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PRACTICE TEST

Practice test · Term 4
Version 1.6 · 21 October 2026

Natural Sciences and Technology · Grade 5

Planet Earth and Beyond

Term 4 | 6 questions | CAPS-aligned

TOTAL 43 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	4	
2	Matching	4	
3	The Earth and its surface	10	
4	Soil, rocks and fossils	10	
5	Investigation: soil and water	9	
6	The Earth and the soil	6	
	Total	43	
	Percentage		%

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1 Multiple choice

4 marks

Choose the correct answer and circle its letter.

PRACTICE EXAMPLE · DO THIS ONE TOGETHER FIRST

What moves around the Earth?

a The Sun b The Moon c Mars

The Moon moves around the Earth, so the answer is b. Circle the b.

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

1.1 Where is there rock under the Earth's surface? **(1)**

(a) Only under mountains (b) Only under dry land (c) Everywhere, even under the sea

1.2 Which sedimentary rock is used to make cement? **(1)**

(a) Granite (b) Limestone (c) Marble

1.3 In which kind of rock are fossils usually found? **(1)**

(a) Igneous rock (b) Sedimentary rock (c) Metamorphic rock

1.4 What is a fossil? **(1)**

(a) A kind of gemstone (b) A small planet (c) The remains of a plant or animal from long ago

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. A large, round body in space that moves around the Sun, such as Mars	A. Orbit	1 = _____
2. When rocks are slowly broken into small pieces by wind, water and heat	B. Moon	2 = _____
3. The path the Earth follows around the Sun	C. Weathering	3 = _____
4. The Earth's main source of light and heat	D. Planet	4 = _____
	E. Sun	

3 The Earth and its surface

10 marks

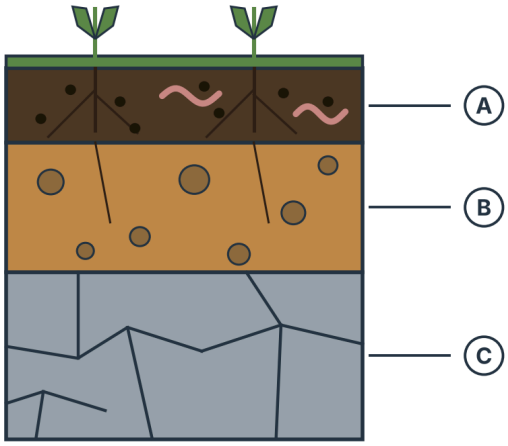
3.1 Draw a diagram to show how the Earth moves around the Sun. Label the Sun and the Earth, and draw an arrow to show the Earth's path. **(3)**

3.2 Write the correct period of time next to each movement. **(2)**

Movement	How long
The Earth turns once on its own axis	
The Earth travels once around the Sun	

3.3 Use your answers in 3.2. About how many times does the Earth spin on its own axis while it travels once around the Sun? Show how you got your answer. **(2)**

3.4 The drawing shows the side of a deep hole dug into the ground. Name the layers A, B and C. **(3)**



A: _____ B: _____ C: _____

4 Soil, rocks and fossils

10 marks

4.1 Name the THREE main types of soil. **(3)**

4.2 Which type of soil is best for growing vegetables? Give a reason. **(2)**

4.3 Explain how SEDIMENTARY rock forms. **(2)**

4.4 Explain how a FOSSIL forms. **(2)**

4.5 Name ONE kind of animal whose fossils have been found in South Africa. **(1)**

5 Investigation: soil and water

9 marks

Grade 5 learners tested how much water three soils (A, B and C) let through. They put the same amount of each soil (one cup) into three funnels lined with cloth, and poured 200 mℓ of water onto each soil. After 10 minutes they measured how much water had dripped through into the jar under each funnel.

Soil	Water that dripped through (mℓ)
A	150
B	40
C	90

5.1 **(3)**

a. What did they CHANGE in this investigation? _____

b. Name ONE thing they kept the SAME to make it a fair test.

_____

c. What did they MEASURE? _____

5.2 Draw a BAR GRAPH of the results. Label both axes. **(2)**

5.3 Which soil held (absorbed) the MOST water? Explain how you know. **(2)**

5.4 Soil B has very fine grains that stick together when they are wet. Which kind of soil is it most likely to be? Give a reason. **(2)**

6 The Earth and the soil

6 marks

6.1 What do we call the Earth's outer layer? **(1)**

6.2 Soil supports life on Earth. Name TWO OTHER things that support life on Earth. **(2)**

6.3 Soil is made mostly of small grains of rock. Name THREE OTHER things that are found in soil. **(3)**

Total **43 marks**



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