



Reviewing Practice Materials Together

Should you choose, CAASPP practice and training tests are available for parents and students on the official CAASPP website. These resources, including the CA Science (*Grade 5 only*) and the Smarter Balanced (ELA/Math) practice questions, allow students to experience the actual testing platform and question formats for grades 3–11.

Exploring these examples together gives families a chance to understand what will be asked of students. It can also allow for opportunities to discuss the tools and strategies available to them during each testing session.

How to Access and Use Practice Tests

- **Keyword Search:** Using a browser like Chrome, Firefox, or Safari, search for “Official CAASPP website,” then click on CAASPP & ELPAC Home
- **Find & Click** On the main page, find “Practice and Training Tests for Students,” then click “Student Access to Tests”
- **Log in as Guest:** Select the blue button on the right, then click “Guest session”
- **Select Grade Level:** Choose the child's grade level to access the materials.
- **Types of Tests**
 - **Smarter Balanced Training Tests:** Shorter tests (grouped by grade-level) designed to familiarize students with the software and tools.
 - **Smarter Balanced Practice Tests:** Grade-specific, full-length tests that mimic the actual summative assessment.
- **Key Focus Area:** We recommend focusing on Smarter Balanced Training Tests. These will help reduce logistical questions and allow them to feel at ease during the testing sessions.

- **Additional Resources:** Smarter Balanced Practice Tests (CAT) for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics, as well as the ELA or Math Performance Tasks (PT), and the Science Test (CAST – 5th grade only) are an optional resource.
 - **Choose 5-10 questions only (CAT):** A small practice set will help guide conversations around effective testing strategies.
 - **Choose one PT for ELA/Math:** Remain curious when unpacking the task with your child. Exploring the connection between question parts, and your child how they would begin to solve can make for rich conversation.
 - **Scoring:** You can use the available answer keys and scoring guides to review responses with your child. Focusing on what they did successfully, rather than their mistakes, will increase confidence and ensure a positive testing experience.

Key Features for Parents

- **Accessibility Tools:** The interface allows parents to test out features like highlighters, zoom, and notes, which are available to students during the actual test.
- **Performance Tasks:** Practice tests include performance tasks, which are multi-part assignments that require deeper thinking. Limiting discussion to how a child might think through their responses will be the best use of your time.
- **Starting Smarter Website:** Parents can use the Starting Smarter website to understand score reports and find additional sample questions. Just visit <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/>

Recommendations

- **Start with Training Tests:** Use these first to help your child become comfortable with the online format.
- **Discuss Test Taking Strategies:** Encourage **a)** reading questions and choices three times, **b)** asking what the question is asking me to do, **c)** eliminating options that don't make sense, and **d)** choosing the best answer from what remains.