

# NC Check-Ins Science

## Grades 5 and 8 Test Specifications

### NC Check-Ins Overview and Purpose

NC Check-Ins are interim assessments aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards in science for grades 5 and 8 developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). There are three NC Science Check-Ins at each grade level administered after approximately nine weeks of instruction (NC Check-In Window 1, October; NC Check-In Window 2, January; NC Check-In Window 3, March). Each NC Science Check-In is constructed around the NC Essential Standards Numbering for Science Grades 5 and 8: Physical Science (P), Earth Science (E), and Life Science (L).

Since local education agencies (LEAs)/charter schools are not assumed to be following the same pacing or curriculum, all three NC Science Check-Ins will be available within each testing window for both grade levels. **More than one NC Science Check-In can be selected within any given window, but each NC Science Check-In can only be given once within any given year.**

The main purpose of NC Check-Ins is to provide students, teachers, parents, and stakeholders with immediate in-depth action-data and a reliable estimate of students' current performance on the selected sub-set of content standards. A secondary purpose is derived from NC Check-Ins strong relationship with grade-level end-of-grade (EOG) summative tests. Both EOGs and NC Check-Ins share a common item bank, and performance on the NC Check-Ins serves as an early indicator of a student's level of preparedness for the EOG summative test.

The NCDPI does not have validity evidence to support using results from NC Check-Ins as a predictor of student performance on the EOG summative test. Even though there is evidence of a significant correlation between scores from NC Check-Ins and EOGs, this correlation evidence by itself does not signify prediction. The overall value of NC Check-Ins is the use of in-depth action-data for formative purposes throughout the year to help students and teachers adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.

### Prioritization of Standards

- The NC Check-Ins are aligned to the NC *Standard Course of Study* (NCSCS) for Science, adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education in March 2011.
- The NCSCS may be reviewed by visiting the NCDPI/K–12 Standards, Curriculum, and Instruction for Science webpage at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/curriculum/science/>.
- The following content specifications are for test development purposes only and are not presented as a mandated pacing guide. The delivery of curriculum and instruction is a local decision; therefore, it is the expectation that since most objectives aren't taught in isolation, some schools will not have covered all areas in all standards assessed in any one NC Check-In by the time the administration window closes.
- Data from content standards that have not been taught should be used as pre-test data.

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<b>GRADE 5 SCIENCE</b>		
<b>NC Check-In Life (L) Assessed Standards (25 Items)</b>	<b>NC Check-In Earth (E) Assessed Standards (15 Items)</b>	<b>NC Check-In Physical (P) Assessed Standards (25 Items)</b>
L.1.1	E.1.1	P.1.1
L.1.2	E.1.2	P.1.2
L.2.1	E.1.3	P.1.3
L.2.2		P.1.4
L.2.3		P.2.1
L.3.1		P.2.2
L.3.2		P.2.3
		P.3.1
		P.3.2

<b>GRADE 8 SCIENCE</b>		
<b>NC Check-In Life (L) Assessed Standards (30 Items)</b>	<b>NC Check-In Earth (E) Assessed Standards (24 Items)</b>	<b>NC Check-In Physical (P) Assessed Standards (24 Items)</b>
L.1.1	E.1.1	P.1.1
L.1.2	E.1.2	P.1.2
L.2.1	E.1.3	P.1.3
L.3.1	E.1.4	P.1.4
L.3.2	E.2.1	P.2.1
L.3.3	E.2.2	P.2.2
L.4.1		
L.4.2		
L.5.1		
L.5.2		

## **Test Format**

All NC Science Check-Ins are available in online administration format *only* and consists of 15 to 30 items. All items for NC Science Check-Ins at grades 5 and 8 are four-response multiple-choice items. Each question is worth one point.

## **Administration**

The NCDPI offers three NC Check-Ins per grade level within a school year. Participation in any NC Check-In is entirely voluntary. Each NC Check-In administration has a pre-defined test window set by the NCDPI. The NCDPI may adjust the testing window within a school year to accommodate for unanticipated circumstances, such as inclement weather. Schools are given the flexibility to schedule the administration of NC Check-Ins at any time during a designated window. NC Check-Ins are not timed assessments.

## **Student Reviews, Scores, and Reports**

Teachers will have access to an electronic copy of each NC Science Check-In selected for up to five (5) weeks beyond the close of the testing window to use for review sessions with students. Within five days of administering an NC Check-In and submitting student responses, school administrators and teachers have access to student, class, and school-level custom reports generated by NCDPI custom scoring and reporting software. These reports provide a summary of performance expressed as number and percent of items answered correctly disaggregated by student, classroom, and school by standard tested. These reports are intended to support formative uses at the classroom and school level.

Summative interpretation of scores comparing performance of schools across LEAs is highly discouraged because schools are not assumed to be following the same pacing or curriculum. All schools are not expected to have completed the entire scope for all standards assessed in a NC Check-In prior to the administration because delivery of curriculum is a local decision.

Prior to the first testing window The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will issue a state report with a summary of percent correct by item for all three Check-Ins. This data is derived from a representative sample of students from across the state during field testing. In order to assess each standard fully, some items were placed on the test without being field tested and therefore will not have data. In 2020-21 all items will have state level data. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is providing the state-level report for general information purposes only.