## - NSCAS <br> NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

## NSCAS-Alternate Practice Test

English Language Arts (NSCAS-AAELA), Mathematics (NSCAS-AAM), and Science (NSCAS-AAS)

## High School ADMINISTRATION MANUAL

## 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 <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.RP.4 <br> Text Structure <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this story. Indicate. <br> Jared has a new puppy. Before he goes to school, Jared has to care <br> for the puppy. He wants to remember what he needs to do. So Jared <br> looks for pictures on the Internet. He creates a poster. Now he can <br> see what he has to do before going to school. |
| ASK | How is this story organized? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. by giving directions to make a poster <br> B. by telling a problem and how it is solved <br> C. by making a list of places and activities |

Jared has a new puppy. Before he goes to school, Jared has to care for the puppy. He wants to remember what he needs to do. So Jared looks for pictures on the Internet. He creates a poster. Now he can see what he has to do before going to school.
by giving directions to make a poster
by telling a problem and how it is solved
by making a list of places and activities

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.RI.1 <br> Supporting Detail <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this paragraph. Indicate. <br> Fireflies are a type of small beetle. They are also known as lightning <br> bugs because some of them can produce small flashes of light. The <br> light is usually yellow, green, or orange. Fireflies flash their lights to <br> attract a mate. Scientists think fireflies also flash their lights for <br> protection. |
| ASK | Which detail supports the idea that fireflies use their lights to survive? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. Lightning bug is another name for a firefly. <br> B. The light from fireflies can be orange. <br> C. Fireflies flash their lights for protection. |

Fireflies are a type of small beetle. They are also known as lightning bugs because some of them can produce small flashes of light. The light is usually yellow, green, or orange. Fireflies flash their lights to attract a mate. Scientists think fireflies also flash their lights for protection.

## Lightning bug is another name for a firefly.

## The light from fireflies can be orange.

## Fireflies flash their lights for protection.

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.RI.3 <br> Author's Purpose <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> $\bullet$ <br> Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this paragraph. Indicate. <br> Schools should have a school newsletrer. A newsletter allows students <br> to share ideas and opinions. Writing articles for a newsletter improves <br> writing and reading skills. Working with other students can build <br> friendships. |
| ASK | Why did the author most likely write this paragraph? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. to entertain readers with a newsletter <br> B. to describe jobs related to a newsletter <br> C. to convince schools to start a newsletter |

Schools should have a school newsletter. A newsletter allows students to share ideas and opinions. Writing articles for a newsletter improves writing and reading skills. Working with other students can build friendships.

## to entertain readers with a newsletter

## to describe jobs related to a newsletter

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.RI.3 <br> Author's Purpose <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this paragraph. Indicate. <br> Buffalo Bill Cody is famous in Nebraska history. He got the nickname <br> Buffalo Bill because he hunted thousands of buffalo. Buffalo Bill <br> delivered mail as part of the Pony Express. He also created his own <br> traveling show about the Wild West. |
| ASK | What is the author's purpose for writing this paragraph? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. to inform readers about Bill Cody <br> B. to tell readers a joke about Bill Cody <br> C. to persuade readers to like Bill Cody |

Buffalo Bill Cody is famous in Nebraska history. He got the nickname Buffalo Bill because he hunted thousands of buffalo. Buffalo Bill delivered mail as part of the Pony Express. He also created his own traveling show about the Wild West.

## to inform readers about Bill Cody

## to tell readers a joke about Bill Cody

to persuade readers to like Bill Cody

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.V.1.a <br> Context Clues <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 2 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this story. Indicate. <br> Hal and his friends are spending Saturday afternoon watching <br> swimming and diving competitions. All aquatic events are being held <br> in the pool. <br> The word "aquatic" is underlined. Indicate. |
| ASK | What does the word "aquatic" refer to? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. in the gym <br> B. in the park <br> C. in the water |



Hal and his friends are spending Saturday afternoon watching swimming and diving competitions. All aquatic events are being held in the pool.

in the gym

in the park

in the water

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.W.4.c <br> Connecting Words <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 2 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Logan writes a sentence to state his opinion about riding a bicycle, <br> and he includes a detail to support his opinion. Follow along as I read <br> Logan's sentence. Indicate. <br> Riding a bicycle is the best way to travel short distances because it is <br> good exercise and inexpensive. <br> The word "because" is underlined. Indicate. <br> Logan uses the word "because" to connect his ideas about riding a <br> bicycle. |
| ASK | Which word connects the ideas about riding a bicycle? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. short <br> B. because <br> C. good |

Riding a bicycle is the best way to travel short distances because it is good exercise and inexpensive.

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.W.4.c <br> Connect Claim and Evidence <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this paragraph. Indicate. <br> The solar system has eight planets. Earth is the fifth-largest planet. <br> Earth is an unusual planet. It is the only planet with life on it. Earth has <br> been photographed by astronauts. |
| ASK | Which sentence supports the claim that Earth is an unusual planet? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. Earth is the fifth-largest planet. <br> B. Earth is the only planet with life on it. <br> C. Earth has been photographed by astronauts. |

The solar system has eight planets. Earth is the fifth-largest planet. Earth is an unusual planet. It is the only planet with life on it. Earth has been photographed by astronauts.

## Earth is the fifth-largest planet.

## Earth is the only planet with life on it.

## Earth has been photographed by astronauts.

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator LA_E.12.W.4.c <br> Supporting Evidence <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this story. Indicate. <br> Oliver enjoys cooking meals at home. He decides to make spaghetti <br> for dinner. The smell of the spaghetti sauce fills the room, and Oliver is <br> anxious to share the meal with his family. Oliver tells his family it is <br> time to eat. After everyone has eaten, Oliver believes the meal was a <br> success. Everyone has a smile on their face, and the plates are all <br> empty! |
| ASK | Which sentence helps the reader know that Oliver is happy with the <br> spaghetti dinner? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. Oliver enjoys cooking meals at home. <br> B. Oliver tells his family it is time to eat. <br> C. Oliver believes the meal was a success. |

Oliver enjoys cooking meals at home. He decides to make spaghetti for dinner. The smell of the spaghetti sauce fills the room, and Oliver is anxious to share the meal with his family. Oliver tells his family it is time to eat. After everyone has eaten, Oliver believes the meal was a success. Everyone has a smile on their face, and the plates are all empty!

## Oliver enjoys cooking meals at home.

## Oliver tells his family it is time to eat.

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.N.1.a <br> Identify an Operation <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read these sentences. Indicate. <br> Twenty students are going to the zoo. They each eat two hotdogs. |
| ASK | Which expression could be used to find the total number of hotdogs <br> eaten? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. twenty minus two <br> B. twenty plus two <br> C. twenty times two |

Twenty students are going to the zoo.
They each eat two hotdogs.

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.N.1.f <br> Equivalent Rates <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | • Place student test page in front of the student. <br> • Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here is a group of pennies. Indicate. |
| ASK | Which coin combination is the same amount as the group of pennies? <br> Indicate and read answers. |
|  | A. one dime <br> B. one dime, one nickel <br> C. one dime, two nickels |



| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.N.2.a <br> Exponents <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Ten times ten times ten can be represented as ten to the third power. <br> Indicate. <br> Ten times ten equals "blank." Indicate. |
| ASK | Which expression represents ten times ten? <br> Indicate and read answers. |
| A. ten to the first power |  |
| B. ten to the second power |  |
| C. ten to the tenth power |  |

## $10 \times 10 \times 10=10^{3}$

$10 \times 10=$ $\qquad$

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.A.I.c <br> Linear Functions <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here are three graphs. Indicate. |
| ASK | Which graph shows a linear function? <br> Indicate (but do not read) answers. <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> A. graph A <br> B. graph B <br> C. graph C |





| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.A.2.a <br> Graphical Solution to Linear Equations <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here is a graph that shows two linear equations. Indicate. <br> The point where the two lines intersect is the solution. Indicate. |
| ASK | Which ordered pair shows the solution? <br> Indicate and read answers. |
|  | A. one, zero <br> B. two, three |
| C. three, four |  |


$(2,3)$
$(3,4)$

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.A.2.d <br> Values Forming a Vertical Line <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here is a table of values. Indicate. <br> The x value stays the same. Indicate. <br> The y value goes up by one. Indicate. <br> Here is a coordinate grid with the values graphed. Indicate. |
| ASK | Which line will form when the dots representing the values are <br> connected? <br> Indicate (but do not read) answers. <br> A. diagonal line <br> B. horizontal line <br> C. vertical line |

NSCAS ALTERNATE Indicator \# MA_E.HS.A.2.d

Question 6

| $x$ | $y$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 |




| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.G.1.i <br> Quadrilaterals on a Grid <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | • Place student test page in front of the student. <br> • Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here are different shapes shown on coordinate grids. Indicate. |
| ASK | Which grid has a rectangle? <br> Indicate (but do not read) answers. <br>  <br>  <br> A. rectangle <br> B. triangle <br> C. hexagon |



| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator MA_E.HS.D.3.d <br> Mutually Exclusive Outcomes <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | • Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here are three sentences. Indicate. |
| ASK | Which sentence has two things that cannot happen at the same time? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. Avery watches a movie in the theater and washes his car. |
|  | B. Avery watches a movie in the theater and sits by a friend. <br> C. Avery watches a movie in the theater and eats popcorn. |

## Avery watches a movie in the theater and washes his car.

## Avery watches a movie in the theater and sits by a friend.

## Avery watches a movie in the theater and eats popcorn.

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.1.1.A-b <br> Force and Speed <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | • Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read these sentences. Indicate. <br> A girl is going down a hill on a sled. She sticks a foot out and drags it <br> in the snow. |
| ASK | What will happen to the speed of the sled as the girl drags her foot in <br> the snow? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. It will increase. <br> B. It will decrease. <br> C. It will stay the same. |

A girl is going down a hill on a sled. She sticks a foot out and drags it in the snow.


| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.3.3.B-b <br> Spacing of Particles <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here are pictures showing solid cubes of ice in a glass and water in a <br> glass. Indicate. <br> The particles in a solid are closer together (indicate) than the particles <br> in a liquid (indicate). |
| ASK | What is the spacing between particles in a solid? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. far apart <br> B. close together <br> C. the same as a liquid |


particles in a solid

far
apart

particles in a liquid

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.5.5.C-b <br> Reaction Rates <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this paragraph. Indicate. <br> Adding heat to a chemical reaction makes the reaction happen <br> faster. A chemical reaction causes glow sticks to produce light. <br> Adding heat to a glow stick makes its light glow brighter. |
| ASK | If a glow stick is placed in water, which temperature of water will <br> make the glow stick glow the brightest? <br> Indicate and read answers. |
| A. boiling hot |  |
| B. ice-cold |  |
| C. room temperature |  |

Adding heat to a chemical reaction makes the reaction happen faster. A chemical reaction causes glow sticks to produce light. Adding heat to a glow stick makes its light glow brighter.


| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.5.5.E-b <br> Design a Solution <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | • Place student test page in front of the student. <br> • Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here is a picture of a bicycle that has a flat tire. Indicate. |
| ASK | Which object can be used to solve the problem? <br> Indicate and read answers. |
|  | A. paint can <br> B. air pump <br> C. bright light |



paint can

air pump

bright light

| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.8.3.D-a <br> Food Chain <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read this sentence. Indicate. <br> A food chain is a model that shows how energy is passed between <br> living things in an environment. <br> Here is an incomplete model of a food chain. Indicate. |
| ASK | What completes the food chain? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. coyote |
| B. fish |  |
| C. tree |  |

## A food chain is a model that shows how energy is passed between living things in an environment.


coyote


| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.13.3.C-a <br> Volcanoes <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 2 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Follow along as I read these sentences. Indicate. <br> Earth's surface is constantly changing. Some changes happen very <br> quickly. For example, lava quickly covers Earth's surface when a <br> volcano erupts. |
| ASK | What covers Earth's surface when a volcano erupts? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. lava <br> B. mud <br> C. water |

Earth's surface is constantly changing. Some changes happen very quickly. For example, lava quickly covers Earth's surface when a volcano erupts.


| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.6.1.C-a <br> Structure and Function <br> DOK Level 2, Stage 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here is a food web. Indicate. <br> Every living plant and animal needs energy to survive. A food web <br> shows energy transfers between organisms. |
| ASK | Which organism would be most negatively affected by a decrease in <br> the deer population? <br> Indicate and read answers. <br> A. grass <br> B. rabbit <br> C. wolf |



rabbit


| Administrator's <br> Test Booklet | Indicator SC_E.HS.8.3.D <br> Matter and Energy <br> DOK Level 1, Stage 3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Prepare | - Place student test page in front of the student. <br> - Call student's attention to the page. |
| SAY | Here is a food web. Indicate. <br> Every living plant and animal needs energy to survive. A food web <br> shows energy transfers between organisms. |
| ASK | What is the most direct source of energy for the rabbit? <br> Indicate and read answers. |
| A. grass |  |
| B. deer |  |
| C. wolf |  |




## NSCAS-Alternate

## High School Practice Administration Manual

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# NSCAS <br> NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM 

## NSCAS-Alternate Practice Test

English Language Arts (NSCAS-AAELA), Mathematics (NSCAS-AAM), and Science (NSCAS-AAS)

## STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

## High School

## O) NSCAS

NSCAS-ALTERNATE
English Language Arts

Jared has a new puppy. Before he goes to school, Jared has to care for the puppy. He wants to remember what he needs to do. So Jared looks for pictures on the Internet. He creates a poster. Now he can see what he has to do before going to school.
by giving directions to make a poster
by telling a problem and how it is solved
by making a list of places and activities

Fireflies are a type of small beetle. They are also known as lightning bugs because some of them can produce small flashes of light. The light is usually yellow, green, or orange. Fireflies flash their lights to attract a mate. Scientists think fireflies also flash their lights for protection.

Lightning bug is another name for a firefly.
The light from fireflies can be orange.
Fireflies flash their lights for protection.

Schools should have a school newsletter. A newsletter allows students to share ideas and opinions. Writing articles for a newsletter improves writing and reading skills. Working with other students can build friendships.
to entertain readers with a newsletter
to describe jobs related to a newsletter
to convince schools to start a newsletter

Buffalo Bill Cody is famous in Nebraska history. He got the nickname Buffalo Bill because he hunted thousands of buffalo. Buffalo Bill delivered mail as part of the Pony Express. He also created his own traveling show about the Wild West.
to inform readers about Bill Cody
to tell readers a joke about Bill Cody
to persuade readers to like Bill Cody


Hal and his friends are spending Saturday afternoon watching swimming and diving competitions. All aquatic events are being held in the pool.

in the gym

in the park

in the water

Riding a bicycle is the best way to travel short distances because it is good exercise and inexpensive.

The solar system has eight planets. Earth is the fifth-largest planet. Earth is an unusual planet. It is the only planet with life on it. Earth has been photographed by astronauts.

## Earth is the fiffh-largest planet.

## Earth is the only planet with life on it.

## Earth has been photographed by astronauts.

Oliver enjoys cooking meals at home. He decides to make spaghetti for dinner. The smell of the spaghetti sauce fills the room, and Oliver is anxious to share the meal with his family. Oliver tells his family it is time to eat. After everyone has eaten, Oliver believes the meal was a success. Everyone has a smile on their face, and the plates are all empty!

## Oliver enjoys cooking meals at home.

Oliver tells his family it is time to eat.
Oliver believes the meal was a success.

## O NSCAS

## NSCAS-ALTERNATE MATHEMATICS

## Twenty students are going to the zoo. They each eat two hotdogs.



# $10 \times 10 \times 10=10^{3}$ $10 \times 10=$ 






| $x$ | $y$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 |





Avery watches a movie in the theater and washes his car.

Avery watches a movie in the theater and sits by a friend.

Avery watches a movie in the theater and eats popcorn.

## O) NSCAS

## NSCAS-ALTERNATE SCIENCE

A girl is going down a hill on a sled. She sticks a foot out and drags it in the snow.


It will
increase.

It will
decrease.

It will stay the same.

particles in a solid

particles in a liquid
far apart

## close together

the same as a liquid

Adding heat to a chemical reaction makes the reaction happen faster. A chemical reaction causes glow sticks to produce light. Adding heat to a glow stick makes its light glow brighter.


air pump

A food chain is a model that shows how energy is passed between living things in an environment.


fish


Earth's surface is constantly changing. Some changes happen very quickly. For example, lava quickly covers Earth's surface when a volcano erupts.






## NSCAS-Alternate <br> High School Student Practice Test Booklet

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