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PRACTICE TEST

Practice test · Term 1
Version 1.6 · 21 October 2026

Natural Sciences and Technology · Grade 5

Life and Living

Term 1 | 8 questions | CAPS-aligned

TOTAL 53 MARKS

NAME AND SURNAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

Instructions

1. This question paper consists of EIGHT 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	3	
4	Plants and photosynthesis	9	
5	Animals and adaptations	9	
6	Food chains	8	
7	Living, non-living and once living	8	
8	Skeletons and life cycles	7	
	Total	**53**	
	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 a living thing?

a A stone b A tree c A chair

A tree is alive, but a stone and a chair are not, so the answer is b. Circle the b.

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

1.1 Which part of a plant carries water from the roots to the leaves? **(1)**

(a) The flower (b) The seed (c) The stem

1.2 An animal that eats both plants and meat is called: **(1)**

(a) An omnivore (b) A herbivore (c) A carnivore

1.3 What do we call the process by which plants make food using sunlight? **(1)**

(a) Evaporation (b) Photosynthesis (c) Condensation

1.4 Which one of these animals lays eggs? **(1)**

(a) A dog (b) A cow (c) A chicken

1.5 What is the correct order in a frog's life cycle? **(1)**

(a) egg → tadpole → frog (b) tadpole → egg → frog (c) frog → tadpole → egg

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. An animal WITH a backbone	A. Ecosystem	1 = _____
2. An animal WITHOUT a backbone	B. Vertebrate	2 = _____
3. The natural place where a plant or animal lives	C. Skeleton	3 = _____
4. Plants and animals that live together in one place and depend on each other	D. Invertebrate	4 = _____
	E. Habitat	

3 Short questions

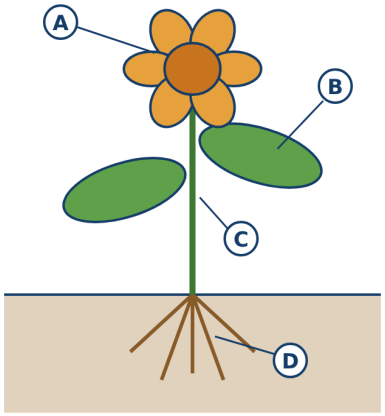
3 marks

3.1 Name THREE ways in which plants are useful to people. **(3)**

4 Plants and photosynthesis

9 marks

4.1 Study the plant below and name the parts A to D. **(4)**



A: _____ B: _____

C: _____ D: _____

4.2 Name the THREE things a plant needs for photosynthesis to take place. **(3)**

_____

_____

_____

4.3 A plant is kept in a dark cupboard for two weeks. Describe what will happen to it and explain why. **(2)**

_____

_____

_____

5 Animals and adaptations

9 marks

5.1 Write next to each animal whether it is a HERBIVORE, a CARNIVORE or an OMNIVORE. **(3)**

Animal	Feeding group
Kudu	
Leopard	
Baboon	

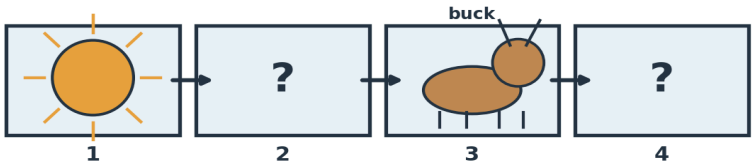
5.2 Name FOUR adaptations that help an animal survive in its habitat, and say each time how it helps. **(4)**

5.3 Explain why an animal's colour is sometimes the same as the place where it lives. **(2)**

6 Food chains

8 marks

6.1 Study the food chain below. Write a suitable example in each empty block. **(2)**



Block 2: _____ Block 4: _____

6.2 Write the correct word next to each role in the food chain. **(2)**

Role	Word
The organism that makes its own food	
The animal that eats other animals	

6.3 What will happen to the rest of the food chain if all the plants die? Explain. **(2)**

6.4 Write a food chain with FOUR living things that live in the sea. Use arrows. **(2)**

7 Living, non-living and once living

8 marks

7.1 Write next to each item whether it is LIVING, NON-LIVING or ONCE LIVING. **(4)**

Item	Living / Non-living / Once living
An arum lily in the garden	
A stone next to the road	
A dry log	
A grasshopper	

7.2 Name THREE things that ALL living things do. **(3)**

7.3 Explain why a wooden chair is ONCE LIVING and not non-living. **(1)**

8 Skeletons and life cycles

7 marks

8.1 Name TWO jobs of a skeleton. **(2)**

8.2 What is the difference between an ENDOSKELETON and an EXOSKELETON? Give an example of each. **(3)**

8.3 Arrange the life cycle of a butterfly. Write 1 to 4. **(2)**

Stage	Number
Pupa	
Egg	
Butterfly	
Caterpillar	

Total **53 marks**



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