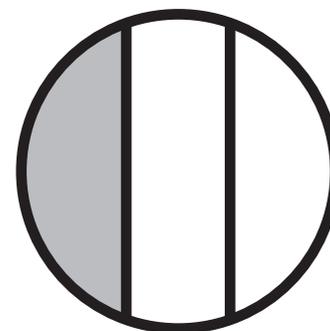
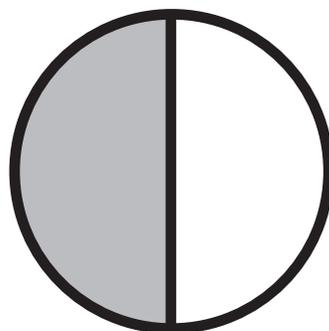
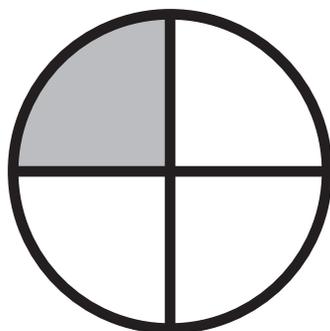


**10**

**14**

**15**

## Question 2



**Question 3**

**Cost**

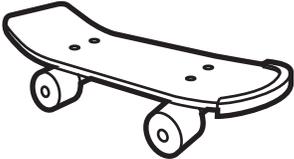
**Estimate**



**\$28**



**\$30**



**\$31**



**\$30**

**\$50**

**\$60**

**\$70**

**Question 4**

Amy made 5 necklaces. Kate made some necklaces too. Together, they made 9 necklaces.

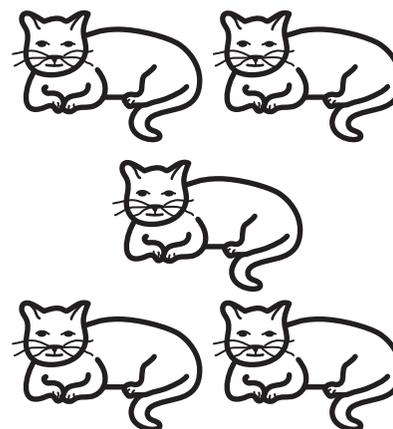
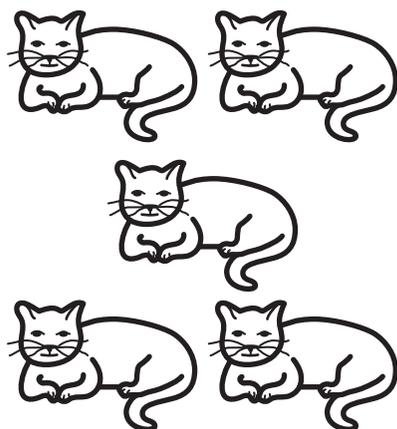
$$5 + \square = 9$$

**4**

**8**

**14**

### Question 5

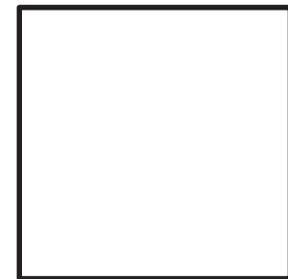
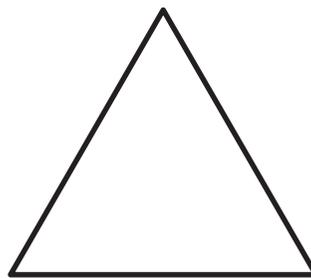
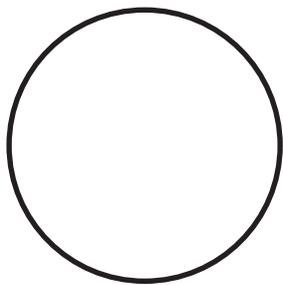


$$2 \times 5$$

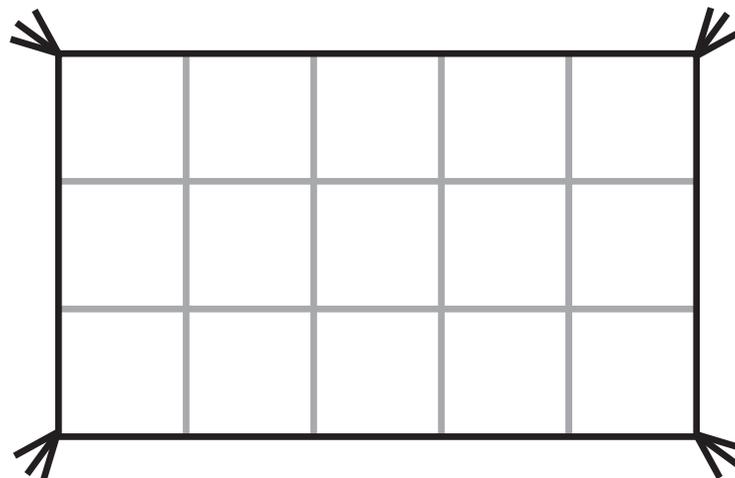
$$2 + 5$$

$$5 - 2$$

**Question 6**



### Question 7

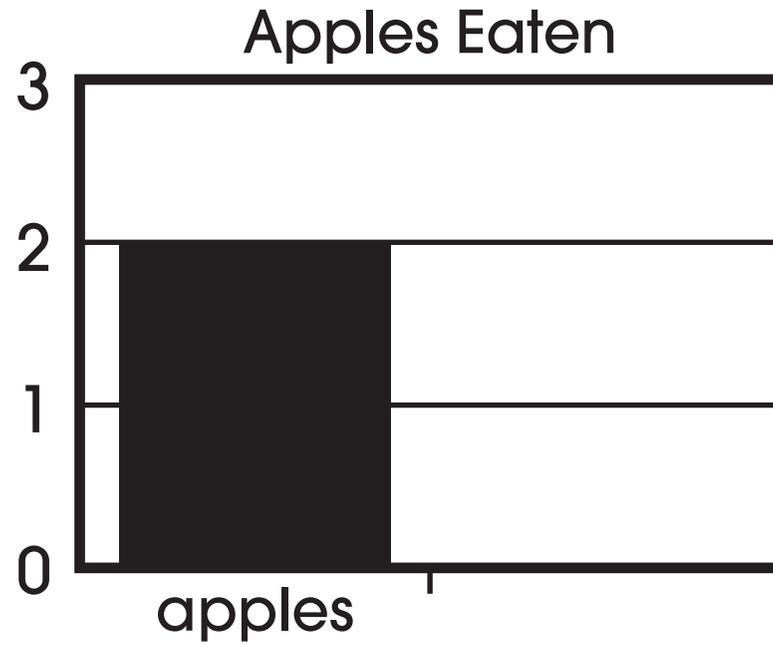


**10**

**15**

**20**

**Question 8**



**3**

**2**

**1**

**NSCAS–Alternate**  
**Grade 3**  
**Student Practice Test Booklet**

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