

Unit Assessment: Teacher Evaluation Guide

Teacher Directions: The Unit Assessment is designed as a fifty-point test. Through this assessment, students demonstrate their overall learning of the unit’s Learning Objectives. CKSci Unit Assessments typically range from ten to fifteen questions in the upper elementary grades, which can be answered in a single classroom session.

Items with simpler answers that assess knowledge but not the deeper understandings of the content, such as multiple choice or short answers, are weighted differently and are worth fewer points. Assessment items that require more complex thinking and a deeper understanding of the content, such as writing explanations or identifying multiple relationships, are worth more points. Items that require synthesis of content and other student knowledge are weighted with more points as well. Some test items encourage students to use their Core Vocabulary decks as a reference source for terminology and concepts related to the test item.

Expected Answers and Model Responses

- Sample answer: Before this point, the seed sprouted into a plant. It developed a stem, branches, and leaves. After this point, as the plant grows, its stem will get bigger and wider. There will be more branches with leaves. If it is a flowering plant, it will develop a flower and may produce fruit. (5 points)
- | Mouse | Butterfly | Flowering Plant | Fern |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| birth, adolescence (growth), adulthood, reproduction, death | egg, larvae, pupa, adulthood (reproduction), death | pollination, germination, growth, flower, fruit (reproduction), death | spores, growth, reproduction, death |

(5 points)
- c, d, f, h, k (5 points)
- trait (1 point)
- Students will identify such traits as eye color, fur color, size of ears, size of paws, and so on. They should describe each to the best of their ability. (5 points)
- Sample response should indicate that the kittens all look different from each other because they inherited different things from their mother and father. (2 points)
- Students may list hair color, eye color, height, weight, length of arms or legs, fur color, etc. (4 points)
- a, e (2 points)

9.

Above Average	Student response shows an understanding that Plant 1 receives the sunlight, water, and air it needs to live and, as a result, will grow larger and stronger over time. It shows an understanding that Plant 2 receives little of the sunlight, water, and air it needs to live. Student understands that the plant will not grow and likely will turn brown, wilt, and die.
Average	Student correctly identifies what each plant is or is not getting to aid in survival but does not include the correct outcomes.
Adequate	Student correctly identifies what one of the plants is or is not getting to aid in survival but does not include the correct outcomes.
Inadequate	Student does not understand which plant is receiving what it needs and which is not, nor does he or she include the correct outcomes.

(5 points)

10.

Above Average	Student response shows an understanding that if an animal gets enough food, it will continue to grow. If the animal does not get enough food, it might stop growing and eventually die. If the animal gets too much food, it might grow too large and suffer as a result.
Average	Student response indicates two of the following: If an animal gets enough food, it will continue to grow. If the animal does not get enough food, it might stop growing and eventually die. If the animal gets too much food, it might grow too large and suffer as a result.
Adequate	Student response indicates one of the following: If an animal gets enough food, it will continue to grow. If the animal does not get enough food, it might stop growing and eventually die. If the animal gets too much food, it might grow too large and suffer as a result.
Inadequate	Student response shows little to no understanding of the question.

(4 points)

11. *causes*: a snowy landscape; tall grasses; *effects*: help a white rabbit hide from predators; grow taller over time to see prey and escape predators (3 points)

12. advantage, disadvantage (2 points)

13. c, d, f (3 points)

14.

Above Average	Student response shows an understanding that Organism A is better able to survive the change in the environment. The change to the environment has been caused by a drought, which means that there is less water. Organism A can store a great deal of water to help it survive until the drought is over.
Average	Student response shows an understanding that Organism A is better able to survive the change in the environment and that the change has been caused by a drought. The student does not explain what Organism A does that helps it survive the drought.
Adequate	Student response shows an understanding that Organism A is better able to survive the change in the environment but goes no further in answering the question.
Inadequate	Student response shows little to no understanding of the question.

(4 points)