Illinois Science Assessment

Practice Item Answer Key

Grade 8

The following pages include the answer key for all machine-scored items, followed by a sample response for the hand-scored item.

- The rubrics show sample student responses. Student responses other than that shown in the rubric may earn full or partial credit.
- Which responses to hand-scored items receive full or partial credit will be confirmed during range-finding (reviewing sets of real student work)
- If students make a computation error, they can still earn points for reasoningor modeling.

Item Number	Answer Key
1.	В
2.	В
3.	В
4.	В
5.	D
6.	С
7.	D
8.	Α
9.	С
10.	Open-Ended

#3 Open Ended

Example Student Response:

Plants A and C will be more easily pollinated by bees. Table 1 shows that plants A and C have flowers with nectaries less than 1 cm deep. Because the nectar for these flowers is near the surface of the flower, and because bees have relatively short feeding tubes, bees will easily collect and deposit pollen as they feed on the nectar on a flower's surface. A deeper nectary in the flowers for plants B and D might be more difficult for a bee to reach or make it less attractive to a bee. Animals with long beaks and tongues, like hummingbirds, are probably more likely to have success collecting nectar from the flowers of plants B and D.

1 point: Student claims that plants A and C will be more easily pollinated by bees.

1 point: Student identifies evidence from the figures and/or table that support the claim.

1 point: Student explains reasoning regarding the lengths of beaks, feeding tubes, tongues, the different sizes of the animals, and/or the depth of the nectaries. [Note: Students may have prior knowledge that bees and hummingbirds prefer particular colors or shapes of flowers and may correctly express that the accuracy of their claim may depend on the colors of the flowers.]