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PRACTICE TEST

Practice test · Term 3
Version 1.7 · 21 October 2026

# Natural Sciences and Technology · Grade 5

Energy and Change

Term 3 | 6 questions | CAPS-aligned

TOTAL 42 MARKS

NAME AND SURNAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

## Instructions

1. This question paper consists of SIX questions. 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 | 5 | |
| 2 | Matching | 4 | |
| 3 | Short questions | 7 | |
| 4 | Burning fuels and fire safety | 10 | |
| 5 | Electric circuits | 8 | |
| 6 | Stored energy and moving things | 8 | |
| | **Total** | 42 | |
| | **Percentage** | | % |

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## 1 Multiple choice

5 marks

*Choose the correct answer and circle its letter.*

**PRACTICE EXAMPLE · DO THIS ONE TOGETHER FIRST**

Which one is the biggest?

a An ant  b A cat  c An elephant

An elephant is the biggest, so the answer is c. Circle the c.

This example does not count for marks. It only shows you how to answer.

**1.1** Which one of these is a SAFE thing to do with electricity? **(1)**

(a) Pull a plug out by its cord

(b) Keep electrical appliances away from water

(c) Push a knife into a toaster that is switched on

**1.2** Food is called 'fuel for the body' because: **(1)**

(a) it stores energy that our bodies use

(b) it is burnt in a fire

(c) it makes electricity

**1.3** What is the main source of energy for most power stations in South Africa? **(1)**

(a) Coal  (b) Wind  (c) Sea water

**1.4** A fire needs heat to START burning. Where can the heat come from to light a candle? **(1)**

(a) A burning match  (b) A glass of water  (c) A stone

**1.5** Which one of these does NOT use wheels and axles? **(1)**

(a) A bicycle  (b) A canoe  (c) A supermarket trolley

## 2 Matching

4 marks

*Match the description in COLUMN A with the correct word in COLUMN B. Write only the LETTER. One word is left over.*

**2.1** **(4)**

| COLUMN A | COLUMN B | Answer |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Something that is burnt to give useful energy | A. Oxygen | 1 = _____ |
| 2. A rod through the middle of a wheel; the wheel turns on it | B. Fuel | 2 = _____ |
| 3. A complete path through which electricity flows | C. Spring | 3 = _____ |
| 4. The gas in the air that a fire needs to keep burning | D. Axle | 4 = _____ |
| | E. Circuit | |

## 3 Short questions

7 marks

**3.1** Write next to each object whether it uses a STRETCHED ELASTIC BAND, a TWISTED ELASTIC BAND or a COMPRESSED SPRING to make it move. **(4)**

| Object | What makes it move |
|---|---|
| **A catapult (catty)** | |
| **A toy aeroplane with a wound-up propeller** | |
| **A click pen** | |
| **A pogo stick** | |

**3.2** Name THREE causes of fires in homes or in the community. **(3)**

## 4 Burning fuels and fire safety

10 marks

**4.1** Your teacher held three fuels in a flame, one at a time, and measured how long each one took to start burning. **(4)**

| Fuel | Time before it started burning (seconds) |
|---|---|
| **Candle (wick and wax)** | 2 |
| **Peanut** | 15 |
| **Small block of wood** | 40 |

a. Which fuel needed the MOST heat (input energy) before it started burning? Give a reason from the table. (2)

b. Name TWO kinds of useful output energy that we get when these fuels burn. (2)

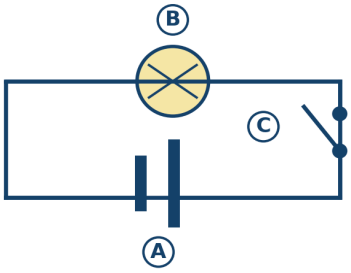
**4.2** Explain how the energy in a plate of food originally comes from the Sun. **(3)**

**4.3** Name THREE things you should do if a fire starts in your home. **(3)**

## 5 Electric circuits

8 marks

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




A: _____ B: _____ C: _____

**5.2** Draw the path that electricity follows from the power station to a kettle in your kitchen, and back to the power station. Use these labels: power station · pylons and power lines · substation · electricity box · wall socket and plug · kettle **(3)**

**5.3** **(2)**

a. Where is the energy stored in a torch? (1)

b. Why does a torch stop shining after a long time if you leave it on? (1)

## 6 Stored energy and moving things

8 marks

**6.1** Write next to each fuel ONE thing that people use it for. **(3)**

| Fuel | What people use it for |
|---|---|
| **Paraffin** | |
| **Petrol** | |
| **Gas** | |

**6.2** Thandi pushes the clown down into a jack-in-the-box and closes the lid. When she opens the lid, the clown jumps out. Explain what happens to the energy. **(2)**

**6.3** Name ONE danger of burning fuel indoors, and ONE way to stay safe. **(2)**

**6.4** Sipho makes wheels for a toy car from bottle tops, with a kebab stick as the axle. The wheels wobble and the car does not roll easily. Suggest ONE way to improve it. **(1)**

**Total** **42 marks**



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