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PAPER 2

Practice test · Term 3–4
Version 1.6 · 21 October 2026

Natural Sciences and Technology · Grade 5

Energy, Earth and Technology

Term 3–4 | 8 questions | CAPS-aligned

TOTAL 68 MARKS

NAME AND SURNAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

Instructions

1. This question paper consists of TWO sections. Answer all the questions.
2. Answer all the questions on the question paper itself, in the spaces provided.
3. Read each question carefully before you begin writing.
4. Write neatly and legibly. Work that cannot be read cannot be marked.
5. You may use a pencil and a ruler for drawings and diagrams.

Question	Content of the question	Marks	Obtained
1	Multiple choice questions	5	
2	Short questions	10	
3	Stored energy in fuels	10	
4	Electric circuits	8	
5	The surface of the Earth, rocks and fossils	10	
6	Rocks and fossils	7	
7	Energy and movement	9	
8	Technology: wheels and axles	9	
	Total	**68**	
	Percentage		%

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Section A Short questions

1 Multiple choice questions — 5 marks

Choose the correct answer and circle its letter.

1.1 In a simple circuit, which part supplies the energy? **(1)**

(a) The cell (b) The switch (c) The bulb

1.2 A fire starts in your home. What is the SAFEST thing to do? **(1)**

(a) Hide under the bed (b) Get out quickly and stay low, under the smoke (c) Go back inside to fetch your toys

1.3 Which one of the following is a fuel that stores energy? **(1)**

(a) Sand (b) Glass (c) Coal

1.4 Which one of these is a sedimentary rock? **(1)**

(a) Shale (b) Granite (c) Marble

1.5 Where in South Africa have important fossils of early humans been found? **(1)**

(a) Table Mountain (b) The Cradle of Humankind (c) The Kruger National Park

2 Short questions — 10 marks

2.1 Write next to each appliance whether it uses MAINS electricity or a CELL (battery). **(4)**

Appliance	Mains / Cell
A torch	
A kettle	
A TV remote	
A stove	

2.2 Fill in the missing word in each sentence. **(3)**

a. The Earth takes about 365 days to travel once around the Sun. We call this time one _____ .

b. The Earth rotates on its own _____ , and that is why we have day and night.

c. Soil, air, water and _____ support life on Earth.

2.3 Name THREE ways to stay safe with electricity. **(3)**

Section B Longer questions

3 Stored energy in fuels

10 marks

3.1 Write next to each fuel whether it is a SOLID, a LIQUID or a GAS. **(4)**

Fuel	Solid / Liquid / Gas
Wood	
Paraffin	
Coal	
Cooking gas	

3.2 Name THREE things your family can do to PREVENT a fire at home. **(3)**

3.3 Lerato lit three candles of the same size. At the same moment she put an upside-down glass jar over each candle, and measured how long each candle burned. **(3)**

Jar	How long the candle burned (seconds)
Small jar	10
Medium jar	25
Large jar	45

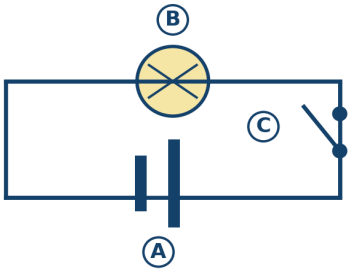
a. Why did each candle go out? (1)

b. Explain why the candle under the LARGE jar burned the longest. (2)

4 Electric circuits

8 marks

4.1 Study the circuit below and name the parts A, B and C. **(3)**



A: _____ B: _____ C: _____

4.2 A learner builds a circuit, but the bulb does not light up. Give THREE possible reasons. **(3)**

4.3 Electricity travels from a power station to your school. Write these parts of its path in the correct order, starting after the power station: wall socket and plug · substation · pylons and power lines · electricity box (meter box) **(2)**

5 The surface of the Earth, rocks and fossils

10 marks

5.1 Write SANDY, CLAY or LOAM next to each description of soil. **(3)**

Description	Kind of soil
Large grains — water runs through quickly	
Very fine grains — sticky when wet	
A mixture with humus — best for growing plants	

5.2 Why is it important to protect topsoil? **(2)**

5.3 Describe how a sedimentary rock forms. **(3)**

5.4 What is the difference between a BODY fossil and a TRACE fossil? **(2)**

6 Rocks and fossils

7 marks

6.1 Limestone, sandstone and shale are rocks that people use. Write ONE use of each rock. **(3)**

Rock	One use
Limestone	
Sandstone	
Shale	

6.2 **(2)**

a. Name ONE thing that you can always SEE in a sedimentary rock. (1)

b. Which part of a sedimentary rock is the OLDEST: the top or the bottom? (1)

6.3 Scientists knew the coelacanth only as a fossil fish in very old rocks. Then, in 1938, a living coelacanth was caught near East London on the South African coast. What does this tell us about fossils and the plants and animals that live today? **(2)**

7 Energy and movement

9 marks

7.1 What happens to the energy stored in a stretched rubber band when you let it go? **(2)**

7.2 Name TWO objects that use a compressed spring to work. **(2)**

7.3 Name THREE vehicles or objects that use wheels and axles. **(3)**

7.4 Explain why it is easier to move a heavy load with a wheelbarrow than to drag it. **(2)**

8 Technology: wheels and axles

9 marks

THE DESIGN BRIEF

Make a toy cart from a small cardboard box. It must carry 10 marbles across the classroom floor. You may use only: bottle tops, cardboard circles, kebab sticks, drinking straws, sticky tape and glue.

8.1 Which of these materials will you use for the WHEELS, and which for the AXLES? **(2)**

Wheels: _____ Axles: _____

8.2 Name THREE specifications (requirements) that your cart must meet. **(3)**

8.3 Draw a labelled sketch of your cart seen from the side. Label the box, a wheel and an axle. **(3)**

8.4 How will you TEST whether your wheels and axles turn easily? **(1)**

Total **68 marks**



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