



NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

NSCAS–Alternate Practice Test

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

Grade 7 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"> <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i> <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i> 	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"?</p> <p><i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i></p> <p>A. <i>a gate</i> B. <i>a doghouse</i> C. <i>a door</i></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**

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.RP.6 Inferential Questions DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	Follow along as I read these sentences. Indicate. Carlos told his sister, "Stop bugging me! I need to finish my book."
ASK	What does Carlos want his sister to do? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. to leave him alone B. to bring him something C. to talk to him

Carlos told his sister, "Stop bugging me!
I need to finish my book."

to leave him alone

to bring him something

to talk to him

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.RI.1 Central Idea DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place student test page in front of the student. Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	<p>Follow along as I read this paragraph. <i>Indicate.</i> In the 1800s, people explored the western part of the United States. Lewis and Clark were two explorers. They were sent by President Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson hoped they would find an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean. They did not. On their trip, Lewis and Clark wrote about the many new plants and animals they saw.</p>
ASK	<p>What is the central idea of this paragraph? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. people from the United States B. the trip of Lewis and Clark C. routes to the Pacific Ocean</p>

In the 1800s, people explored the western part of the United States. Lewis and Clark were two explorers. They were sent by President Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson hoped they would find an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean. They did not. On their trip, Lewis and Clark wrote about the many new plants and animals they saw.



**people from the
United States**

**the trip of
Lewis and Clark**

**routes to the
Pacific Ocean**

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.RI.4 Text Structure DOK Level 1, Stage 3
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place student test page in front of the student. Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	A student plays baseball. Here is a schedule that shows when the baseball games are at home and away. Indicate and read each row in the schedule.
ASK	What is the structure of the schedule? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. compare and contrast B. sequence of events C. cause and effect

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # LA_E.7.RI.4

Question 3

STUDENT TEST BOOK
ELA Grade 7

Week 2 Games	
July 8	home
July 10	away
July 12	home

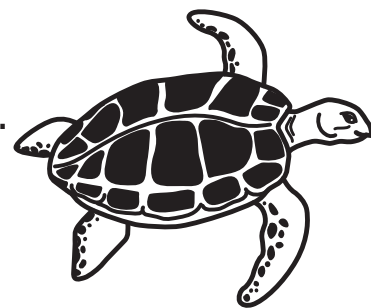
**compare
and contrast**

**sequence
of events**

**cause
and effect**

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.RI.5 Development of Ideas DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i> • <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	Follow along as I read this paragraph. <i>Indicate.</i> Sea turtles live in the ocean. They have front flippers. These help the turtles swim. The turtles also have back flippers that help them turn. Sea turtles have a hard shell. It protects them from danger.
ASK	How does the reader know that a hard shell is good for a sea turtle? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. It protects them from danger. B. Sea turtles live in the ocean. C. These help the turtles swim.

Sea turtles live in the ocean. They have front flippers. These help the turtles swim. The turtles also have back flippers that help them turn. Sea turtles have a hard shell. It protects them from danger.



It protects them from danger.

Sea turtles live in the ocean.

These help the turtles swim.

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.RI.6 Literal Questions DOK Level 1, Stage 3
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i> • <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	Follow along as I read this paragraph. <i>Indicate.</i> Ants are attracted to sugar and other sweets. Ants leave their colony to search for food. As they walk, they drop a chemical that creates a smell. When ants find food, they follow the scented trails back to the colony.
ASK	What do ants use to go back to the colony? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. leaves B. sweets C. trails

Ants are attracted to sugar and other sweets. Ants leave their colony to search for food. As they walk, they drop a chemical that creates a smell. When ants find food, they follow the scented trails back to the colony.

leaves

sweets

trails

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.V.1.a Context Clues DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place student test page in front of the student. • Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	<p>Follow along as I read this story. <i>Indicate.</i> It is a warm spring day. The air is still. Dark clouds <u>expand</u> to cover large areas of the sky. James hears a loud rumbling coming from a distant place. He decides to go inside. The word "expand" is underlined. <i>Indicate.</i></p>
ASK	<p>What does the word "expand" mean in this story? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. shrink B. increase C. scatter</p>

It is a warm spring day. The air is still. Dark clouds expand to cover large areas of the sky. James hears a loud rumbling coming from a distant place. He decides to go inside.

shrink

increase

scatter

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.W.1.b End Punctuation DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	Here are three sentences. Indicate.
ASK	Which sentence should end with a period? <i>Indicate and read answers without inflection.</i> A. He likes to make cookies ___ B. Where are my new shoes ___ C. How far is the walk to school ___

He likes to make cookies ___

Where are my new shoes ___

How far is the walk to school ___

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator LA_E.7.W.6.b Research a Topic DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	Jia is writing a report about how important regular exercise is for good health.
ASK	Which website would have the best facts for Jia's report? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. one about getting a dog for exercise B. one about the cost of exercise gyms C. one about how exercise helps the heart

one about getting a dog for exercise

one about the cost of exercise gyms

one about how exercise helps the heart



**NSCAS-ALTERNATE
MATHEMATICS**

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.N.2.a Subtract Fractions DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	Here is the equation seven-ninths minus three-ninths equals "blank." <i>Indicate.</i>
ASK	What is the answer to seven-ninths minus three-ninths? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. two-ninths B. four-ninths C. ten-ninths

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # MA_E.7.N.2.a

Question 1

STUDENT TEST BOOK
Mathematics Grade 7

$$\frac{7}{9} - \frac{3}{9} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$\frac{2}{9}$$

$$\frac{4}{9}$$

$$\frac{10}{9}$$

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.R.1.b Proportional Relationships DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place student test page in front of the student. Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	<p>Here is a table that shows the cost of tickets. Indicate and read the first row in the table.</p> <p>One ticket costs ten dollars. Indicate.</p> <p>Two tickets cost twenty dollars. Indicate.</p>
ASK	<p>How much do three tickets cost?</p> <p><i>Indicate and read answers.</i></p> <p>A. thirteen dollars</p> <p>B. thirty dollars</p> <p>C. thirty-three dollars</p>

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # MA_E.7.R.1.b

Question 2

STUDENT TEST BOOK
Mathematics Grade 7

Number of Tickets	Total Cost
1	\$10
2	\$20
3	?

\$13

\$30

\$33

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.A.1.c One-Step Equations DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	Here is the equation seven times n equals seven hundred. Indicate.
ASK	What is the value of n? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. one B. ten C. one hundred

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # MA_E.7.A.1.c

Question 3

STUDENT TEST BOOK
Mathematics Grade 7

$$7n = 700$$

1

10

100

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.A.1.d Distributive Property DOK Level 2, Stage 4
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place student test page in front of the student. Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	Here are expressions that show the distributive property. Indicate. Six times the quantity five plus one (indicate) is the same as six times five plus six times one (indicate).
ASK	<p>Which expression is also the same? Indicate and read answers.</p> <p>A. six plus one B. twelve plus six C. thirty plus six</p>

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # MA_E.7.A.1.d

Question 4

STUDENT TEST BOOK
Mathematics Grade 7

$$6(5 + 1)$$

$$(6 \times 5) + (6 \times 1)$$

$$6 + 1$$

$$12 + 6$$

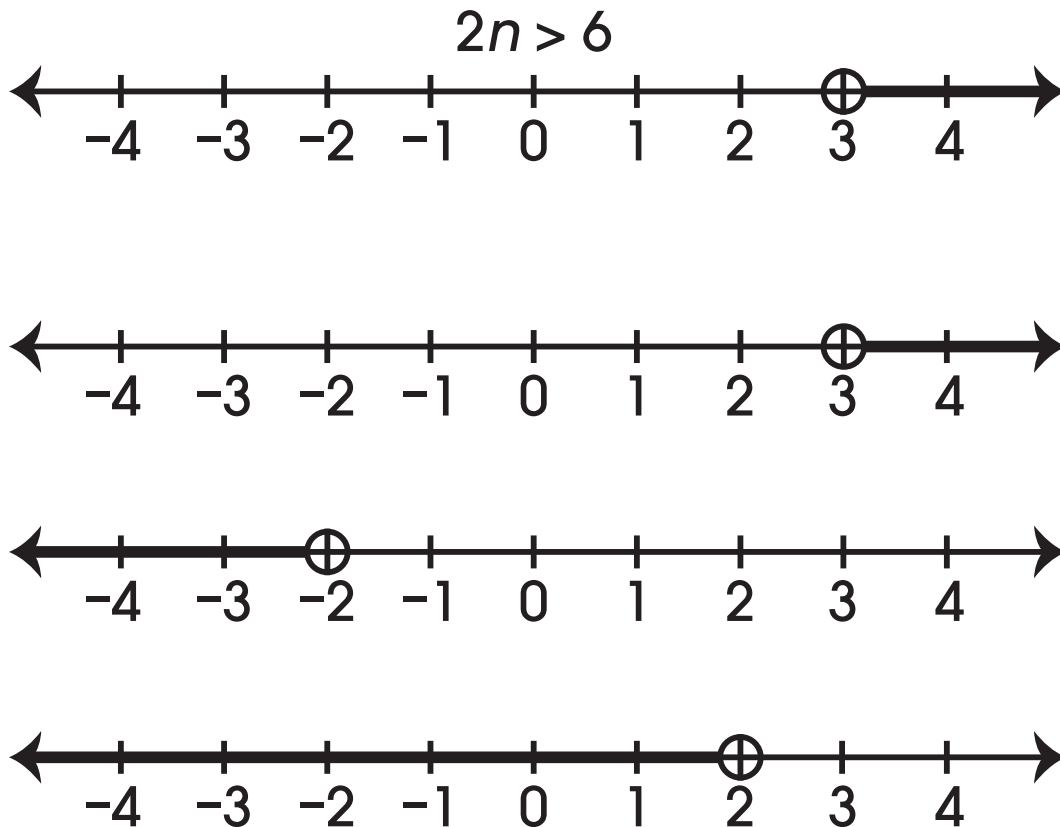
$$30 + 6$$

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.A.1.e One-Step Inequalities DOK Level 1, Stage 2
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place student test page in front of the student. Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	Here is the inequality two n is greater than six. Indicate. Here is a number line that shows the answers for two n is greater than six. Indicate.
ASK	Which number line shows the answers for two n is greater than six? <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. number line A B. number line B C. number line C

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # MA_E.7.A.1.e

Question 5

STUDENT TEST BOOK
Mathematics Grade 7



Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.A.2.a Identify Equations DOK Level 1, Stage 3
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Place student test page in front of the student.Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	Follow along as I read these sentences. <i>Indicate.</i> The farmer has fifteen pigs in the barn. He brings ten cows into the barn. There are now twenty-five animals in the barn.
ASK	Which equation matches the sentences? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. fifteen plus twenty-five equals forty B. fifteen plus ten equals twenty-five C. ten plus twenty-five equals thirty-five

The farmer has 15 pigs in the barn. He brings 10 cows into the barn. There are now 25 animals in the barn.

$$15 + 25 = 40$$

$$15 + 10 = 25$$

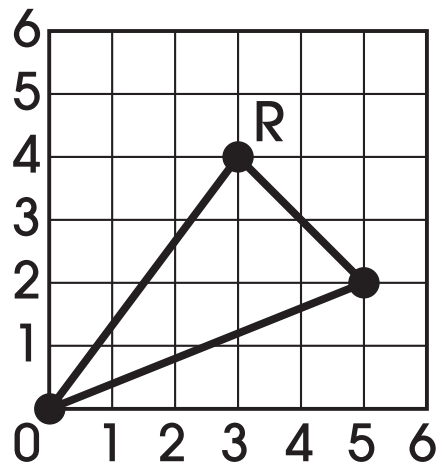
$$10 + 25 = 35$$

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.G.2.a Locate Vertices on a Triangle DOK Level 1, Stage 3
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place student test page in front of the student. Call student's attention to the page.
SAY	Here is a triangle on a coordinate grid. Indicate. Here is point R. Indicate.
ASK	What is the location of point R? <i>Indicate and read answers.</i> A. zero, one B. two, five C. three, four

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # MA_E.7.G.2.a

Question 7

STUDENT TEST BOOK
Mathematics Grade 7



(0, 1)

(2, 5)

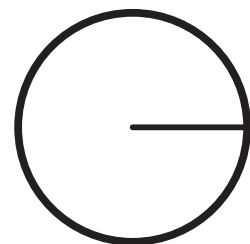
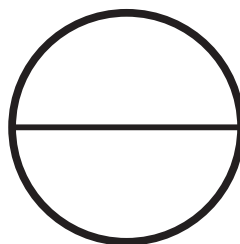
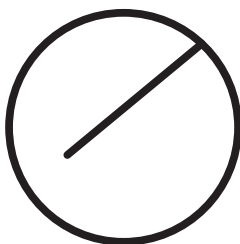
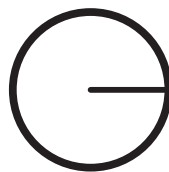
(3, 4)

Administrator's Test Booklet	Indicator MA_E.7.G.3.c Radius DOK Level 1, Stage 2
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Place student test page in front of the student.</i>• <i>Call student's attention to the page.</i>
SAY	This line shows the radius of the circle. <i>Indicate.</i>
ASK	Which circle has a line that shows the radius? <i>Indicate (but do not read) answers.</i> A. <i>circle A</i> B. <i>circle B</i> C. <i>circle C</i>

NSCAS ALTERNATE
Indicator # MA_E.7.G.3.c

Question 8

STUDENT TEST BOOK
Mathematics Grade 7



NSCAS–Alternate
Grade 7
Practice Administration Manual

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ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

NSCAS–Alternate Practice Test

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

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

Grade 7

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NSCAS-ALTERNATE
English Language Arts

Question 1

Carlos told his sister, “Stop bugging me!
I need to finish my book.”

to leave him alone

to bring him something

to talk to him

In the 1800s, people explored the western part of the United States. Lewis and Clark were two explorers. They were sent by President Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson hoped they would find an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean. They did not. On their trip, Lewis and Clark wrote about the many new plants and animals they saw.



**people from the
United States**

**the trip of
Lewis and Clark**

**routes to the
Pacific Ocean**

Question 3

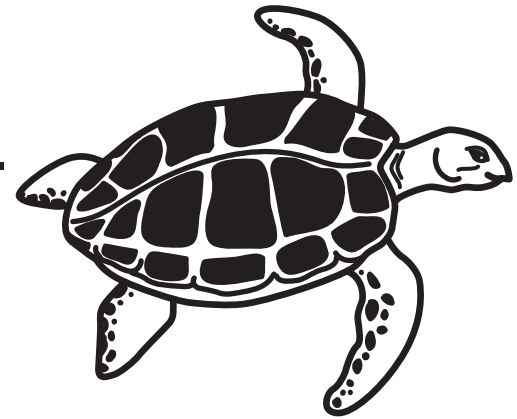
Week 2 Games	
July 8	home
July 10	away
July 12	home

**compare
and contrast**

**sequence
of events**

**cause
and effect**

Sea turtles live in the ocean. They have front flippers. These help the turtles swim. The turtles also have back flippers that help them turn. Sea turtles have a hard shell. It protects them from danger.



It protects them from danger.

Sea turtles live in the ocean.

These help the turtles swim.

Question 5

Ants are attracted to sugar and other sweets. Ants leave their colony to search for food. As they walk, they drop a chemical that creates a smell. When ants find food, they follow the scented trails back to the colony.

leaves

sweets

trails

It is a warm spring day. The air is still. Dark clouds expand to cover large areas of the sky. James hears a loud rumbling coming from a distant place. He decides to go inside.

shrink

increase

scatter

He likes to make cookies __

Where are my new shoes __

How far is the walk to school __

one about getting a dog for exercise

one about the cost of exercise gyms

one about how exercise helps the heart



**NSCAS-ALTERNATE
MATHEMATICS**

Question 1

$$\frac{7}{9} - \frac{3}{9} = \underline{\quad}$$

$$\frac{2}{9}$$

$$\frac{4}{9}$$

$$\frac{10}{9}$$

Question 2

Number of Tickets	Total Cost
1	\$10
2	\$20
3	?

\$13

\$30

\$33

Question 3

$$7n = 700$$

1

10

100

Question 4

$$6(5 + 1)$$
$$(6 \times 5) + (6 \times 1)$$

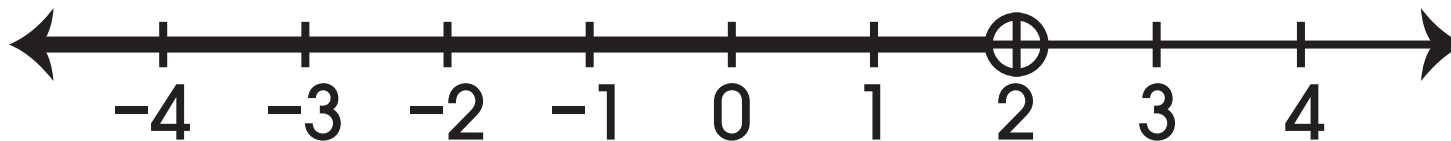
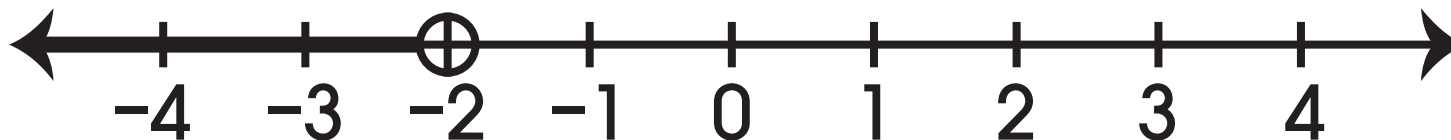
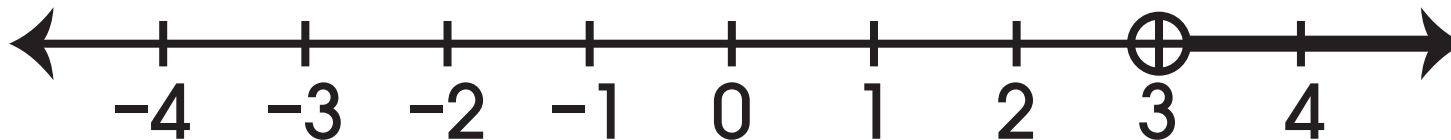
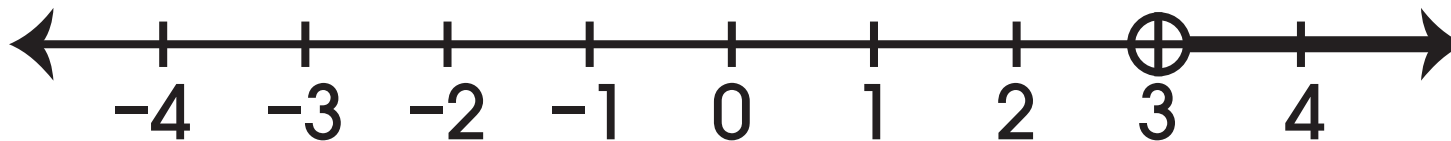
$$6 + 1$$

$$12 + 6$$

$$30 + 6$$

Question 5

$$2n > 6$$



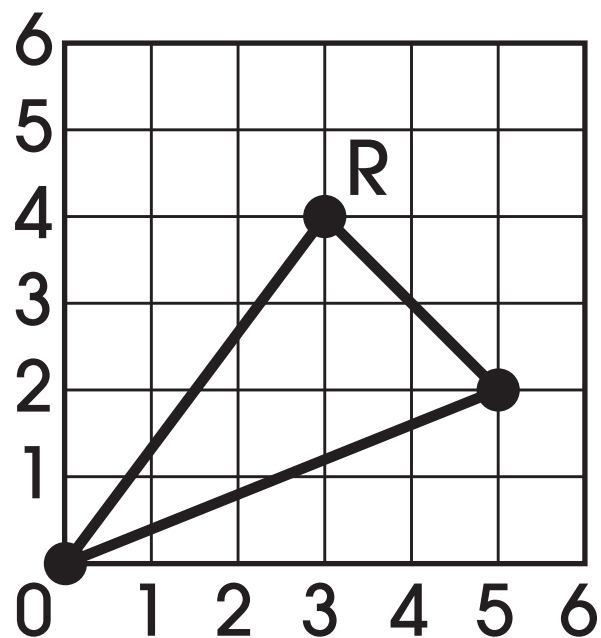
The farmer has 15 pigs in the barn. He brings 10 cows into the barn. There are now 25 animals in the barn.

$$15 + 25 = 40$$

$$15 + 10 = 25$$

$$10 + 25 = 35$$

Question 7

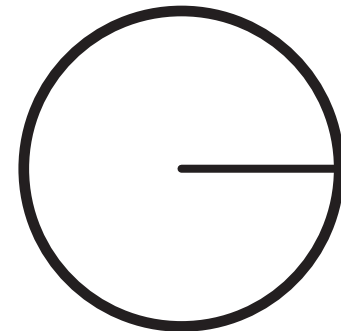
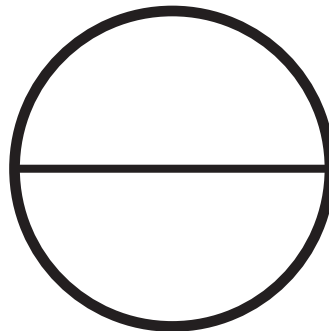
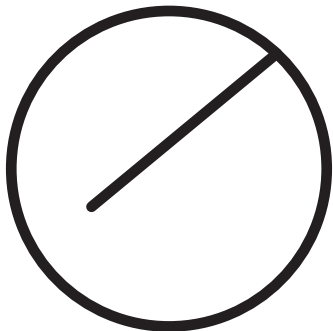
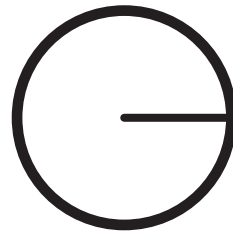


(0, 1)

(2, 5)

(3, 4)

Question 8



NSCAS–Alternate
Grade 7
Student Practice Test Booklet

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