ARIZONA'S ACADEMIC STANDARDS ASSESSMENT

Computer-Based Sample Test Scoring Guide

Grade 6 ELA Writing

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Prepared by the Arizona Department of Education

About the Sample Test Scoring Guide

The Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) Sample Test Scoring Guides provide details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for AASA Sample Test items.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:

- Item number
- Strand
- Cluster
- Content Standard
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK)
- Static presentation of the item
- Static presentation of student response field (when appropriate)
- Answer key, rubric or exemplar
- Applicable score point(s) for each item

The items included in this guide are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking the computer-based test for AASA Grade 6 ELA Writing.

Grade 6 Sample Test – Writing

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
1	Writing	Text Types and Purposes	6.W.2	4

Passages:

- *Source 1: A Brief History of Food in Space*
- *Source 2: How Does Your (Space) Garden Grow?*
- *Source 3: Veggie and the Need for Nutrients*

Plants in Space

In order for astronauts to live in space for extended periods of time, crews need to be able to produce their own food.

Write a multi-paragraph informative essay about how scientists plan for food resources and then conduct research in order to grow crops in space. Use information from the sources in your essay.

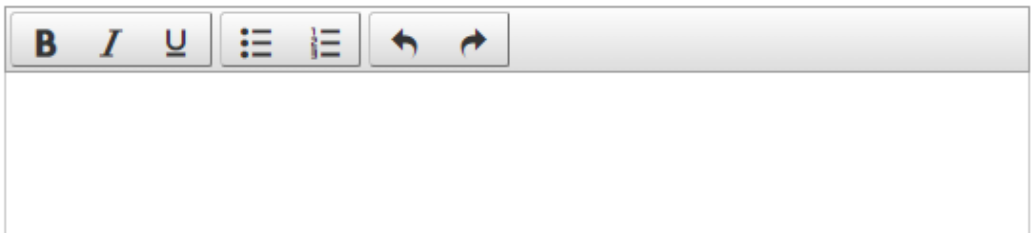
Manage your time carefully so that you can do the following actions:

- Read the sources.
- Plan your response.
- Write your response.
- Revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include the following tasks:

- Use evidence from multiple sources.
- Avoid overly relying on one source.

Your response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay. Enter your response in the space provided.



Informative-Explanatory Writing Guide

Purpose, Focus, and Organization
The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clearly stated controlling idea and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following: • Strongly maintained controlling idea with little or no loosely related material • Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end with a satisfying introduction and conclusion • Appropriate style and objective tone established and maintained
Evidence and Elaboration
The response provides thorough and convincing support, citing evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following: • Smoothly integrated, thorough, and relevant evidence, including precise references to sources • Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques (including but not limited to definitions, quotations, and examples), demonstrating an understanding of the topic and text • Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language • Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose • Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility
Conventions
The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following: • Some minor errors in usage, but no patterns of errors • Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling
References and Citations
When referring to evidence and information from passages, students should use paraphrasing and short quotations. To credit sources, students should use informal, in-text citations (e.g., MLA author or title tags).

Top Score Response

- A complete response will include detailed information that crews need to be able to produce their own food in order to live and travel in space for long amounts of time.
    - Details and evidence for the type of food source planning scientists have been doing can include but is not limited to the following points:
        - Astronauts would prefer tastier and healthier meals.
            - "...astronauts prefer produce such as fresh crunchy lettuce, sweet peas, and spicy radishes to their usual dehydrated meals." (Source 2)
        - There is a limited amount of storage for perishables.
            - "...most meals must be shelf-stable and served in disposable packages and pouches." (Source 1)
        - There are no cooking appliances, only heating appliances.
            - "...researchers have focused on leafy plants that can grow quickly and can be eaten raw. " (Source 3)
        - Foods need to retain nutrients, appearance and quality for long durations of time.
            - "Vitamin C holds on to its nutrients in powdered form, so powdered orange juice will be on the menu. Canned tuna and salmon will provide astronauts with much needed omega-3 nutrients. " (Source 1)

- Details and evidence for research experiments may include, but are not limited to:
    - Source 2:
        - the Lada Validating Vegetable Production Unit and types of food that are being grown
            - "...'root modules' with seeds placed inside work better than traditional soil for sprouting plants in space."
            - "A mistake that caused one group of modules to be overwatered actually made the plants sprout and form leaves faster. This 'mistake' taught scientists that plants in microgravity actually need more water than plants on Earth."
        - Experiments with fertilizers in space
            - "Another experiment showed that the plants in space process fertilizer more efficiently than plants on Earth."
        - Experiments for cleaning crops
            - "Crew members have frozen some of the mature crops and shipped them back to Earth so that scientists can make sure they are safe to eat."
        - Applying lessons from space farming to earth farming.
            - "Areas with very little water or poor soil quality can also benefit..."

Top Score Response (continued)

- Source 3:
    - Research from the Kennedy Space Center
        - "Which plants grow best with the limited resources available in space? Which plants are desirable and nutritious? Which plants are hardy enough to survive in a variety of growing conditions?"
    - "Veggie" system on the ISS; types of food grown there and attempting to flower and germinate plants in space.
        - "Each Veggie growing center is the size of a small suitcase and can hold six individual plants. The centers are equipped with bright low-energy lights and fans to control humidity. So far, the system has been able to grow both green leafy plants and those that produce flowers and seeds."
    - Experiment in 2015:
        - "About half of the plants grown in an experiment in 2015 were returned to Earth so that scientists could study their nutrients and any effects introduced by their growth in space."

(10 Points)