Science-SCASS© Item Bank

The Science-SCASS item bank contains over 1400 released items. To view items, go to: http://sciencescass.org For login and password, please contact Jim Woodland, NDE, at jim.woodland@nebraska.gov.   The username and password is NOT to be shared outside the state of Nebraska. Questions about use may be directed to Jim Woodland, NDE, at jim.woodland@nebraska.gov or Sheree Person-Pandil, ESU#3 at spandil@esu3.org. For online assistance, please contact MetaLogic at info@metalogic1.com or 402/474-6194.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find the correct answers to multiple choice questions? In items view, this information is displayed above the item itself. In slide view, where you are looking at each item, one by one, this information is displayed to the left of the item. If the answer property is not visible, you may need to open choose the "customize" option from the Actions pull-down menu, click the checkbox next to the answer property, and then press the Update button. This will then make the answer property visible.

2. How do I view score guides and rubrics? For constructed response items (including performance assessments such as events (1 class period) and tasks (multiple class periods), there may be rubrics and/or scored samples of student work. If these are included, you will find a link to click to display in the properties list. Use the customize mini-window to make sure these properties are visible. If you click the links to the score guides and rubrics, these will open in new windows, of which you can move and re-size to examine the item. These are also links to original modules and score guides available as PDF files. If no html rubrics and score guides are available, click on the PDF links to see those files. Print those as needed. Often, the pdf Score guides include additional teacher instructions.

For constructed response items, the rubrics and scored samples are available by clicking on the "rubric" link or "Scored samples" link. This will display the information in a new window. If the properties are not visible, select the "customize" option from the pull-down Actions menu and click the checkbox next to these properties to display. If still no property displays, it means there are no rubrics or scored samples available directly as an html file. In that case, you can always access the original rubrics and score guides which are available as Adobe PDF files from a link to the original module and score guide. If the pdf files property is not visible, choose the customize option from the pull-down menu and place a check next to the property. This will display the link, such that you can click on it and get the pdf document.

For performance assessment items such as events (1 class period) and tasks (multiple class periods), the rubrics and score guides are located as Adobe pdf files with a link to the original score guide.

3. Can I view items in different windows so that I can compare? Yes. In table view, the item can be opened in a new window (instead of the current window) by clicking and holding the right mouse button on the link in the first column of the table (usually the Item#) and then choosing to have the browser open the item in a new window. This window will stay open until you close it. You can minimize it to get it off the screen, but it will not be removed from your computer memory until you close the window. If you do this a lot, you will have many windows and the screen can get cluttered. Be sure to close windows when you are through.

4. What is the easiest way to edit items? Assuming items of interest have been found and selected using the search options, the recommended best option is to open the selected items in a new browser window. There is a shortcut button, or an action in the pull-down action menu that will open selected items in a new browser window. From the new browser window, choose the "save as" option and save the file to a location on your computer. Saving from the browser will also download any images and store in a separate folder, in the same directory as where you stored the file. Open this file in your word processor for further edited. Note that the most common edits will be to adjust for proper page breaks, add personalized instructions, and add additional writing space. Certainly you can add more items or move them around.

5. What is Printable View option in the Action menu? Printable View provides a way to print the currently displayed view in a way that removes unnecessary information and mirrors the view the user is currently in (such as table view, items view, or slide view.) The items are first opened into a new window that is ready to print. Choose to print from that new window. Again, the display conforms to whichever view the user is in when the option is accessed. Table view will display as a list, but not include all the data. The slide view will display one item, etc.

6. Browser Requirements? MetaCat makes use of Javascript. Required browsers are Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher, Netscape 6.0 or higher, or any version of Mozilla. Items stored in MetaCat can include file formats that require plugins to display properly, such as Macromedia's Flash or Adobe Acrobat reader for PDF files.