THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

GRADE 4

ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SCIENCE TEST

v202 WRITTEN TEST

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

RATING GUIDE FOR PART II

This rating guide contains detailed directions for rating student responses to Part II of the written test in Elementary-Level Science. All raters should become familiar with the detailed directions before beginning to rate student responses.

Appendix A provides a performance levels chart that translates final scores into four performance levels. A conversion chart is also needed to translate a student's raw scores on the written and performance tests to a final score. This chart will be posted on the Department's web site http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/. Conversion charts provided for previous administrations of this test must *not* be used to determine students' final scores for the v202 administration of the test.

Appendix B provides several charts that link the individual questions on the test to the *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K-4.* This core curriculum is based on the *New York State Learning Standards in Mathematics, Science, and Technology.*

Any clarifications or changes to this rating guide will be posted on the New York State Education Department web site at http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ during the rating period. Check the "Scoring Information" link at this web site before starting the rating process and several times during the rating period.

Questions regarding this test should be directed to the Office of State Assessment at (518) 474-5900.

Note: Retain this rating guide for future use. Do *not* return it to the Department with the performance test materials.

Detailed Directions for Rating Part II of the Written Test

Note: Teachers are not permitted to score their own students' responses.

This guide contains detailed directions and criteria for rating student responses to the questions in Part II of the written test. Raters should become familiar with the detailed directions and rating criteria before beginning to rate the student responses. Refer to the *v202 Manual for Administrators and Teachers* for suggestions about organizing the rating process.

In rating the student responses, follow the procedure outlined below.

1. Familiarize yourself with the system your school is using for processing the answer papers and recording the student scores.

2. Have a test booklet on hand. Read each Part II question carefully. Note exactly what is required.

3. Carefully read the criteria provided in this guide for rating each question.

4. For most questions, examples of acceptable responses are provided. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to, the examples given. Other responses that convey the same general meaning as those given in this guide should also receive credit. Raters must use their professional judgment to decide if the student's answer meets the criteria. You may find it helpful to discuss questionable student responses with other raters.

5. Acceptable responses separated by a slash (/) are considered to be the same response and should be counted for credit once.

6. To ensure the accuracy of overlays, select a printer setting such as *full*, *actual size*, or *100%* when printing this document. Do not select the *fit to page* setting.

7. Discuss with other raters the requirements of each question and the rating criteria. When you are certain that you clearly understand the requirements and criteria, you are ready to begin rating the student responses.

8. It is recommended that you score all the student responses to one question or group of questions before proceeding to the next question or group of questions. This method helps ensure that the scoring criteria are applied consistently.

9. Students should *not* lose credit for incorrect spelling, grammar, capitalization, or punctuation.

10. For questions where there is more than one answer and a specific number of answers are required, (e.g., identify *three* materials, give *two* examples), if the student provides more than the required number of responses, score only the required number, in the order in which they appear.

11. Sometimes in questions where there is only one acceptable answer, the student will provide more than one answer. These must be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the second answer indicates that the student does not understand the question or is simply guessing, then credit should not be allowed.

12. Record the number of credits you allow for each question in the table provided on the back cover of the test booklet. The maximum number of credits for each question appears in the table.

13. When you have finished rating all the Part II questions, add the credits allowed for each question to obtain the total raw score for Part II.

14. Follow your school's procedure for transferring Part II scores to the student's scannable answer sheet. These are local decisions that depend on the answer sheet your school uses. Some schools will transfer a score for each Part II question while others may transfer a total raw score for Part II. Check to be certain that the student name on the test booklet matches the name on the answer sheet.

Online Submission of Teacher Evaluations of the Test to the Department

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. Instructions for completing the evaluation form are as follows:

1. Go to http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/teacher/evaluation.html.
2. Select the test title.
3. Complete the required demographic fields.
4. Complete each evaluation question and provide comments in the space provided.
5. Click the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page to submit the completed form.

31 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

— can deposit nutrient-rich soil

— can refill groundwater

Note: Do *not* allow credit for "can occur quickly" because a quick flood still produces a large amount of surface water that can cause damage.

32 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

— move to higher ground

— evacuate

— put sand bags down

— listen to radio/watch TV for information

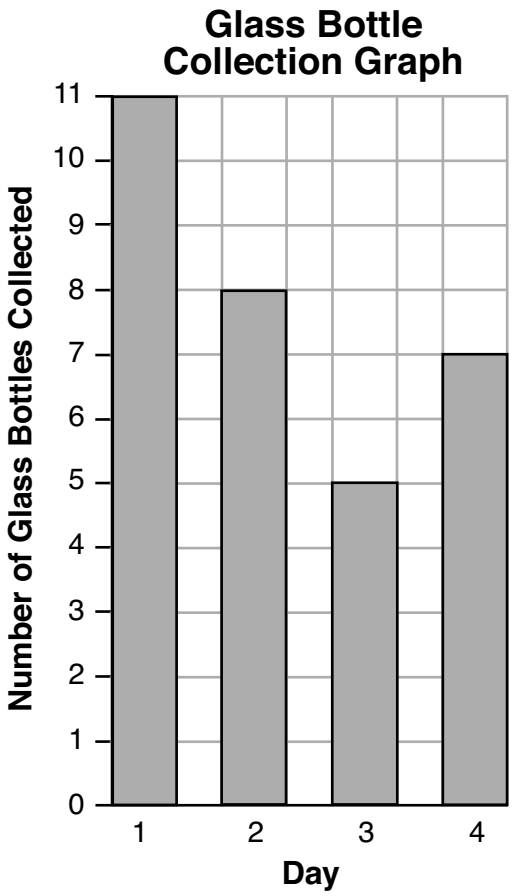
— stock up on food/water/batteries

— stay away from lakes and rivers

— unplug electrical appliances

33 [1] Allow 1 credit if *all three* student-constructed bars are correctly completed, as shown below.

Example of a 1-credit response:



Note: Do *not* allow credit if the student simply draws a horizontal line at the top of each bar (8, 5, 7). There must be a bar for each day, even if the bar is *not* completely shaded.

34 [1] Allow 1 credit for *four* correct responses, as shown below.

Finch	Woodpecker	Duck	Sandpiper
Shortest	→		**Longest**

35 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

— ruler

— tape measure/measuring tape

— meterstick/yardstick

Note: Do *not* allow credit for units alone (e.g., cm, inch), as these do not indicate the scientific tool being used.

36 [1] Allow 1 credit for liquid.

37 [1] Allow 1 credit for circling *B*.

38 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

Object	Form of Energy Produced	How the Object Helps People
radio	sound	People can hear news and weather reports.
— oven	— heat	— warms food — cooks food/makes food
	— light	— see if food is cooked
	— sound	— timer tells people when the food is done
— stove	— heat	— warms food — cooks food/makes food
	— light	— see if burner is on
	— sound	— timer tells people when the food is done
— toaster	— heat	— warms food — cooks food/makes food
	— light	— see if burner is on
	— sound	— tells people when the food is done
— lamp	— light	— see the food — see in the dark — see to read

Note: The form of energy produced and the explanation of how it helps people must match the object selected by the student.

39 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

— heat/thermal
— sound

Note: Do *not* allow credit for friction because this is a force, not a form of energy.

40 [1] Allow 1 credit for smell *or* sight *or* taste.

Note: Do *not* allow credit for the body structure associated with the sense (nose, eyes, or mouth).

41 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

— get food
— walk on rough surfaces
— burrow/dig holes for homes/dig to find food
— to protect/defend itself
— fight off/scratch predators
— escape danger/predators

42 [1] Allow 1 credit for *two* acceptable responses from the list below.

— water plants
— pine tree/tree
— grass

43 [1] Allow 1 credit for the Sun/sunlight/solar energy.

44 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

— how long the animal lives
— how long from the animal's birth to its death

45 [1] Allow 1 credit for *two* acceptable responses. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

— to find more food

— There was not enough water.

— Trees were cut down./Their habitat was destroyed.

— More predators move to the first area.

— to find a mate

— natural disaster (flood, forest fire, lightning)

— temperature change (too warm or too cold)/migration

— competition

— need more space

Note: Acceptable responses must be two *different* reasons.

Appendix A

New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test
v202

Performance Levels Chart

The chart on the next page defines the four performance levels for this test. The State-designated level of performance for this test is a final score of 65 or higher (levels 3 and 4). Students scoring below 65 (levels 1 and 2) must be provided with academic intervention services according to section 100.2(ee)(i) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. The chart provides the score range and a brief description of student performance for each level.

The conversion chart will be posted on the Department's web site http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ through the "Scoring Information" link.

Note: Conversion charts provided for previous administrations of this test must *not* be used to determine students' final scores for the v202 administration.

Performance Levels for Final Score
Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test

Level	Final Test Score Range	Description of Student Performance
4	85–100	**Meeting the Standards with Distinction** • A student demonstrates superior understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student demonstrates superior elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student demonstrates superior understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.
3	65–84	**Meeting the Standards** • The student demonstrates understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student demonstrates elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student demonstrates understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.
2	45–64	**Not Fully Meeting the Standards** • The student demonstrates only minimal understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for each of the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student demonstrates minimal elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student demonstrates minimal understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.
1	0–44	**Not Meeting the Standards** • The student is *unable* to demonstrate understanding of elementary-level science content and concepts for the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student is *unable* to demonstrate elementary-level science skills related to the learning standards and key ideas being assessed. • The student is *unable* to demonstrate understanding of the science content, concepts, and skills required for an elementary-level academic environment.

Appendix B

Item Maps

New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test
v202 Written Test

Item maps contained in this appendix:

- Reference to *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K–4* — v202 Written Test
- Reference to Process Skills Based on Standard 4 — v202 Written Test
- Reference to Core Curriculum for Individual Test Questions — v202 Written Test

Note: Core curriculum is based on *NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology.*

NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology **Standard/Area**	**Reference to *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K-4* Key Idea or Performance Indicator**	**v202 Written Test Question Number**
Standard 1 Mathematical Analysis	**M1** Abstraction and symbolic representation are used to communicate mathematically.	27, 29
	M2 Deductive and inductive reasoning are used to reach mathematical conclusions.	34
	M3 Critical thinking skills are used in the solution of mathematical problems.	35
Standard 1 Scientific Inquiry Key Idea 1	**S1.1** Ask "why" questions in attempts to seek greater understanding concerning objects and events they have observed and heard about.	
	S1.2 Question the explanations they hear from others and read about, seeking clarification and comparing them with their own observations and understandings.	
	S1.3 Develop relationships among observations to construct descriptions of objects and events and to form their own tentative explanations of what they have observed.	
Standard 1 Scientific Inquiry Key Idea 2	**S2.1** Develop written plans for exploring phenomena or for evaluating explanations guided by questions or proposed explanations they have helped formulate.	
	S2.2 Share their research plans with others and revise them based on their suggestions.	
	S2.3 Carry out their plans for exploring phenomena through direct observation and through the use of simple instruments that permit measurement of quantities such as length, mass, volume, temperature, and time.	
Standard 1 Scientific Inquiry Key Idea 3	**S3.1** Organize observations and measurements of objects and events through classification and the preparation of simple charts and tables.	
	S3.2 Interpret organized observations and measurements, recognizing simple patterns, sequences, and relationships.	27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33
	S3.3 Share their findings with others and actively seek their interpretations and ideas.	
	S3.4 Adjust their explanations and understandings of objects and events based on their findings and new ideas.	
Standard 1 Engineering Design	**T1.1–T1.5** Engineering design is an iterative process involving modeling and optimization to develop technological solutions to problems within given constraints.	

NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology **Standard/Area**	**Reference to *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K-4* Key Idea or Performance Indicator**	**v202 Written Test Question Number**
Standard 2 Information Systems Students will access, generate, process, and transfer information using appropriate technologies.	**1** Information technology is used to retrieve, process, and communicate information as a tool to enhance learning.	
	2 Knowledge of the impacts and limitations of information systems is essential to its effectiveness and ethical use.	
	3 Information technology can have positive and negative impacts on society, depending upon how it is used.	
Standard 4 The Physical Setting	**1** Earth and celestial phenomena can be described by principles of relative motion and perspective.	1, 2, 3
	2 Many of the phenomena that we observe on Earth involve interactions among components of air, water, and land.	4, 30, 31, 32
	3 Matter is made up of particles whose properties determine the observable characteristics of matter and its reactivity.	5, 6, 7, 27, 36, 37
	4 Energy exists in many forms, and when these forms change, energy is conserved.	8, 10, 11, 14, 38, 39
	5 Energy and matter interact through forces that result in changes in motion.	12, 13
Standard 4 The Living Environment	**1** Living things are both similar to and different from each other and from nonliving things.	15, 16
	2 Organisms inherit genetic information in a variety of ways that result in continuity of structure and function between parents and offspring.	17
	3 Individual organisms and species change over time.	18, 19, 40, 41
	4 The continuity of life is sustained through reproduction and development.	20, 21, 25, 44
	5 Organisms maintain a dynamic equilibrium that sustains life.	22, 23, 24, 40, 41
	6 Plants and animals depend on each other and their physical environment.	26, 42, 43, 45
	7 Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the physical and living environment.	24

NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Standard/Area	Reference to *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K-4* Key Idea or Performance Indicator	v202 Written Test Question Number
Standard 6 Interconnectedness: Common Themes Students will understand the relationships and common themes that connect mathematics, science, and technology and apply the themes to these and other areas of learning.	**1 Systems Thinking** Through systems thinking, people can recognize the commonalities that exist among all systems and how parts of a system interrelate and combine to perform specific functions.	
	2 Models Models are simplified representations of objects, structures, or systems used in analysis, explanation, interpretation, or design.	1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 21, 30, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43
	3 Magnitude and Scale The grouping of magnitudes of size, time, frequency, and pressures or other units of measurement into a series of relative order provides a useful way to deal with the immense range and the changes in scale that affect the behavior and design of systems.	34
	4 Equilibrium and Stability Equilibrium is a state of stability due either to a lack of change (static equilibrium) or a balance between opposing forces (dynamic equilibrium).	
	5 Patterns of Change Identifying patterns of change is necessary for making predictions about future behavior and conditions.	30, 33
	6 Optimization In order to arrive at the best solution that meets criteria within constraints, it is often necessary to make trade-offs.	
Standard 7 Interdisciplinary Problem Solving Students will understand the relationships and common themes that connect mathematics, science, and technology and apply the themes to these and other areas of learning.	**1 Connections** The knowledge and skills of mathematics, science, and technology are used together to make informed decisions and solve problems, especially those related to issues of science/technology/society, consumer decision making, design, and inquiry into phenomena.	32
	2 Strategies Solving interdisciplinary problems involves a variety of skills and strategies, including effective work habits; gathering and processing information; generating and analyzing ideas; realizing ideas; making connections among the common themes of mathematics, science, and technology; and presenting results.	

Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test—v202
Reference to Process Skills Based on Standard 4

	Process Skills–General Skills (From *Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum Grades K-4*)	**v202 Written Test Question Number**
i	follow safety procedures in the classroom, laboratory, and field	
ii	safely and accurately use the following tools: hand lens, ruler (metric), balance, gram weights, spring scale, thermometer (C°, F°), measuring cups, graduated cylinder, timepiece(s)	35
iii	develop an appreciation of and respect for all learning environments (classroom, laboratory, field, etc.)	
iv	manipulate materials through teacher direction and free discovery	
v	use information systems appropriately	
vi	select appropriate standard and nonstandard measurement tools for measurement activities	
vii	estimate, find, and communicate measurements, using standard and nonstandard units	
viii	use and record appropriate units for measured or calculated values	
ix	order and sequence objects and/or events	34
x	classify objects according to an established scheme	
xi	generate a scheme for classification	
xii	utilize senses optimally for making observations	
xiii	observe, analyze, and report observations of objects and events	
xiv	observe, identify, and communicate patterns	21, 29, 30
xv	observe, identify, and communicate cause and effect relationships	45
xvi	generate appropriate questions (teacher- and student-based) in response to observations, events, and other experiences	
xvii	observe, collect, organize, and appropriately record data, then accurately interpret results	38
xviii	collect and organize data, choosing the appropriate representation: journal entries, graphic representations, drawings/pictorial representations	
xix	make predictions based on prior experiences and/or information	21
xx	compare and contrast organisms/objects/events in the living and physical environments	
xxi	identify and control variables/factors	28
xxii	plan, design, and implement a short-term and long-term investigation based on a student- or teacher-posed problem	
xxiii	communicate procedures and conclusions through oral and written presentations	

Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Written Test – v202
Reference to *Elementary-Level Science Core Curriculum* for Individual Test Questions

Question Number	MST Learning Standard	Area within Standard 4 (PS or LE)	Key Idea or Major Understanding	Other Standards, Key Ideas, or Major Understandings	Process Skills Based on Standard 4 (p. 11 in core)
1	4	PS	1.1a	St 6 KI 2	
2	4	PS	1.1a		
3	4	PS	1.1a		
4	4	PS	2.1d	St 6 KI 2	
5	4	PS	3.1b	3.1c	
6	4	PS	3.1e		
7	4	PS	3.1g	St 6 KI 2	
8	4	PS	4.1a	5.1f, St 6 KI 2	
9	4	PS	5.1d	St 6 KI 2	
10	4	PS	4.2b	St 6 KI 2	
11	4	PS	4.1g		
12	4	PS	5.1a	St 6 KI 2	
13	4	PS	5.1f	St 6 KI 2	
14	4	PS	4.1d		
15	4	LE	5.2c	1.2a	
16	4	LE	1.1d		
17	4	LE	2.1a		
18	4	LE	3.1c	4.1d	
19	4	LE	3.2a	St 6 KI 2	
20	4	LE	4.1f		
21	4	LE	4.1d	St 6 KI 2	XIV
22	4	LE	5.1b		
23	4	LE	5.2f		
24	4	LE	7.1c	5.2g	
25	4	LE	4.2b		
26	4	LE	6.1d		
27	1		S3.2	M1.1b, PS 3.1d	
28	1		S3.2	LE1.1b	XXI
29	1		S3.2	M1.1b	XIV
30	1		S3.2	PS 2.1, St 6 KI 5	XIV
31	1		S3.2	PS 2.1e	XV
32	7		1	PS 2.1e	
33	1		S3.2	St 6 KI 5	
34	6		3	St 6 KI 2, M 2.1b	IX
35	1		M 3.1a		II
36	4	PS	3.2a	St 6 KI 2	
37	4	PS	3.2a	St 6 KI 2	
38	4	PS	4.1g	4.1a, St 6 KI 2	XVII
39	4	PS	4.1f	St 6 KI 2	
40	4	LE	5.2c	3.1a, St 6 KI 2	
41	4	LE	3.1a	St 6 KI 2, 5.1b	
42	4	LE	6.1a	St 6 KI 2	
43	4	LE	6.2b	St 6 KI 2, 6.2a	
44	4	LE	4.1g		
45	4	LE	6.1e	6.1f	XV