

Science Grade 4 Item Types and Descriptions

Overview:

The test consists of machine scored items including selected-response, evidence-based selected-response, technology-enhanced, and technology-enhanced constructed-response. The SC READY Grade 4 [Online Tools Training](#) (OTT) does not contain examples of all item types due to limitations in the item bank, so examples of these items may be found the OTTs of other grades and other content areas. All items are worth 1 score point.

Selected-Response:

Students are presented with an item and four possible answer options. Students demonstrate their knowledge by selecting the one correct answer.

Multi-Select:

Students are presented with an item and 5-6 possible answer options. Students demonstrate their knowledge by selecting all the correct answers and only the correct answers. The number of correct answers is identified in the body of the prompt or question. (See item 5 in the Grade 4 Science OTT.)

Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR):

EBSR items have two parts. Part A requires a student to select the correct argument/claim based on given information. Part B requires students to select the correct evidence or reasoning that supports the correct argument/claim in Part A. To receive one score point for a correct response, students must answer both parts of the item correctly. (See items 4 and 12 in the Grade 4 Science OTT.)

Technology Enhanced Items:

Drag and Drop: Students demonstrate their knowledge by clicking on selectable objects and sorting them into groups, steps, or other arrangements. For example, students may be required to construct or complete a model, or to complete a list of statements based on a given scenario. (See items 7 and 17 in the Grade 4 OTT.)

Hot Spot: Students interact with selectable objects to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities to answer a question. Selectable objects include whole, or parts of figure, graphs, tables, verbal descriptions, or symbolic representations. (See item 14 in the Grades 6-8 Math OTT. This will change in December 2026 when the new Math OTTs are posted.)

Highlighting: Students demonstrate their knowledge by highlighting selected words, phrases, or sentences in a paragraph to provide evidence or information to answer a question. (See item 4 in the Grade 4 ELA OTT.)

Match Interaction Table: Students are presented with a matrix consisting of science formulas or statements across the columns and rows. Students demonstrate their knowledge by selecting one or more correct answers per row to associate correct statements in the matrix. (See item 2 in the Grade 6 Science OTT.)

Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response Items:

Bar Graph Response: Students are presented with an item. The students demonstrate their knowledge by constructing a bar graph based on given data or evidence. (See item 6 in the Grades 3-5 Math OTT. This will change in December 2026 when the new Math OTTs are posted.)

Short Text Input: Students are presented with an item. The students demonstrate their knowledge by providing a short textual or numerical answer to the item. (See item 9 in the Grades 3-5 Math OTT. This will change in December 2026 when the new Math OTTs are posted.)

Drop-down: Students demonstrate their knowledge by selecting predefined terms, phrases, or numbers to construct one or more sentences. Each drop-down menu is prepopulated with a blank space; the student then selects from the options. Multiple drop-down menus may be included within one item. (See items 3,13, and 17 in the Grade 4 Science OTT.)