

## MCAS Grade 5 Science & Technology/Engineering (STE) New Performance Task Practice Test Answer Key

The new practice performance task has the same format as the performance tasks that will be field tested in 2025 and 2026. More information about the new performance tasks can be found on the [MCAS Grades 5 and 8 Science and Technology/Engineering \(STE\) Transition](#) page.

The following answer key includes the reporting category, [standard alignment](#), and practice (if applicable) for each question on the practice performance task. An answer is also provided for each selected-response question. A rubric and sample student responses are included for the constructed-response question.

Item Number	Reporting Category	2016 Standard	Practice	Points	Correct Answer								
1	Earth & Space Science	5.ESS2.1	No Practice	1	D, E								
2	Life Science	5.LS2.1	Evidence, Reasoning, & Modeling	1	The fungi are <input type="text" value="decomposers."/> This is supported by the observation that the leaves are <input type="text" value="being broken down."/>								
3	Life Science	5.LS1.1	Evidence, Reasoning, & Modeling	1	D								
4	Physical Science	5.PS1.3	Evidence, Reasoning, & Modeling	1	A property of the rock that <b>most</b> helped to keep the mesh bag in place is the rock's <input type="text" value="weight."/>								
5	Life Science	5.LS2.1	Mathematics & Data	2	Part A	<pre> graph LR     A[Algae] --&gt; B[Insect Y]     B --&gt; C[Fish]           </pre>							
					Part B	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisms</th> <th>Consumer</th> <th>Producer</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>algae</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>insects</td> <td><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>fish</td> <td><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisms	Consumer	Producer	algae	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	insects
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6	Life Science	5.LS2.1	Mathematics & Data	1	Leaves in the mesh bags would break down the most in <input type="text" value="Location 1"/> when there are <input type="text" value="few"/> sunny days.  The matter from the leaves <input type="text" value="is used by other organisms"/> in the ecosystem.								
7	Life Science	3.LS1.1	Evidence, Reasoning, & Modeling	1	D								
8	Life Science	3.LS4.4	Evidence, Reasoning, & Modeling	3	See scoring guide and sample student responses below. (Maximum of 3 points)								

**Question 8: Scoring Guide**

Score	Description
3	The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of how changes in a habitat may affect the ability of organisms to survive and reproduce. The response correctly identifies whether an insect population would increase, decrease, or stay the same if there were fewer trees near the river, and clearly explains the reasoning. The response also correctly identifies whether the fish population would most likely increase or decrease and clearly provides two reasons why the fish population would be affected.
2	The response demonstrates a partial understanding of how changes in a habitat may affect the ability of organisms to survive and reproduce.
1	The response demonstrates a minimal understanding of how changes in a habitat may affect the ability of organisms to survive and reproduce.
0	The response is incorrect or contains some correct work that is irrelevant to the skill or concept being measured.

**Question 8: Sample Student Responses**

Score	Part	Student Response
3	A	Insect X would be affected. The population would decrease. They eat leaves and if there are fewer leaves they would have less food.
	B	The population of fish would decrease because there are less insects which are food for the fish. Also building a parking lot next to the river will probably make lots of trash and dirt fall into the water which will hurt the fish.
2	A	The population of insect Y will increase. There will be more sunlight so algae will grow and insect Y eats algae.
	B	There will be fewer fish because there will be less shade and the water will get hot.
1	A	Increase because fewer leaves
	B	Decrease. there won't be as many insects for fish to eat
0	A	insect X
	B	decrease