

Tips for Educators

Please ensure that students understand the following points before they begin the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA):

1. The standards are grouped by three domains: Physical Science; Life Science; Earth and Space Sciences.
2. Students should read and reread prompts carefully to fully understand the instructions.
3. Students must address and answer all parts of the prompt by showing an understanding of what is being asked and responding accordingly.

Scoring Expectations for Constructed Response Items

1. Read each question carefully and follow the directions to answer each part of the question completely.
2. **Consider all stimulus materials** including **all associated figures, charts, tables, etc.**
3. Look for the question(s) you are being asked to **answer** and the **supporting evidence** or **justification** you are being asked to provide. Sometimes, these will be easily identified as bulleted instructions at the end of the question. The entire question, including **every bullet or instruction, needs to be addressed** in the response to receive full credit.
4. Before moving on, review the question then check that **supporting information including evidence or justification** are included as required.

Student Readiness Tool (SRT)

We suggest students use the Student Readiness Tool (SRT) located on the Illinois Support page to help them become familiar with the TestNav tools, item types, and features they will encounter on their assessments.

[Practice Items | IL Portal](#)

Link: Science Practice Items

<https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-items/>

Note: Practice Science Items for grades 5 and 8 are included under the “Science tab”.

Links: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

[How to Read the NGSS](#)

[Illinois Learning Standards for Science Incorporating the NGSS](#)