



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

Elementary Science

Administered in Grade 5

Short Constructed-Response Scoring Guide

Spring 2026

General Information

Beginning with the 2022–2023 school year, science assessments include short constructed-response questions at every assessed grade level. Students are asked to provide a short response to a question. Responses are scored using a prompt-specific, two-point rubric.

This State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) constructed-response scoring guide provides student exemplars at all score points for a short constructed-response question from the STAAR elementary science operational test. The question is presented as it appeared on the test, and responses were scored based on the two-point rubric that was developed with the input of Texas educators. A response earns a specific score point based on the completeness of the response provided as measured against the rubric.

The responses in this guide are actual student responses submitted online during the testing window. To protect the privacy of individual students, all names and other references of a personal nature have been altered or removed. Otherwise, the responses appear as the students wrote them and have not been modified.

Elementary Science Short Constructed Response

Prompt

For three days in a row, students recorded when the sun rose and when it set in the cities of Chicago, Illinois, and Sydney, Australia. The table shows their data.

Sunrise and Sunset Data

City	Day	Sunrise	Sunset
Chicago, Illinois	1	7:18 a.m.	4:30 p.m.
	2	7:18 a.m.	4:31 p.m.
	3	7:18 a.m.	4:32 p.m.
Sydney, Australia	1	5:47 a.m.	8:09 p.m.
	2	5:48 a.m.	8:09 p.m.
	3	5:49 a.m.	8:09 p.m.

Based on the data, which season is Sydney, Australia, **MOST LIKELY** experiencing, **AND** what evidence from the data table supports your answer?

Think about the information carefully. Then enter your response in the box provided.

Item-Specific Rubric

Score: 2

Sydney is experiencing summer. AND Sydney's daylight hours are longer than Chicago's daylight hours which indicates summer.

Score: 1

Sydney is experiencing summer.

OR

The amount of daylight is dependent on the season. Sydney's daylight hours are longer than Chicago's daylight hours.

Score: 0

The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

Sample Student Responses

Score Point 0

Response 1

The season Sydney, Australia is most likely experiencing is winter. The table is showing that that the sunrise is very early and sunset is very late. In the winter the sunrise is early and sunset is late making the season in Sydney, Australia winter.

The response is incorrect and demonstrates little to no understanding. It includes neither of the required elements.

The response identifies the season incorrectly ("winter"). While the response correctly identifies the longer daylight hours by noting the early sunrise and late sunset ("sunrise is very early and sunset is very late") by the times shown in the table, it associates this information with the incorrect season ("In the winter the sunrise is early and sunset is late").

Response 2

Sydney, Australia is most likely experiencing fall because the days are getting shorter than the others.

The response is incorrect and demonstrates little to no understanding.

The response identifies the season incorrectly ("Sydney, Australia is most likely experiencing fall"). The response also provides the incorrect reasoning ("because the days are getting shorter") to support the season.

Response 3

The season sydney is most likely either the fall or spring.

The response is incorrect and demonstrates little to no understanding.

This response provides the incorrect season ("The season sydney is most likely either the fall or spring"), and no attempt is made to provide evidence to support the season.

Response 4

In chicago all sunrise are the same. In Australia all sunsets are the same

The response is incorrect or irrelevant and demonstrates little to no understanding.

No attempt is made either to identify the correct season or to provide evidence to support the season.

Score Point 1

Response 1

In Sydney, Australia I think its summer because the sunrise is really early in the morning.

The response addresses half of the question correctly and demonstrates partial understanding.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing (“In Sydney, Australia I think its summer”).

While the response provides some reasoning to support the identified season (“because the sunrise is really early”), it is insufficient as it refers only to the early sunrise and does not consider the sunset time needed to show that the daylight hours are longer.

Response 2

The season I think Sydney, Australia is most likely experiencing is summer. I think that because for Chicago, Illinois, they show the time when it’s fall. The sun rises at 5:47 a.m. and sets at 8:09 p.m.

The response addresses half of the question correctly and demonstrates partial understanding.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing (“Sydney, Australia is most likely experiencing is summer”).

The evidence provided is incomplete as just stating the sunrise and sunset times from the data table is insufficient (“The sun rises at 5:47 a.m. and sets at 8:09 p.m.”) to address the relative length of the day.

Response 3

The season that is the most likely is summer for Sydney, Australia.

The response addresses half of the question correctly and demonstrates partial understanding.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing ("The season that is the most likely is summer").

No attempt is made to provide evidence to support the identified season.

Response 4

Sydney, and Australia are in summer because in summer the sun rises earlier than in the spring, fall, and the winter

The response addresses half of the question correctly and demonstrates partial understanding.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing ("Sydney, and Australia are in summer").

The response represents a vague attempt to support the identified season by providing a subjective explanation ("in summer the sun rises earlier than in the spring, fall, and the winter"); however, sunrise time varies and does not necessarily correspond to a specific season. Insufficient evidence ("in summer the sun rises earlier") is provided to address the longer days since only relative sunrise times are addressed.

Score Point 2

Response 1

sydeny is on summer becuase more day time and less night time. in chicago it is winter becuse it more night time then day time.

The response demonstrates complete and correct understanding. It includes the two required elements: correctly identifying the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing and providing adequate evidence from the data table supporting the season.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing (“sydeny is on summer”) as summer.

The response also provides the correct evidence from the data table to support the season by mentioning the length of day and night for both Sydney and Chicago (“becuase more day time and less night time”) to describe how the length of the day is longer in Sydney. This response addresses both the relative sunrise and sunset times.

Response 2

I think Sydney, Austalia is most likely experiencing summer because the days are longer than what the days are in Chicago, Illinois.

The response demonstrates complete and correct understanding. It includes the two required elements: correctly identifying the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing and providing adequate evidence from the data table supporting the season.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing (“Sydney, Austalia is most likely experiencing summer”).

The response also provides correct reasoning to support the season by mentioning that the days are longer (“because the days are longer”). The concept that summer is the correct answer because the days are relatively longer is sufficient to receive credit.

Response 3

Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing summer because they are having 15 hours of daytime and Chicago, Illinois only has 9 hours of daytime.

The response demonstrates complete and correct understanding. It includes the two required elements: correctly identifying the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing and providing adequate evidence from the data table supporting the season.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing ("Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing summer") as summer.

The response also provides correct reasoning by calculating the number of daylight hours from the table for both Sydney and Chicago ("because they are having 15 hours of daytime and Chicago, Illinois only has 9 hours of daytime") to show that longer daylight hours indicate summer.

Response 4

Because of Earth's slightly sideways axis, I believe it is summer in Sydney. Summer brings long days, and Sydney's days seem very long (at least in comparison to Illinois) from about 5:50 to about 8:00 every single day. The days being long in summer is because of the Earth's tilt, as Sydney is tilted toward the sun at this time.

The response demonstrates complete and correct understanding. It includes the two required elements: correctly identifying the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing and providing adequate evidence from the data table supporting the season.

The response correctly identifies the season that Sydney, Australia, is most likely experiencing ("it is summer in Sydney") as summer.

The response also includes the correct evidence from the data table by mentioning the sunrise and sunset times for Sydney ("Summer brings long days, and Sydney's days seem very long . . . 5:50 to about 8:00 every single day") to conclude that the days are longer in summer.