

Directions: The following are a sample of items written to illustrate typical errors that may be made in item writing. Look at each item and try to improve each of them through item editing. You also have the option of deleting the item.

Sample Test for Fourth Grade Science Test

Learning Target: The student will understand the how the solar system is organized.

1. Which of the following responses is not incorrect?
 - A. The sun usually rises in the east.
 - B. The sun sets in the east or the west
 - C. We can't tell when the sun will come up
 - D. we don't know if the sky later today will be sunny or cloudy, but we can predict fairly well how warm or cold it will be, whether it will rain, and if not, how much sun we will get.

2. Since the sun always rises in the east, where does it set?
 - A. In the east
 - B. West
 - C. South
 - D. North

3. One of the reasons why we experience the four seasons (summer, fall, winter, and spring) is because of the tilt of the earth on its axis. Why else do we experience the four seasons?
 - A. The earth rotates one complete revolution each week.
 - B. The earth revolves around the moon
 - C. The earth gets much closer to the sun during half of the year.
 - D. The earth revolves around the sun once each year.

4. The moon is so bright during part of the month because
 - A. it is so close to the sun
 - B. it is much larger than the earth
 - C. it glows all by itself
 - D. it is made of green cheese

5. The earth
 - A. is covered with mostly land, and the United States is the largest country on it
 - B. is almost entirely made of water
 - C. is covered by water

D. can explode at any time because it is covered with volcanos and then earthquakes that may occur at any time and in any place at any time

6. The earth's continents

- A. are close to one another
- B. are drifting apart
- C. is equal in climate
- D. is comparable in size

7. Which of the following do we know about climate change?

- A. No one knows whether the climate is changing
- B. There are too many people writing too much about it
- C. By the time we answer the question, it will be too late to do anything about it.
- D. The climate is always changing

8. In hockey, the blue line serves which function?

- A. To prevent the offense from entering.
- B. To prevent the offensive team from "cherry-picking."
- C. To permit the referees to call more penalties against both teams
- D. To allow goalies to make easier saves

9. Your family needs to move to another state for your father and mother to find work. Write an essay describing three things you would take with you in the car as you travel to your new home. Tell why you would take those items.
