

CELEBRITY JEOPARDY

A Not So Funny Look

At Some Actual Questions

And Testing Gimmicks

Used by Texas Education Agency

**Now Go Read Ann Smisco's, Dr. Mike Moses',
and the Federal District Court's Decision
On "Test Items" and Grade-Level Rigor**

Example 120

10. At Harrison High School, 20% of the students in band are also in choir. This percent is equivalent to what fraction?

- A. $1/20$
- B. $1/5$
- C. $1/4$
- D. $1/2$

Bennett 6th grade Pg 306

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 1 97-98

Example 123

2. Mrs. Elizondo found that 4 of her 16 senior English students had completed their term papers early. What percent of the class was this?

- A. 0.25%
- B. 2.5%
- C. 25%
- D. 250%

Bennett 6th grade Pg. 306

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 1 94-95

2

2

Example 121

7. The greatest recorded drop in temperature in a 2-hour period was 34.45°C in Rapid City, South Dakota in 1911. What is this amount rounded to the nearest degree

- F 30°
- G 34°
- H 35°
- J 40°

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 1 96-97

Example 122

4. The total attendance recorded at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California was 5,797,923. What is this number rounded to the nearest thousand?

- A. 5,797,000
- B. 5,797,900
- C. 5,798,000
- D. 5,800,000

10th
#4 OBJ 4
95-96

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 4 95-96

3

3

Example 123

2. Mrs. Elizondo found that 4 of her 16 senior English students had completed their term papers early. What percent of the class was this?

- A. 0.25%
- B. 2.5%
- C. 25%
- D. 250%

REPEAT

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

#2 OBJ.1 94-95

Example 124

19. What is the sum of 0.234 + 1.877 rounded to the nearest tenth?

- F 2.0
- G 2.1
- H 2.11
- J 2.111

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ.1 94-95

4

4

Example 125

20. Staples are available in 4 different widths at an office supply store. They are arranged on shelves in order of width in inches. Which group of fractions shows the correct order from greatest to least width, reading from left to right?

- A $15/32$ in, $1/2$ in, $7/16$ in, $3/8$ in
- B $1/2$ in, $15/32$ in, $7/16$ in, $3/8$ in
- C $7/16$ in, $15/32$ in, $1/2$ in, $3/8$ in
- D $3/8$ in, $7/16$ in, $15/32$ in, $1/2$ in

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th Obj. 1 94-95

Example 126

17. At an art store, posters normally priced at \$15.00 each were marked 40% off. A way to find the amount of savings per poster is to multiply \$15.00 by __?

- F $1/4$
- G $3/8$
- H $2/5$
- J $3/5$

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

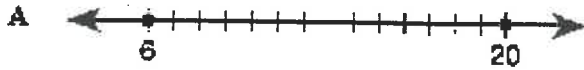
10th Obj. 1 96-97

5

5

Example 127

7. The American alligator ranges in length from 6 feet to 20 feet. Which number line shows this range?



only 1
is a line

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

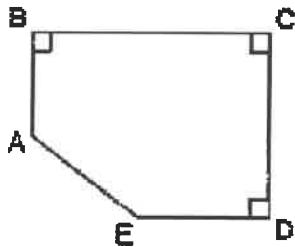
10th

OBJ. 2

98-99

Example 129

1. Which pair of line segments in the figure below is parallel?



- F BA and BC
- G BC and AE
- H BA and CD
- J CD and ED

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 3 96-97

Example 130

13. Devon's house is on a rectangular block that is 330 yards long and 1120 yards wide. What is the distance around this block?

- F 450 yards
- G 570 yards
- H 900 yards

J ~~330~~ yards 3900 (typo)

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

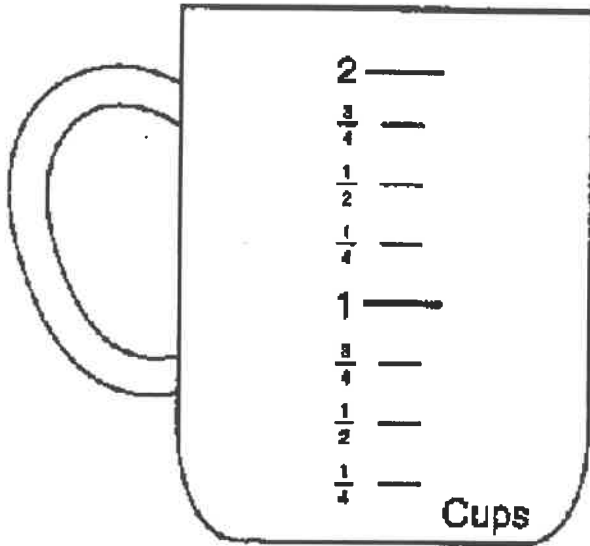
10th OBJ 4 96-97

M

M

Example 132

14. What is the greatest precision that can be achieved using this measuring cup?



Bennett 5th grade Pg: 304
4th grade Pg 300

- A. Nearest $\frac{1}{16}$ c
- B. Nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ c
- C. Nearest $\frac{1}{3}$ c
- D. Nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ c

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 4 96-97

8

8

Example 133

16. Beth's recipe for hot chocolate calls for 4 cups of milk to serve 6 people. What is the smallest number of quarts of milk she can buy in order to make hot chocolate for 12 friends?

- A. 8 qt
- B. 4 qt
- C. 2 qt
- D. 1 qt

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 4 97-98

Example 134

6 Ms Bateman recorded her weekly grocery bill for 4 weeks. The amounts were \$90, \$85, \$115 and \$90. What was the mean average of the grocery bills?

- F \$85
- G \$90
- H \$95
- J \$100

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 5 98-99

Example 135

8. In the fall Amanda had monthly phone bills of \$54.28, \$49.87 and \$54.28. What was her mean (average) phone bill for that 3-month period?

- A \$52.08
- B \$52.81
- C \$54.28
- D \$158.43

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 5 97-98

Example 136

3 The ages of the students in a dance class are 15, 10, 16 and 15. What is the mean (average) age of these students?

- F 12
- G 14
- H 15
- J 17

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 5 96-97

10

10

Example 137

1 The weather reporter said that the probability of rain on Tuesday in a certain town is 20%. What is the probability that it will not rain in that town on Tuesday?

Bennett 6th grade - Pg 306-307

- F 20%
- G 30%
- H 80%
- J 120%

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 5 95-96

Example 139

59. Brian received a bill from an auto repair shop for maintenance done on his car. he was charged \$98.95 for brake work, \$19.90 for an oil change and \$32.50 for a tune-up. If Brian was also charged \$73.25 for parts, how much was the total bill, not including tax?

Bennett - 5th grade Pg 304
6th grade Pg 306

- A \$224.60
- B \$223.50
- C \$214.60
- D \$202.50
- E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 6 98-99

11

11

Example 137

- 1 The weather reporter said that the probability of rain on Tuesday in a certain town is 20%. What is the probability that it will not rain in that town on Tuesday?
- F 20%
- G 30%
- H 80%
- J 120%
- Repeat

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 5 95-96

Example 138

45. Sarah bought a rake for \$8.29, a garden hose for \$12.99 and a 50 pound bag of topsoil for \$4.49. How much did she spend altogether, not including tax?
- A \$25.57
- B \$24.77
- C \$24.57
- D \$14.57
- E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 6 98-99

12

12

Example 140

60. Mr. Appleton spent \$8.50, \$10.20, \$17.59 and \$22.90 for 4 prescriptions at the drugstore. What is the total amount that Mr. Appleton paid for his prescriptions?

- A \$47.19
- B \$57.19
- C \$57.29
- D \$59.29
- E Not Here

Bennett - 5th Page 304
6th Page 306

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?
10th OBJ. 6 97-98

Example 142

60. A motorist asked for directions and was told, "Go 10.5 miles straight ahead, then turn right and go 3.3 miles, then turn left and go 5.7 miles farther." If the motorist follows these instructions, how far will he travel?

- A 16.2 mi
- B 18.5 mi
- C 19.5 mi
- D 20.5 mi
- E Not Here

Bennett 5th Page 304
6th Page 306

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?
10th OBJ. 6 95-96

13

13

Example 141

55. Yvonne had \$73.59 in her checking account. She then deposited \$27.05, \$39 and \$124 into the account. How much money did she have in her account after the third deposit if she did not withdraw any money?
- F \$263.64
 - G \$190.05
 - H \$143.54
 - J \$102.27
 - K Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 6 96-97

Example 142

60. A motorist asked for directions and was told, "Go 10.5 miles straight ahead, then turn right and go 3.3 miles, then turn left and go 5.7 miles farther." If the motorist follows these instructions, how far will he travel?
- A 16.2 mi
 - B 18.5 mi
 - C 9.5 mi
 - D 20.5 mi
 - E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 6 95-96

Example 143

60. **This example is a repeat of Example 140**

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

Example 144

47. **Mrs. Montgomery bought a radio at the retail price of \$93.45, not including tax. Mr. DeLeon bought the same model of radio on sale for \$74.76, not including tax. Exactly how much money did Mr. DeLeon save by paying the sale price?**

- A \$18.79
- B \$21.31
- C \$28.69
- D \$29.79
- E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBT 7 98-99

Example 145

51. **Pollution involving sulfur oxides, which are a major cause of acid rain, decreased from an estimated 23.15 tons in 1985 to 21.89 tons in 1993. By how many tons did the pollution from sulfur oxides decline from 1985 to 1993?**

- A 1.26 tons
- B 1.34 tons
- C 2.36 tons
- D 2.74 tons
- E Not Here

15

15

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 7 98-99

Example 146

46. At a restaurant Steve ordered food totaling \$6.85. If he paid with a \$20 bill, how much change should he receive?

- A \$13.15
- B \$13.25
- C \$14.15
- D \$14.85
- E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 7 97-98

Example 147

59. Jerry bought 2 textbooks at the campus bookstore and was charged a total of \$66.89. If he paid the cashier with a \$100 bill, how much change should he have received?

- F \$44.21
- G \$34.21
- H \$34.11
- J \$33.11
- K Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 7 97-98

16

16

Example 148

57. Jeremy was making pancakes. The recipe called for $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of milk. He poured in $\frac{7}{8}$ cup by accident. How much extra milk did he pour in?

- F 1-5/8c
- G 1-1/4c
- H 21/32c
- J 1/8c
- K Not Here

Bennott - 5th grade - Pg 303
6th grade - Pg 306

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 7 95-96

Example 155

21 Mr. Blair accepted a job with a salary smaller than he had hoped for because the company offered opportunities for advancement and steady increases in salary. Based upon the information given in the chart, which is the best prediction for Mr. Blair's 1999 salary?

MR. BLAIR'S SALARY

Year	Salary
1993	\$19,000
1994	\$20,000
1995	\$21,000
1996	\$22,000
1997	\$23,000
1998	\$_____
1999	\$_____

- F \$23,000
- G \$24,000
- H \$25,000
- J \$26,000
- K \$27,000

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 11 97-98

17

17

Example 151

60. Ashley had \$127.34 in her savings account. After withdrawing \$48.65, how much remained?
- A \$78.69
 - B \$78.71
 - C \$81.31
 - D \$175.99
 - E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 7 94-95

Example 152

60. Karla has a \$20 bill. She needs to buy 47 postage stamps at 32¢ each. What will be the total cost of the stamps?
- F \$12.94
 - G \$14.84
 - H \$15.04
 - J \$23.50
 - K Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 8 98-99

Example 153

49. **Ground beef is on sale for \$1.04 per pound. How much would a package weighing 2.75 pounds cost?**
- F \$2.84
 - G \$2.86
 - H \$3.79
 - J \$3.85
 - K Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 8 95-96

Example 154

54. **Pilar earns \$6.50 per hour before deductions and works 7 ½ hours per day, 5 days per week. What is her weekly salary before deductions?**
- A \$975.00
 - B \$341.25
 - C \$242.75
 - D \$48.75
 - E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 8 97-98

Example Forty-One

19

43. Amanda bought 4 books for \$2.95, \$11.49, \$17.50 and \$24.85, not including tax. How much did the 4 books cost, not including tax?
- A. \$44.69
 - B. \$54.69
 - C. \$56.79
 - D. \$60.79
 - E. Not Here

2
OBT.6

5th CBT 98-99

Example 111

45. Including tax, Sandy paid \$24.95 for a sweater, \$22.49 for shoes and \$6.89 for earrings. How much did she spend altogether?
- A. \$42.13
 - B. \$44.33
 - C. \$52.13
 - D. \$54.33
 - E. Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8th OBT.6 98-99

20

20

Example 93

- 50. A trip for a school band will cost \$425. The band students have raised \$98.46. Exactly how much do they still need to raise?**
- A. \$523.46
 - B. \$327.46
 - C. \$326.54
 - D. \$102.71
 - E. Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th OBJ. 7 97-98

Example 151

- 60. Ashley had \$127.34 in her savings account. After withdrawing \$48.65, how much remained?**
- A \$78.69
 - B \$78.71
 - C \$81.31
 - D \$175.99
 - E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 7 94-95

4th - 5th - 8th - 8th

21

21

Example Nineteen

45. On Friday 4,058 fans attended a game. At the Saturday game there were 937 more fans than on Friday. How many fans attended the Saturday game?

- F. 3,121
- G. 4,981
- H. 4,995
- J. 5,095

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

4th OBJ. 6 97-98

Example Forty

41. As part of a fund-raiser, Daniel sold 85 candy bars, Sue sold 135 candy bars and Jamilla sold 98 candy bars. How many candy bars were sold?

- A. 308
- B. 220
- C. 135
- D. 108
- E. Not Here

~~3rd grade~~ ~~3rd grade~~ ~~3rd grade~~
3rd grade Bennett FC-294

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

5th OBJ 6 98-99

Example 112

49. While planning for their wedding, Mary invited 198 people and Raul invited 209 other people. How many people in all did Mary and Raul invite to their wedding?

- A 407
- B 397
- C 307
- D 298
- E Not Here

Bennett 3rd grade - Page 294

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8/15 OBJ. 6 98-99

Example 114

46 Helen flew 3894 miles to visit her cousin's house. she then flew 2278 miles to her grandparent's house. How many miles did Helen fly?

- F 6172 mi
- G 6182 mi
- H 6272 mi
- J 6622 mi
- K Not Here

Bennett 3rd grade Page 294

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8/15 OBJ. 6 98-99

Example Forty-Two

- 52. Alexander bought a book for \$12.89, a ruler for \$1.75, a calculator for \$14.89, and a dictionary for \$26.76. How much money did he spend altogether, not including tax.**
- A. \$72.04
 - B. \$56.29
 - C. \$54.54
 - D. \$43.09
 - E. Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

5th OBJ 6 97-98

Example 68

- 41 Latasha wants a blouse that costs \$17.50, a skirt that costs \$24.69, and a belt that costs \$6.88. What is the cost of the outfit she wants to buy before tax is added?**
- F \$37.97
 - G \$39.07
 - H \$48.97
 - J \$49.07
 - K Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

6th OBJ. 6 96-97

24

24

Example 88

52. Meryl saved \$78 from doing yard work, \$8.13 from her allowance and \$34.50 from gifts. What was the total amount she saved?

- F \$43.41
- G \$100.63
- H \$120.63
- J \$121.63
- K Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th OBJ. 6 98-99

Example 138

45. Sarah bought a rake for \$8.29, a garden hose for \$12.99 and a 50 pound bag of topsoil for \$4.49. How much did she spend altogether, not including tax?

- A \$25.57
- B \$24.77
- C \$24.57
- D \$14.57
- E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 6 98-99

25

25

Example 86

4. There were 18 students present in Monica's class on Monday, 23 on Tuesday, 21 on Wednesday and 18 on Thursday. What was the mean (average) number of students present for these 4 days?

- A. 22
- B. 21
- C. 20
- D. 18

Bennett - 5th Grade - Pg 304
6th Grade - Pg 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th

OBJ 5 97-98

Example 87

11. Gloria bowled 4 games. Her scores were 93, 105, 84 and 110. What was the mean (average) of Gloria's 4 scores?

- F 97
- G 98
- H 99
- J 392

Bennett 5th Pg 304
6th 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th

OBJ. 5 94-95

26

26

Example 109

6. Carla's midterm grades were 93 in English, 88 in mathematics, 81 in social studies and 82 in science. What was her mean (average) grade in the 4 subjects?

- A 84
- B 85
- C 86
- D 87

Bennett 5th Grade 304
6th Grade 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8th OBJ 5 97-98

Example 134

6 Ms Bateman recorded her weekly grocery bill for 4 weeks. The amounts were \$90, \$85, \$115 and \$90. What was the mean average of the grocery bills?

- F \$85
- G \$90
- H \$95
- J \$100

Bennett 5th grade 304
6th grade 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 5 98-99

27

27

Example 136

3 The ages of the students in a dance class are 15, 10, 16 and 15. What is the mean (average) age of these students?

- F 12
- G 14
- H 15
- J 17

Bennett 5th Pg 304
6th Pg 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ. 5 96-97

Example Forty-Three

42. A magazine cost \$3.75. Lenny gave the clerk \$20 for the magazine. How much change should Lenny have received from the clerk?

- A. \$17.75
 B. \$17.35
 C. \$17.25
 D. \$16.25
 E. Not Here

Bennett 5th grade Pg 304
 6th grade Pg 306

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

5th OBJ. 7 97-98

Example Forty-Five

43. Byron bought some groceries. The total was \$17.44, including tax. If he paid with a \$20 bill, how much change did he receive?

- F. \$2.44
 G. \$2.56
 H. \$3.44
 J. \$3.56
 K. Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

5th OBJ 7 96-97

29

Example 69

51. Ms Foster put \$10.32 worth of gasoline into her car. If she gives the gas station attendant a \$20 bill, how much change should she receive?

29

- A \$10.72
- B \$10.68
- C \$9.68
- D \$9.32
- E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

6th OBJ. 7 98-99

Example 71

46 Mrs. Vargas pumped \$5.67 worth of gasoline into her car. If she gives the gas station attendant a \$10 bill, how much change should she get?

- A \$5.67
- B \$5.43
- C \$5.33
- D \$4.67
- E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

6th OBJ. 7 95-96

30

30

Example 146

46. At a restaurant Steve ordered food totaling \$6.85. If he paid with a \$20 bill, how much change should he receive?
- A \$13.15
 - B \$13.25
 - C \$14.15
 - D \$14.85
 - E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th

OBJ. 7

97-98

Example Twelve

14. The performing arts center sold 970 concert tickets on Wednesday, 1,749 tickets on Thursday, 1,173 tickets on Friday and 1,781 tickets on Saturday. Which shows the number of tickets sold in order from greatest to least?

- F. 1,781 1,173 970 1,749
- G. 1,749 1,173 1,781 970
- H. 970 1,173 1,749 1,781
- J. 1,781 1,749 1,173 970

Bennett 3rd Pg 293

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

4th OBJ. 1 98-99

Example 59

8. Carla measured the volume of 4 different containers. Which is the correct order of these volumes in ounces from least to greatest?

- A 0.836 oz 7.1 oz 6.09 oz 5.24 oz
- B 7.1 oz 6.09 oz 5.24 oz 0.836 oz
- C 0.836 oz 5.24 oz 6.09 oz 7.1 oz
- D 6.09 oz 5.24 oz 7.1 oz 0.836 oz

Bennett, 4th
Page 300

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

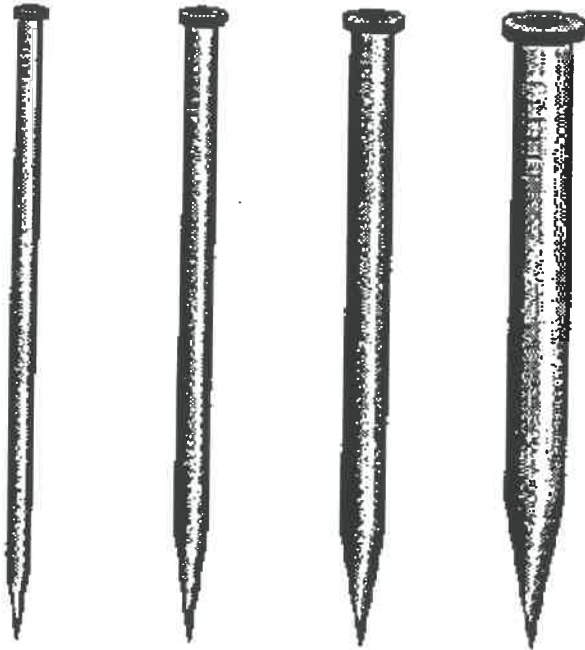
6th OBJ. 1 96-97

32

32

Example 84

6. Nails are sold in several sizes. At a hardware store the nails are arranged by width. Which shows the widths in correct order from least to greatest?



Bennett - 4th - Pg 300

- | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| A | 0.127in | 0.115in | 0.102in | 0.083in |
| B | 0.083in | 0.127in | 0.115in | 0.102in |
| C | 0.102in | 0.083in | 0.115in | 0.127in |
| D | 0.083in | 0.102in | 0.115in | 0.127in |

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th OBJ. 1 96-97

33

33

Example 102

10. A popular videotape was advertised at 4 different stores for \$17.80, \$17.95, \$17.87 and \$17.69. Which of the following shows the prices from least to greatest?

- A \$17.69 \$17.87 \$17.95 \$17.80
- B \$17.80 \$17.95 \$17.87 \$17.69
- C \$17.69 \$17.80 \$17.87 \$17.95
- D \$17.95 \$17.87 \$17.80 \$17.69

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8th OBJ. 1 97-98

Example 119

15. Which shows the lengths in order from shortest to longest?

- A 1.025 m 1.241 m 0.368 m 0.837 m
- B 0.368 m 1.241 m 0.837 m 1.025 m
- C 1.025 m 0.368 m 1.241 m 0.837 m
- D 0.368 m 0.837 m 1.025 m 1.241 m

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBJ 1 98-99

7

34

34

Example 104

9. What is 28.47 rounded to the nearest tenth?

F 28

G 28.4

H 28.5

J 30

Bennett - ~~4th~~ grade, Pg. 300

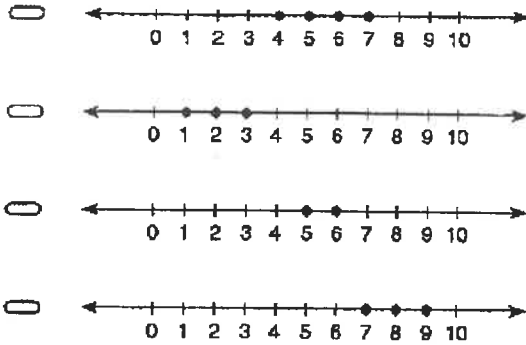
This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8th OBT 1 95-96

Example Two

15. Which number line shows the graph of all whole numbers that are greater than 4 and less than 7? Mark your answer.

075



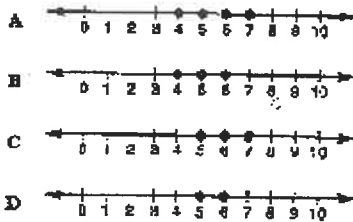
Grade 3
96-97

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

3rd OBT. 2 96-97

Example Thirteen

16. Which number line shows the graph of all whole numbers that are greater than 4 and less than 7?



Grade 4
97-98

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

4th OBT. 2 97-98

36 SAME Situation

Example 57

2. How is the product $3 \times 3 \times 4 \times 4 \times 4$ expressed in exponential notation?

- A 12^5
 B $3^2 \times 4^3$
 C $3^3 \times 4^4$
 D $2^3 \times 3^4$

~~D~~

36

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

6th OBJ. 1 97-98

Example 79

9. How is the product $3 \times 3 \times 4 \times 4 \times 4$ expressed in exponential notation?

- F. $3^2 \times 4^3$
 G. $2^3 \times 3^4$
 H. $3 \times 2 \times 4 \times 3$
 I. $3^5 \times 4^5$

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th OBJ. 1 98-99

37

37

Example 103

13. According to an almanac, the population of Los Angeles, California is 3,485,398. What is the population of Los Angeles rounded to the nearest thousand?

- F 3,485,000
G 3,486,000
H 3,490,000
J 3,500,000

Bennett - 4th - Pg 301

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

appeared?

8th

OBJ. 1 97-98

Example 122

4. The total attendance recorded at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California was 5,797,923. What is this number rounded to the nearest thousand?

- A. 5,797,000
B. 5,797,900
C. 5,798,000
D. 5,800,000

Bennett 4th Page 301

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th

OBJ. 1

95-96

Example 62

1. Sharra found 4 pine cones. Her friend Evie gave her some more and then she had 12. To find out how many pine cones she was given, Sharra wrote:

$$p + 4 = 12$$

What is the value of p?

- F. 3
- G. 8
- H. 16
- J. 48

Bennett 6th Pg 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

6th ORT. 2 95-96

Example 104

9. What is 28.47 rounded to the nearest tenth?

- F 28
- G 28.4
- H 28.5
- J 30

Bennett - ~~4th~~ grade, Pg. 300

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8th ORT 1 95-96

Example Forty-One

39

- 43. Amanda bought 4 books for \$2.95, \$11.49, \$17.50 and \$24.85, not including tax. How much did the 4 books cost, not including tax?**
- A. \$44.69
 - B. \$54.69
 - C. \$56.79
 - D. \$60.79
 - E. Not Here

2
OBT.6

5th OBT. 98-99

Example 111

- 45. Including tax, Sandy paid \$24.95 for a sweater, \$22.49 for shoes and \$6.89 for earrings. How much did she spend altogether?**
- A \$42.13
 - B \$44.33
 - C \$52.13
 - D \$54.33
 - E Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8th OBT. 6 98-99

40

40

Example 93

- 50. A trip for a school band will cost \$425. The band students have raised \$98.46. Exactly how much do they still need to raise?**
- A. \$523.46
 - B. \$327.46
 - C. \$326.54
 - D. \$102.71
 - E. Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

↑ Obj. 7 97-98

Example 151

- 60. Ashley had \$127.34 in her savings account. After withdrawing \$48.65, how much remained?**
- A. \$78.69
 - B. \$78.71
 - C. \$81.31
 - D. \$175.99
 - E. Not Here

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th Obj. 7 94-95

4th - 5th - 8th - 8th

41

41

Example Nineteen

45. On Friday 4,058 fans attended a game. At the Saturday game there were 937 more fans than on Friday. How many fans attended the Saturday game?

- F. 3,121
- G. 4,981
- H. 4,995
- J. 5,095

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

4th OBJ. 6 97-98

Example Forty

41. As part of a fund-raiser, Daniel sold 85 candy bars, Sue sold 135 candy bars and Jamilla sold 98 candy bars. How many candy bars were sold?

- A. 308
- B. 220
- C. 135
- D. 108
- E. Not Here

~~308~~ ~~220~~ ~~135~~ ~~108~~

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

5th OBJ 6 98-99

42

42

Example 112

49. While planning for their wedding, Mary invited 198 people and Raul invited 209 other people. How many people in all did Mary and Raul invite to their wedding?

- A 407
- B 397
- C 307
- D 298
- E Not Here

Bennett 3rd grade - Page 294 ?

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8B OBJ. 6 98-99

Example 114

46 Helen flew 3894 miles to visit her cousin's house. she then flew 2278 miles to her grandparent's house. How many miles did Helen fly?

- F 6172 mi
- G 6182 mi
- H 6272 mi
- J 6622 mi
- K Not Here

Bennett 3rd grade Page 294 ?

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8B OBJ. 6 98-99

43 Parallel Questions - Different Grades

Example 86

4. There were 18 students present in Monica's class on Monday, 23 on Tuesday, 21 on Wednesday and 18 on Thursday. What was the mean (average) number of students present for these 4 days?

- A. 22
- B. 21
- C. 20
- D. 18

Bennett - 5th Grade - Pg 304
6th Grade - Pg 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th OBT 5 97-98

Example 87

11. Gloria bowled 4 games. Her scores were 93, 105, 84 and 110. What was the mean (average) of Gloria's 4 scores?

- F 97
- G 98
- H 99
- J 392

Bennett 5th Pg 304
6th 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

7th OBT 5 97-98

43

44

44

Example 109

6. Carla's midterm grades were 93 in English, 88 in mathematics, 81 in social studies and 82 in science. What was her mean (average) grade in the 4 subjects?

- A 84
- B 85
- C 86
- D 87

Bennett 5th Grade 304
6th Grade 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

8th OBJ 5 97-98

Example 134

6 Ms Bateman recorded her weekly grocery bill for 4 weeks. The amounts were \$90, \$85, \$115 and \$90. What was the mean average of the grocery bills?

- F \$85
- G \$90
- H \$95
- J \$100

Bennett 5th grade 304
6th grade 307

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

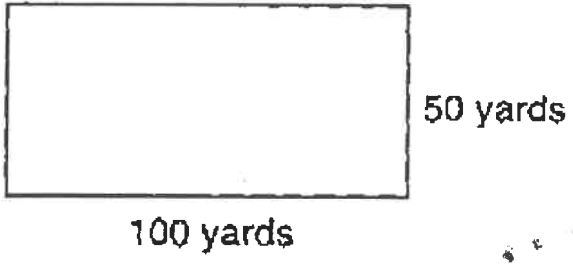
10th OBJ. 5 98-99

45

46

Example Three

17. A park in the shape of a rectangle is 50 yards wide and 100 yards long. What is the perimeter of the park? Mark your answer.



- 300 yd
- 200 yd
- 150 yd
- 100 yd

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

3rd

OBJ. 4

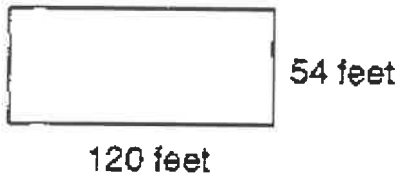
98-99

46

47

Example Seven

8. A fence 9 feet high is to be built around a rectangular field. How many feet of fencing will be needed?



Mark your answer.

- 6,480 ft
- 348 ft
- 183 ft
- 174 ft

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

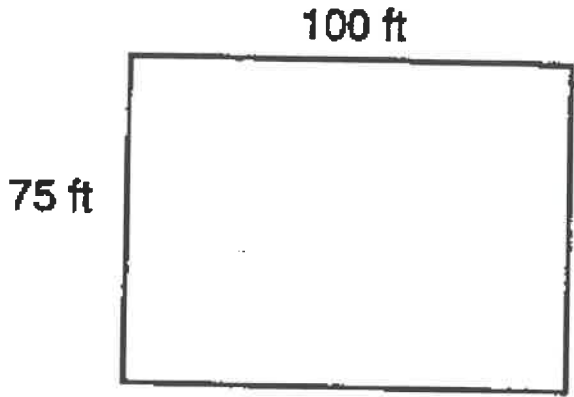
3rd 08J4 94-95

47

Example Thirty-Seven

10. Paul walked around the perimeter of a garden. The garden measures 75 feet by 100 feet. How far did Paul walk?

48



200

- A. 175 ft
- B. 250 ft
- C. 350 ft
- D. 750 ft

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

5th

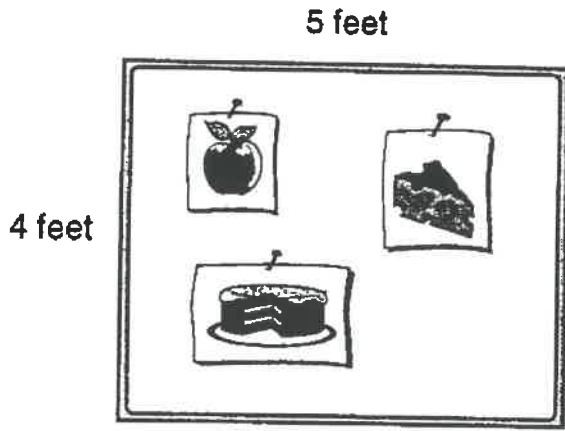
084

96-97



Example Four

8. How much ribbon is needed to go all the way around the bulletin board shown below? Mark your answer.



- 20 ft
- 18 ft
- 14 ft
- 9 ft

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

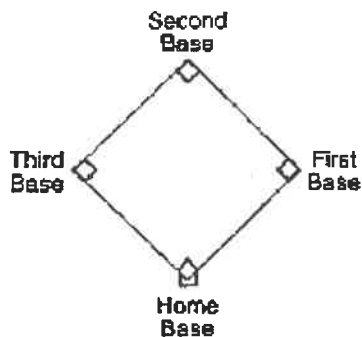
3rd 0854 91-98

49



Example Fourteen

16. The softball diamond measures 60 feet between each base. If Laquita starts at home base and runs all the way around the bases in order, how many feet will she have to go to get back to home base?



- F. 60 ft
- G. 120 ft
- H. 240 ft
- J. 360 ft

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

4th 0854 98-99

Example Thirty-Six

5. What is the perimeter of this square?



13 yd

- A. 26 yd
- B. 39 yd
- C. 52 yd
- D. 169 yd

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \times \\ 4 \\ \hline 52 \end{array}$$

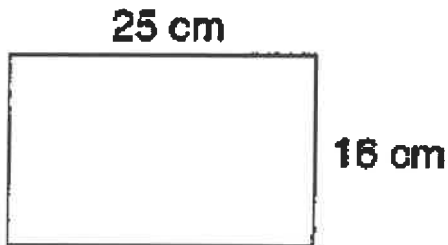


This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

5th OBT 4 98-99

Example 64

6. What is the perimeter of this rectangle?



- A. 410 centimeters
- B. 400 centimeters
- C. 82 centimeters
- D. 41 centimeters

$$\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ 32 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

6th OBT 4 94-95

Example 130


13. Devon's house is on a rectangular block that is 330 yards long and 1120 yards wide. What is the distance around this block?

F 450 yards

G 570 yards

H 900 yards

J yards

3900gds (My typo)

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

10th OBT 4 96-97

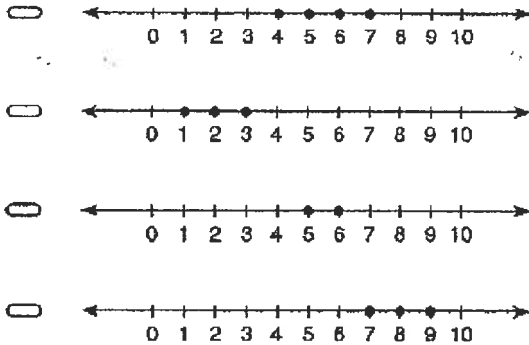
$$\begin{array}{r} 330 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline 660 \\ 2240 \\ \hline 2900 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 33 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline 660 \\ 2240 \\ \hline 2900 \end{array}$$



Example Two

15. Which number line shows the graph of all whole numbers that are greater than 4 and less than 7? Mark your answer.

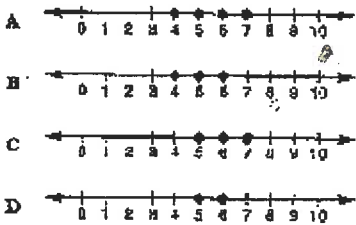


This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

3rd OBT. 2 96-97

Example Thirteen

16. Which number line shows the graph of all whole numbers that are greater than 4 and less than 7?



This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

4th OBT. 2 97-98

Why?
I. important

Bennet in book 713 596-
1300
0883

Example 103

13. According to an almanac, the population of Los Angeles, California is 3,485,398. What is the population of Los Angeles rounded to the nearest thousand?

- F 3,485,000
- G 3,486,000
- H 3,490,000
- J 3,500,000

Bennett - 4th - Pg 301

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

appeared?

8th OBJ. 1 97-98

Example 122

4. The total attendance recorded at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California was 5,797,923. What is this number rounded to the nearest thousand?

- A. 5,797,000
- B. 5,797,900
- C. 5,798,000
- D. 5,800,000

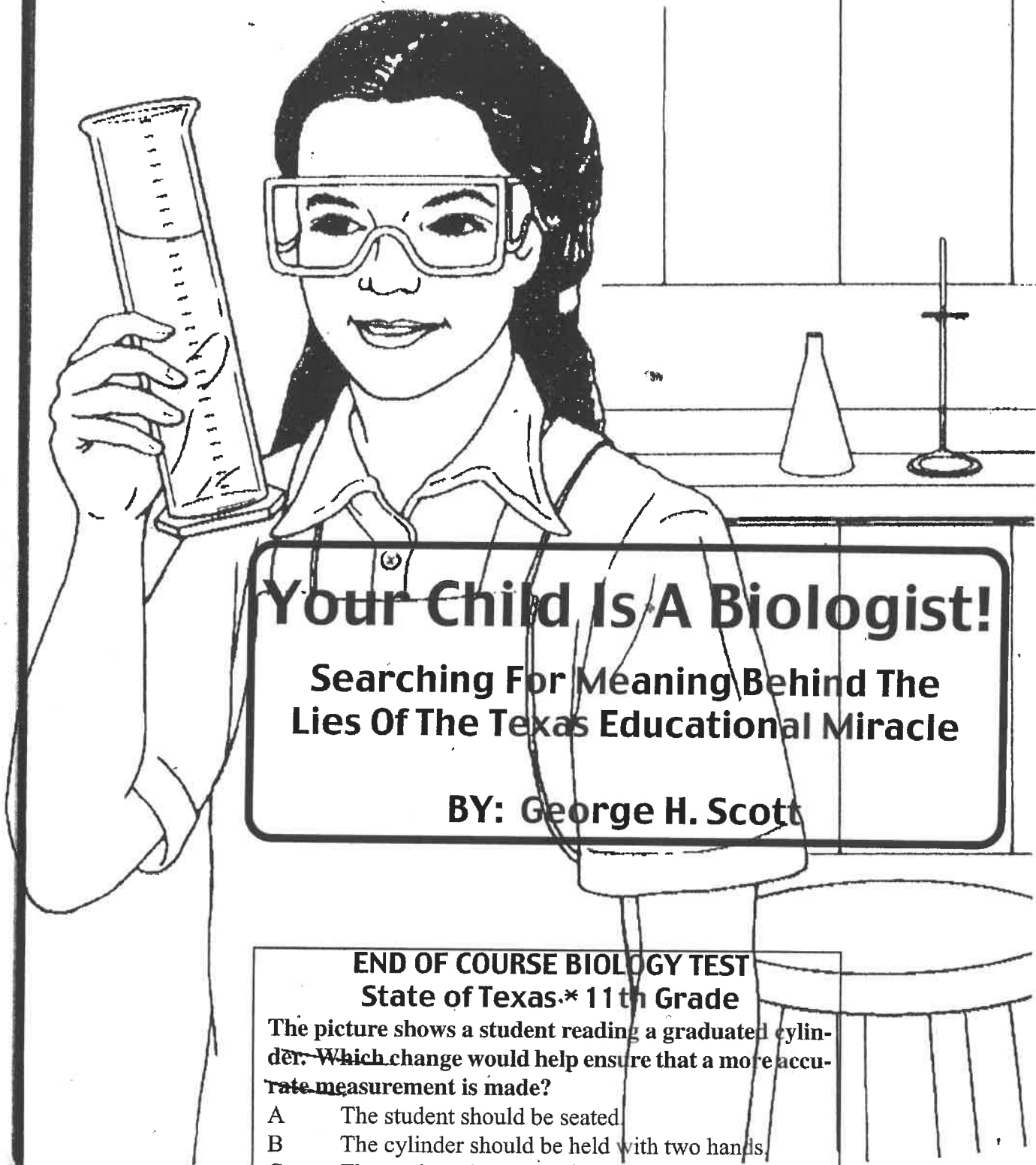
Bennett 4th Page 301

This is an actual question from a TAAS Test. Can you identify on which grade level test it appeared?

appeared?

10th OBJ. 1 95-96

Congratulations Texas! 54



Your Child Is A Biologist!

Searching For Meaning Behind The
Lies Of The Texas Educational Miracle

BY: George H. Scott

END OF COURSE BIOLOGY TEST State of Texas.* 11th Grade

The picture shows a student reading a graduated cylinder. ~~Which~~ change would help ensure that a more accurate measurement is made?

- A The student should be seated.
- B The cylinder should be held with two hands.
- C The student should be wearing insulated gloves.
- D The cylinder should be on a flat surface.

A	B	C
1	100	0
2	85	15
3	70	30
4	55	45
5	40	60
6	25	?

55

What number should go in place of the “?” in Column C?

This is a simple question that many could solve on sight in less than 2-3 seconds. Some might quickly observe that columns B and C add up to 100, or that each successive number in Column B declines by 15 while Column C numbers increase by 15 progressively.

Now take a look at question 42 on the EOC Biology test administered in spring, 2001.

Sunflower Blossoms in a Meadow

Day	Time	Closed Buds (%)	Open Blossoms (%)
1	6:00 A.M.	100	0
	12:00 NOON	85	15
	6:00 P.M.	70	30
2	6:00 A.M.	55	45
	12:00 NOON	40	60
	6:00 P.M.	25	??

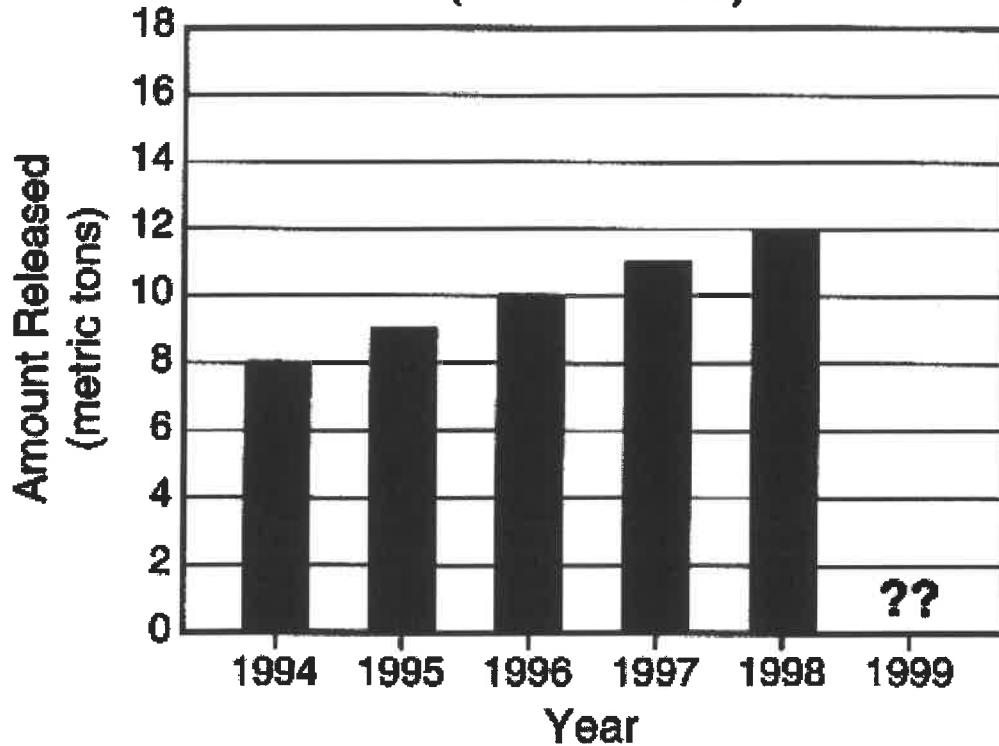
For purposes of this analysis, the actual question doesn't really matter. This is part of the secret of why Texas shows such outstanding EOC Biology results. It's not the most egregious example. You'll see others. However, the teacher who rated the 84 questions concluded that a student would not need to have an ounce of understanding of biological principles to answer this question.

She concluded that this was a low-level math problem with a title and phraseology that allowed the State of Texas to pretend the problem tested biology.

The numbers of examples of these types of problems that ask students to determine the next number in a sequence are spread throughout the entire EOC Biology testing program. These are the types of questions one has seen on TAAS junior high math tests given the terms of biology as headers or categories thus transformed to science questions. Here's another example from the 2000 administration of EOC Biology.

Shrimp Farm Stocking Program (1994–1998)

56



It is not irrelevant that you don't even need to know the actual question to the above "biology problem" to know that the correct answer is "13."

I could spend this column and the next on this category of questioning alone. I am not pulling just two questions out of context.

The numbers of examples of these types of problems spread throughout the EOC Biology testing program are significant.

The next question I am going to show you is a variation of this type of question, but it is much fancier and prettier. If I gave you the following factual information in the next "sample" question, would it imply that you had an ounce of knowledge about the "Early Development of a Vertebrate Embryo"?

What do you need to know about a zygote, fertilized eggs or cleavage? **The answer is 16.** You don't need to know anything about science or biology to know the answer. You don't even need to know the **biology** question.

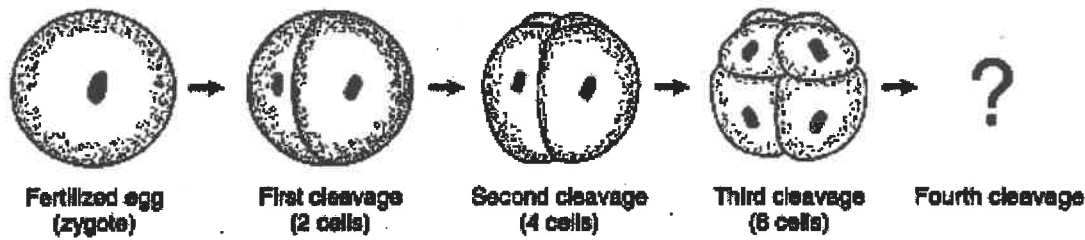
SAMPLE QUESTION

Original	Next	Next	Next	Next
1	2	4	8	?

What number should go in place of the "???"

Here's the actual "biology" problem as it appeared in the most recent (2002) EOC Biology exam.

Early Development of a Vertebrate Embryo



57

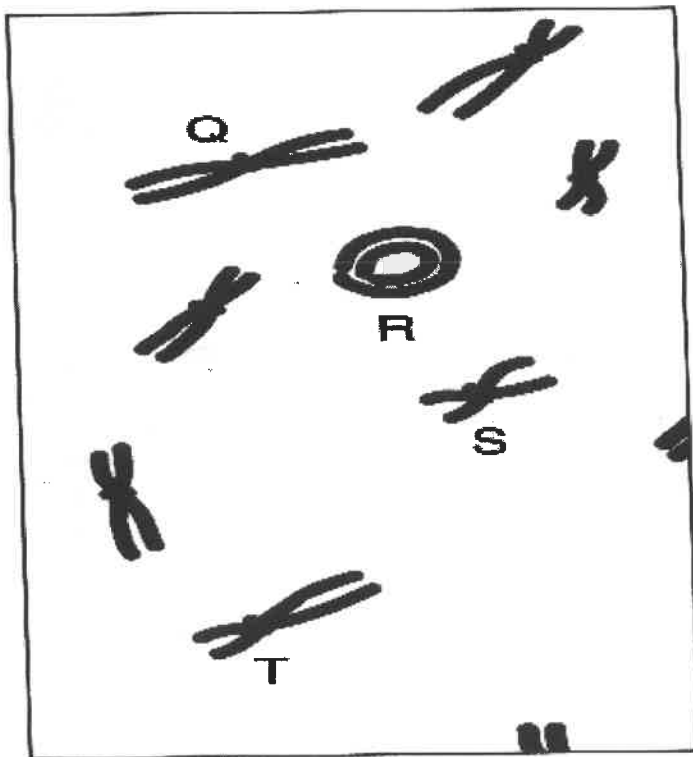
Just for your intellectual amusement, the question was this: “how many cells will be present in the fourth cleavage?”

Does the fact that 94% of Texas students got this question correct translate to the “grade level” biology skills much less mastery of biology?

As you look at the next graphic, see if you can figure out the answer without knowing the subject or the question.

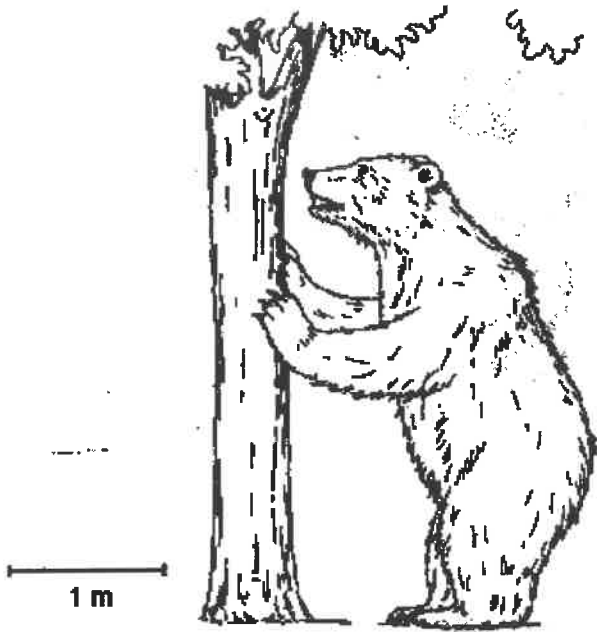
See if it doesn't kind of take you back to your days of watching *Sesame Street* and enjoying the song (by yourself or with your kids) that went something like, “which of these things are not like the other...”

For the record, the actual question was as follows: “Which of these chromosomes was most likely exposed to toxic chemicals or radiation?”



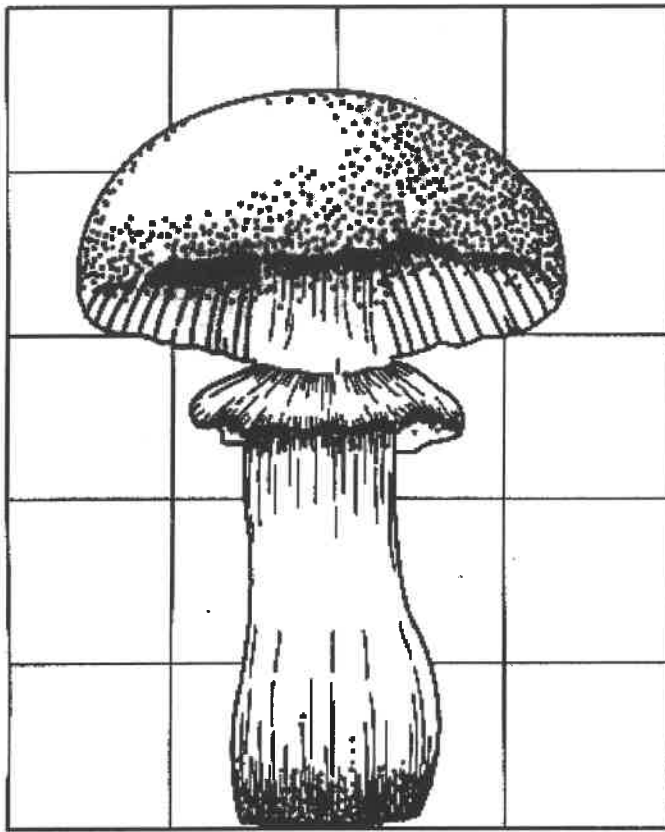
Of course, you can't just test students on their knowledge of DNA, genes and chromosomes and the like. You've got to get students into “real world” situations. Sometimes, you need to get the students into the great outdoors where “real world” biology exists. For instance, the following problem tests an intriguing biological

concept with a question often asked by Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone: How tall is that bear?



58

Of course, in the wild world of Texas biology, students need to know this because that is a damned big bear and it could hurt you. And, it's also important to know other important outdoor facts such as "how tall is that mushroom?" Much is demanded of a Texas biologist because size is important in this state. For instance, it is much more important to know how a tall a mushroom is as opposed to whether it is poisonous. 89% of Texas' student biologists got this one right. As those psychometricians are 'want' to remind the TEA, "them there high pvalues sure do help sustain the miracle don't they?"



59

Techniques in the laboratory are also very important as referenced in this following graphic and question which forces students to ponder what the researcher might need to do to ensure a more “accurate” measurement. “The cylinder should be on a flat surface” was the right answer here. Sometimes the TEA just can’t settle for 89% pvalues. 98% of Texas students got this question right. The test contractors may have gotten a bonus on this one.



60

One of the more sophisticated concepts tested in EOC Biology has to do with “Reactions of Planaria to Different Stimuli in a T Maze.” As I recall from my biology days, planaria are really unusual flatworms that regenerate. My daughter’s biology class did some really neat “stuff” in the lab this year. She told me things about planaria you just might not believe.

However, I want to switch to dogs for just a minute with the sample question below. Looks like the answer to me is “B.” “B” must be a really bad man because I can tell dogs don’t like “B” worth a damn.

SAMPLE QUESTION

How 25 Dogs React To 4 Different Owners

OWNERS	TOWARD	AWAY	STAY
A	18	4	3
B	2	23	0
C	8	8	9
D	25	0	0

Which owner do these dogs run away from the most: A, B, C, or D?

Well, let’s get back to planaria with this very sophisticated question. This data supports the hypothesis that a planarian moves away from – plants, light, rocks or food?

**Reactions of Planaria to
Different Stimuli in a T Maze**

Stimulus	Average Number of Times a Planarian Moved		
	Toward	Away	No Response
Plant	16	4	3
Light	2	23	0
Rock	8	8	9
Food	25	0	0

61

We'll have to keep this biology fun going at least one more column. Then, we'll produce the statewide College Board AP test results. As promised, I'll "pick on" my own school district to give you an example how TAAS and EOC testing has corrupted if not prostituted academic goal setting in even one of the very "best" school districts in Texas.

Let me end this particular column with this note. The problems I have selected for your review aren't the worst I could find. There are more. Many more. The teacher who reviewed the 84 questions concluded the some 35% were more appropriate for junior high students and that 74% of the 84 questions were either not really biology questions or were of low-level difficulty.

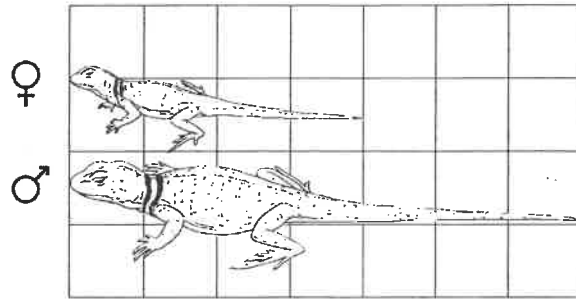
I have never once asserted that the AP testing program should be the "be all and end all" standard of evaluating the quality of high school math and science instruction and results. However, you better find some national or independent standard you can trust. Because if you don't, states, like Texas, that are motivated to lie to you about your children to further the needs of its politicians and vested sycophants, will, in fact, lie.

[Previous Columns](#)

[George Scott](#)

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Collared Lizard
(*Crotaphytus collaris*)



62

10 Male collared lizards are larger than females. According to the pictures above, the difference in length between the male and the female collared lizard when measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail is approximately —

F 3 cm

G 8 cm

H 12 cm

J 15 cm

63

Storage Compatibility Chart

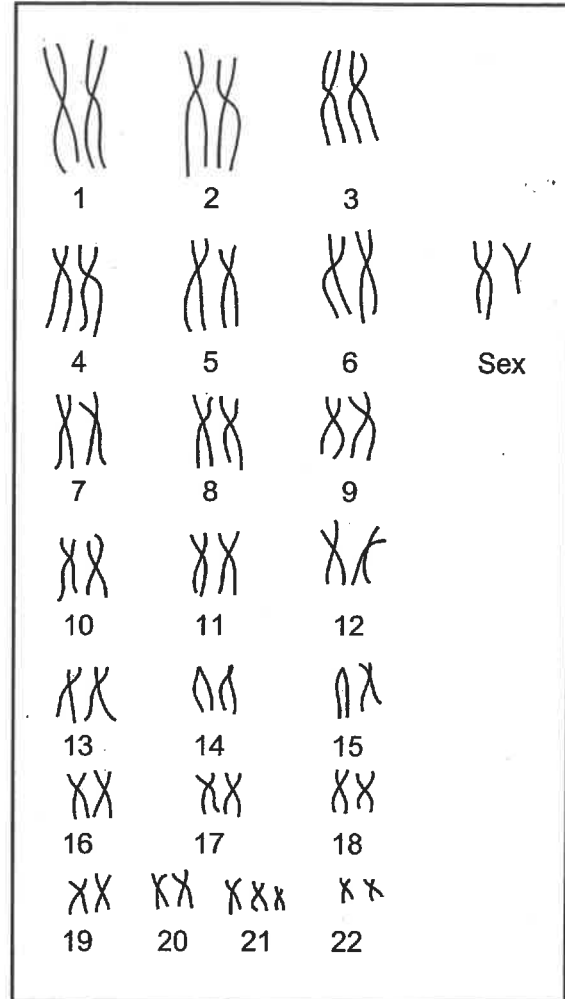
"X" indicates groups are incompatible and should NOT be stored together.

Group A	Group B			
	Amines	Ammonia	Caustics	Ketones
Vinyl acetate	X	X		
Nitric acid	X	X	X	X
Sulfuric acid	X	X	X	X
Organic acid	X	X	X	

36 The chart shows the storage compatibility of a few chemicals. According to this chart, which pair of chemicals can be safely stored together?

- F Vinyl acetate and amines
- G Nitric acid and caustics
- H Sulfuric acid and ammonia
- J Organic acid and ketones

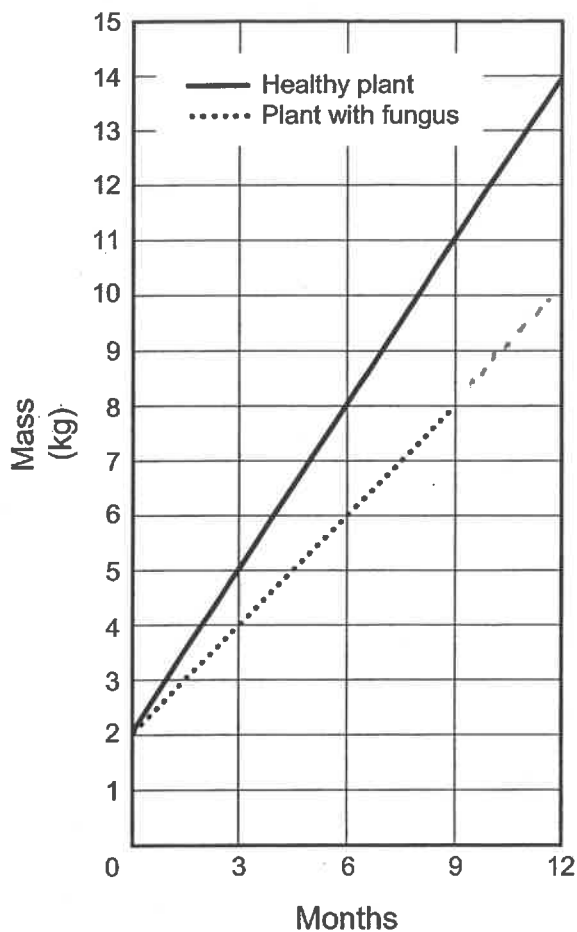
Unusual Human Karyotype



37 This human karyotype is unusual because chromosome set —

- A 5 has chromosomes of different shapes
- B 10 is missing genetic material
- C 14 has enlarged centromeres
- D 21 has extra genetic material

How a Fungus Affects Plant Growth



40 The graph shows the growth curves of a healthy plant and a plant infected with a fungus. If this trend continues, what will be the mass of the plant infected with the fungus at 12 months?

- F 10 kg
- G 11 kg
- H 12 kg
- J 13 kg



64

41 According to this label, people should NOT take this pain reliever if they —

- A suffer from cold-related headaches
- B are allergic to aspirin
- C have high blood pressure
- D experience mild heartburn

Change in Mass of Estivating Frogs

65

Week	Average Mass After Estivation (g)
0	450
3	442
6	434
9	426
12	???

42 The chart shows the average change in mass of some frogs during a period of estivation. If this trend continues, what will be the average mass of the frogs by the twelfth week of estivation?

F 424 g

G 422 g

H 420 g

J 418 g

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

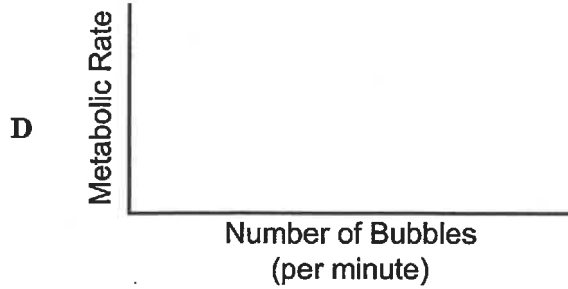
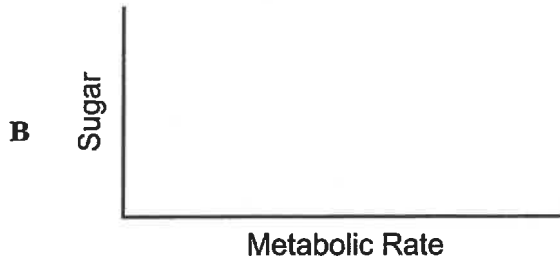
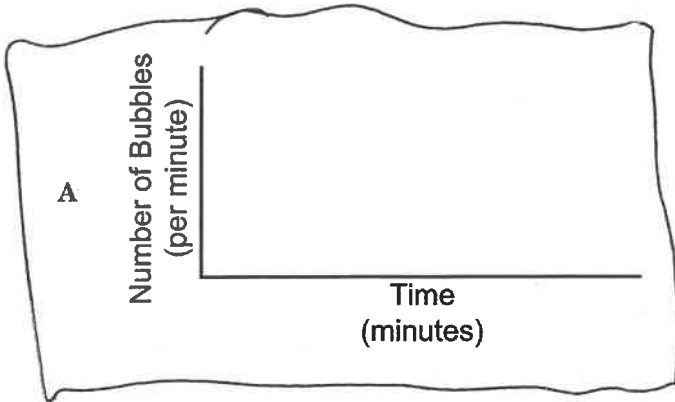


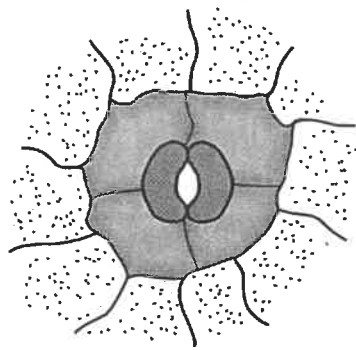
Yeast Metabolism of Sugar

66

Time (minutes)	Estimated Metabolic Rate (number of bubbles produced per minute)			
	Sucrose	Maltose	Fructose	Galactose
1	0	0	0	0
2	5	3	8	0
3	8	8	8	3
4	10	11	11	5
5	14	12	16	7

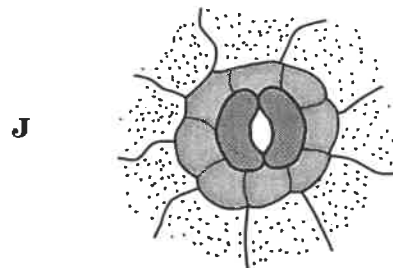
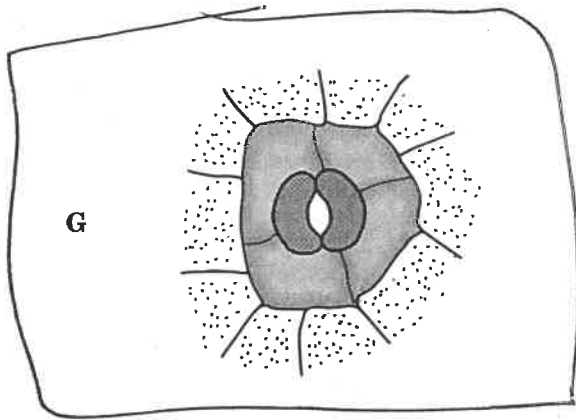
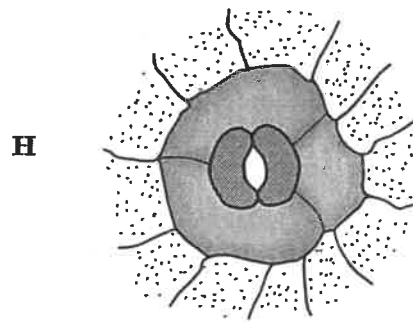
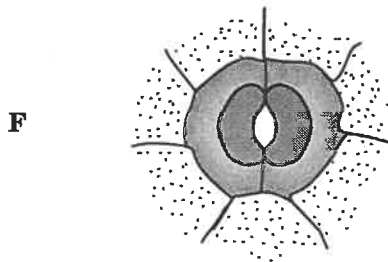
21 Which of these axes would be best to use to analyze these data?





67

4 There are many different ways that plant epidermal cells can be arranged around the stomata on plant leaves. Which of these has a development pattern most similar to the pattern pictured above?



Organisms in Pond Water

68

Microorganism	Individuals per 100 mL
<i>Paramecium</i>	24
<i>Euglena</i>	26
<i>Prorodon</i>	37
Rotifer	13

100

- 1 The chart shows the types of organisms found in 100 mL of pond water. Which graph is the best representation of these data?

