



# **NSCAS**

## **NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

### **NSCAS–Alternate Practice Test**

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

# **Grade 6 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

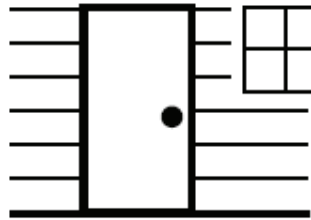
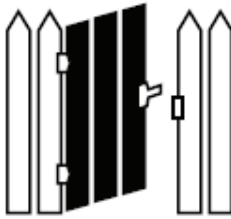
The practice tests contain the test administrator’s directions for each item with the information outlined below. The practice tests are organized by content area in a given grade with the Administrator’s Test Booklet for all items appearing first, followed by the Student Test Book at the end.

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>            The dog runs through the <u>gate</u> and down the sidewalk.            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”?  <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i>            A. a gate            B. a doghouse            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.6.RP.3 Point of View 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>	<p><b>Follow along as I read this story.</b> <i>Indicate.</i>  <b>It was time for dinner. Mom said to me, "Emma, please put your coat on so we can go out for spaghetti." I quickly put on my coat. Then, I helped my brother, Josh, put on his shoes. When we were all in the car, Mom said, "Thank you, Emma, for helping your little brother."</b></p>
<b>ASK</b>	<p><b>Who is telling the story?</b>  <i>Indicate and read answers.</i>  A. <b>Mom</b>  B. <b>Emma</b>  C. <b>Josh</b></p>

It was time for dinner. Mom said to me, "Emma, please put your coat on so we can go out for spaghetti." I quickly put on my coat. Then, I helped my brother, Josh, put on his shoes. When we were all in the car, Mom said, "Thank you, Emma, for helping your little brother."

**Mom**

**Emma**

**Josh**

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.6.RP.6 Inferential Questions DOK Level 2, Stage 4
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>
SAY	<p>Follow along as I read this story. <i>Indicate.</i></p> <p>Lana awakes early. Finally, it is the first day of the fair! Lana and her family will spend the entire day at the fair. Every year, they do some of the same things. They always stop at the dairy booth. Lana has already decided she will get a chocolate shake. Then they go see the animals. Lana and her sister go on rides. This year, there is a thrilling new roller coaster ride.</p>
ASK	<p>Why does Lana get up early? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. <b>She is excited.</b> B. <b>She is hungry.</b> C. <b>She is ready.</b></p>

Lana awakes early. Finally, it is the first day of the fair! Lana and her family will spend the entire day at the fair. Every year, they do some of the same things. They always stop at the dairy booth. Lana has already decided she will get a chocolate shake. Then they go see the animals. Lana and her sister go on rides. This year, there is a thrilling new roller coaster ride.

**She is excited.**

**She is hungry.**

**She is ready.**

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.6.RI.1 Central Idea DOK Level 2, Stage 4
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>
SAY	Follow along as I read this paragraph. <i>Indicate.</i> Plants need several things to grow. They need sunlight. They need good soil and the right amount of water. Plants will live a long time if they get good care.
ASK	What is the central idea of this paragraph? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. Plants grow best in pots. B. Plants can grow from seeds. C. Plants need proper care to grow.

Plants need several things to grow. They need sunlight. They need good soil and the right amount of water. Plants will live a long time if they get good care.

**Plants grow best in pots.**

**Plants can grow from seeds.**

**Plants need proper care to grow.**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.6.RI.3 Author's Purpose 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 paragraph. Indicate.</b> My dog is easy to take care of. He follows directions. He likes to go for walks. He only barks when someone rings the doorbell.
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Why did the author write this paragraph?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>to tell readers something funny</b> B. <b>to let readers know about a pet</b> C. <b>to convince readers to walk more</b>

My dog is easy to take care of. He follows directions. He likes to go for walks. He only barks when someone rings the doorbell.

**to tell readers something funny**

**to let readers know about a pet**

**to convince readers to walk more**



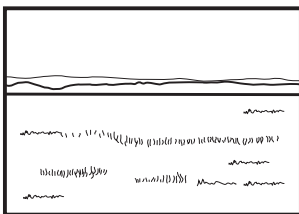
<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.6.RI.6 Literal Questions DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Follow along as I read this paragraph. Indicate.</b> Earth's surface is mostly covered with water. Water is in places like oceans, rivers, and lakes. Over half of Earth's surface is ocean water. Oceans are the biggest bodies of water.
<b>ASK</b>	<b>What covers most of Earth's surface?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>land</b> B. <b>plants</b> C. <b>water</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # LA\_E.6.RI.6

### Question 5

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
ELA Grade 6

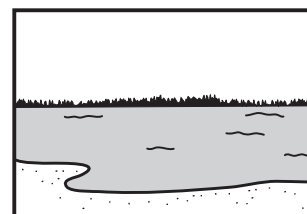
Earth's surface is mostly covered with water. Water is in places like oceans, rivers, and lakes. Over half of Earth's surface is ocean water. Oceans are the biggest bodies of water.



**land**



**plants**



**water**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.6.V.2.c Word Relationships 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>Here is the word "watch" (indicate) and a picture of a watch (indicate).</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<p><b>Which picture shows another meaning of the word "watch"?</b>  <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i></p> <p>A. a boy watching television  B. a boy sleeping  C. a boy writing</p>

**Question 6**



<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.6.W.1.b End Punctuation 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>Jay helps his dad clean the kitchen ____</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which punctuation mark should end 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.6.W.1.b

### Question 7

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
ELA Grade 6

Jay helps his dad clean the kitchen \_\_\_\_

!

.

?

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator LA_E.6.W.3.d Precise Words 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. Indicate.</b> <b>Anna needs <u>many</u> ingredients to make the cookies.</b> <b>The word "many" is underlined. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which word is more precise than "many"?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>three</b> B. <b>strange</b> C. <b>different</b>

Anna needs many ingredients to make the cookies.

**three**

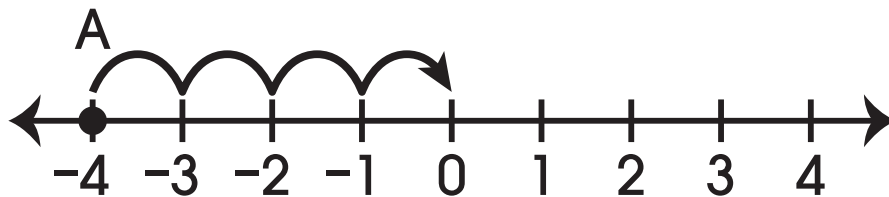
**strange**

**different**



**NSCAS-ALTERNATE  
MATHEMATICS**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.N.1.d Absolute Value 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>Here is a number line from negative four to four. Indicate. Point A is at negative four on the number line. Indicate. Absolute value is the distance a number is from zero.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>What is the absolute value of negative four?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>three</b> B. <b>four</b> C. <b>five</b>



**3**

**4**

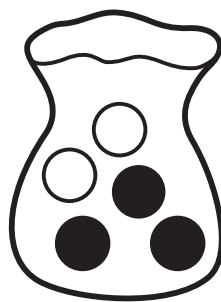
**5**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.R.1.a</b> <b>Ratio</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>Here is a bag with five marbles. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>What is the ratio of white marbles to black marbles?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>one to two</b> B. <b>two to three</b> C. <b>two to five</b>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.6.R.1.a

## Question 2

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 6



**1 to 2**

**2 to 3**

**2 to 5**

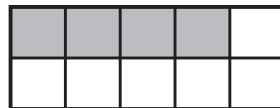
<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.R.1.d Fractions and Decimals DOK Level 1, Stage 3</b>
<b>Prepare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place student test page in front of the student.</li> <li>Call student's attention to the page.</li> </ul>
<b>SAY</b>	<b>Here is the fraction four-tenths. Indicate.</b> <b>Here is a model of four-tenths. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>What is four-tenths as a decimal?</b> <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. four B. four-tenths C. four-hundredths

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.6.R.1.d

**Question 3**

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 6

$$\frac{4}{10}$$



**4.0**

**0.4**

**0.04**



<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.A.1.b Evaluate Expressions DOK Level 1, Stage 2</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>Here is the expression <math>n</math> plus two. Indicate.</b></p> <p><b>In this expression, <math>n</math> equals seven. Indicate.</b></p> <p><b>Seven plus two equals nine. Indicate.</b></p>
<b>ASK</b>	<p><b>What does <math>n</math> plus two equal when <math>n</math> is seven?</b></p> <p><i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. <b>six</b></p> <p>B. <b>nine</b></p> <p>C. <b>eleven</b></p>

$$n + 2$$

$$n = 7$$

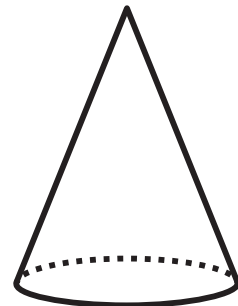
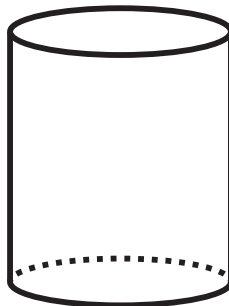
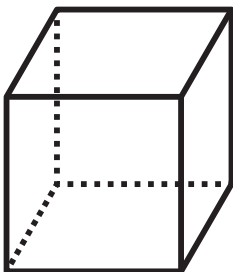
$$7 + 2 = 9$$

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.G.1.a</b> <b>Identify a Cone</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 three drawings. Indicate.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>Which drawing shows a cone?</b> <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. <i>cube</i> B. <i>cylinder</i> C. <i>cone</i>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.6.G.1.a

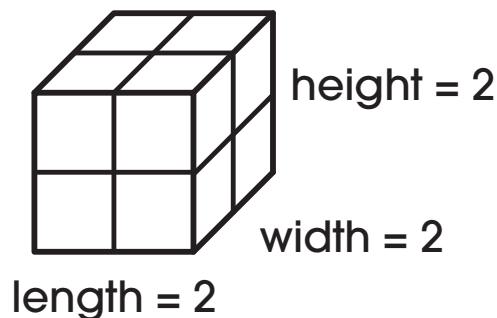
### Question 5

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 6



<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.G.3.c</b> <b>Volume</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>	<p>Here is the formula to find the volume of a rectangular prism. <i>Indicate.</i> Volume equals length times width times height.</p> <p>Here is a rectangular prism. <i>Indicate.</i> The length is two. <i>Indicate.</i> The width is two. <i>Indicate.</i> The height is two. <i>Indicate.</i></p>
<b>ASK</b>	<p>What is the volume of the rectangular prism, in cubic units?</p> <p><i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. <b>four</b></p> <p>B. <b>eight</b></p> <p>C. <b>ten</b></p>

**Volume = length × width × height**



**4**

**8**

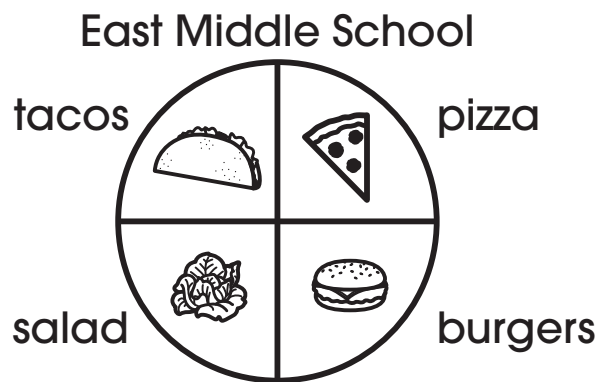
**10**

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.D.2.b Circle Graphs 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>Here is a circle graph that shows what East Middle School students like for lunch. <i>Indicate.</i></p> <p>One-fourth of the students like pizza. <i>Indicate.</i></p> <p>One-fourth of the students like burgers. <i>Indicate.</i></p> <p>One-fourth of the students like salad. <i>Indicate.</i></p> <p>One-fourth of the students like tacos. <i>Indicate.</i></p>
<b>ASK</b>	<p>What fraction of the students like tacos or pizza? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. two-fourths B. three-fourths C. four-fourths</p>

NSCAS ALTERNATE  
Indicator # MA\_E.6.D.2.b

**Question 7**

STUDENT TEST BOOK  
Mathematics Grade 6



$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{4}{4}$

<b>Administrator's Test Booklet</b>	<b>Indicator MA_E.6.D.2.c</b> <b>Mode</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>Here is a set of numbers: ten, ten, fifteen. Indicate.</b> <b>The number that occurs the most is called the mode.</b>
<b>ASK</b>	<b>What is the mode of this set of numbers?</b> <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. <b>five</b> B. <b>fifteen</b> C. <b>ten</b>

10 10 15

**5**

**15**

**10**

**NSCAS–Alternate**  
**Grade 6**  
**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 6**

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**NSCAS–ALTERNATE**  
**English Language Arts**



**Question 1**

It was time for dinner. Mom said to me, “Emma, please put your coat on so we can go out for spaghetti.” I quickly put on my coat. Then, I helped my brother, Josh, put on his shoes. When we were all in the car, Mom said, “Thank you, Emma, for helping your little brother.”

**Mom**

**Emma**

**Josh**

Lana awakes early. Finally, it is the first day of the fair! Lana and her family will spend the entire day at the fair. Every year, they do some of the same things. They always stop at the dairy booth. Lana has already decided she will get a chocolate shake. Then they go see the animals. Lana and her sister go on rides. This year, there is a thrilling new roller coaster ride.

**She is excited.**

**She is hungry.**

**She is ready.**

Plants need several things to grow. They need sunlight. They need good soil and the right amount of water. Plants will live a long time if they get good care.

**Plants grow best in pots.**

**Plants can grow from seeds.**

**Plants need proper care to grow.**

**Question 4**

My dog is easy to take care of. He follows directions. He likes to go for walks. He only barks when someone rings the doorbell.

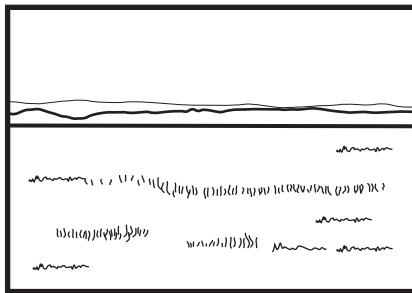
**to tell readers something funny**

**to let readers know about a pet**

**to convince readers to walk more**

### Question 5

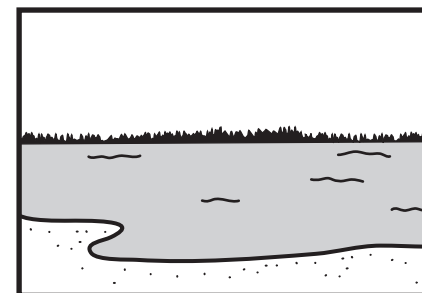
Earth's surface is mostly covered with water. Water is in places like oceans, rivers, and lakes. Over half of Earth's surface is ocean water. Oceans are the biggest bodies of water.



**land**



**plants**



**water**

### Question 6

watch



**Question 7**

Jay helps his dad clean the kitchen \_\_\_\_

!

.

?

Anna needs many ingredients to make the cookies.

**three**

**strange**

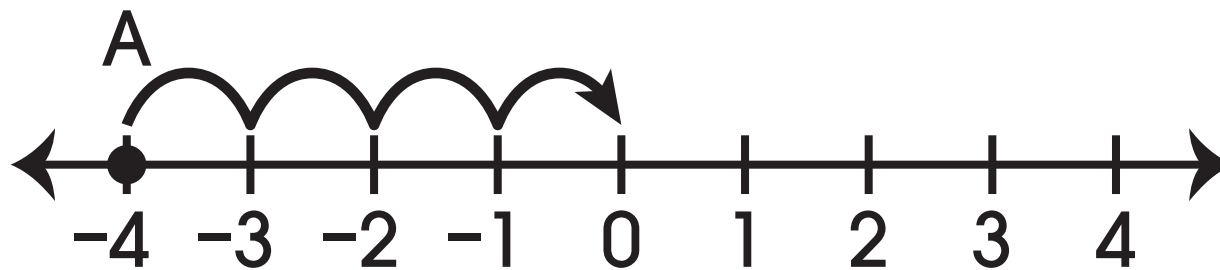
**different**





**NSCAS-ALTERNATE  
MATHEMATICS**

### Question 1

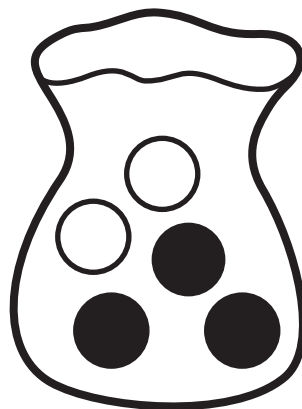


**3**

**4**

**5**

### Question 2



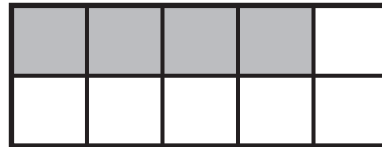
**1 to 2**

**2 to 3**

**2 to 5**

**Question 3**

$$\frac{4}{10}$$



**4.0**

**0.4**

**0.04**

**Question 4**

$$n + 2$$

$$n = 7$$

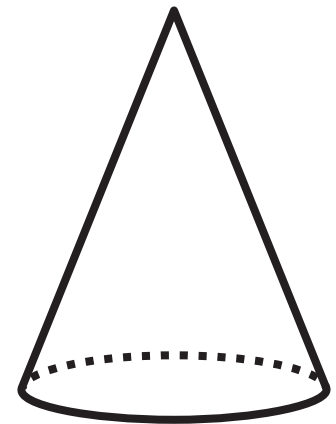
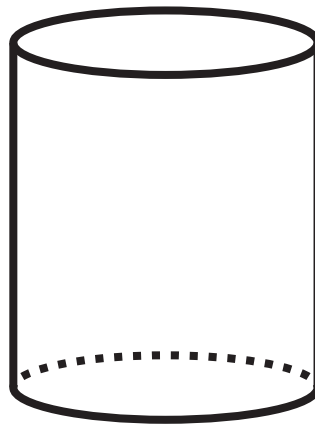
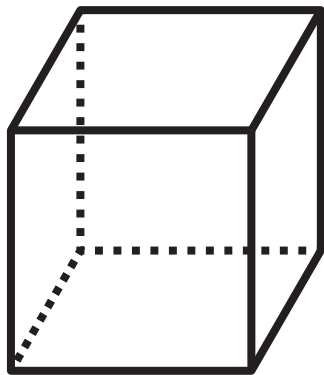
$$7 + 2 = 9$$

**6**

**9**

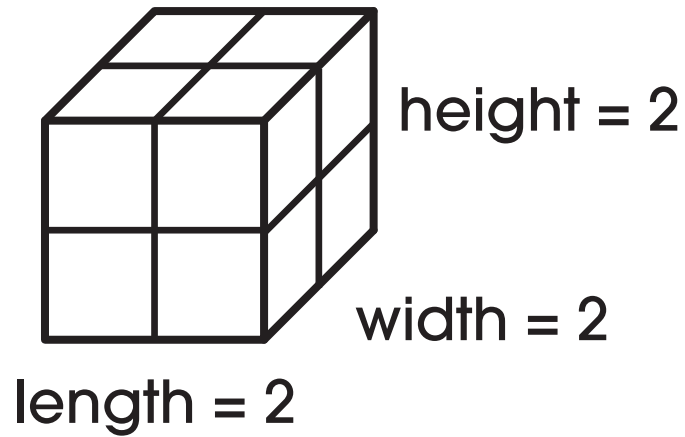
**11**

**Question 5**



**Question 6**

**Volume = length  $\times$  width  $\times$  height**



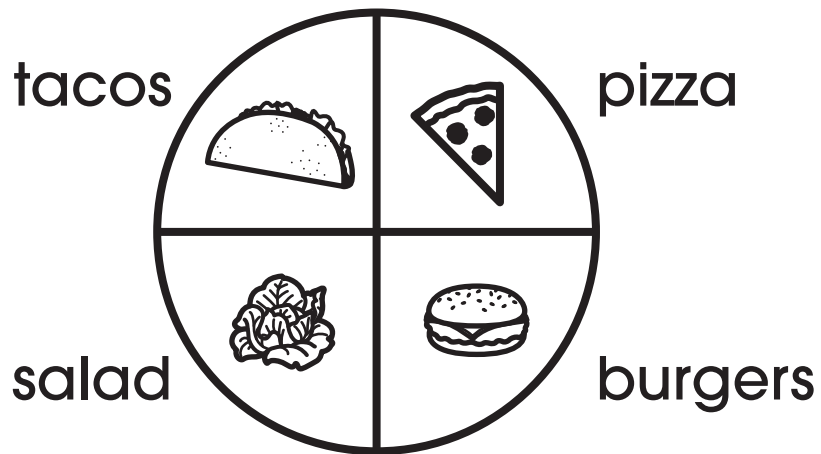
**4**

**8**

**10**

**Question 7**

**East Middle School**



$$\frac{2}{4}$$

$$\frac{3}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{4}$$



**Question 8**

10 10 15

**5**

**15**

**10**

**NSCAS–Alternate**  
**Grade 6**  
**Student Practice Test Booklet**

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