

# NWEA Science Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. What is the primary role of chlorophyll in plants?**
  - A. To absorb water for photosynthesis**
  - B. To absorb light energy for photosynthesis**
  - C. To store energy for respiration**
  - D. To synthesize proteins**
  
- 2. What is a common effect of habitat destruction?**
  - A. Increased biodiversity**
  - B. Higher rates of natural selection**
  - C. Loss of species and ecosystem imbalance**
  - D. Improved habitat connectivity**
  
- 3. Which process occurs during cellular respiration?**
  - A. Oxygen is created from glucose**
  - B. Glucose is converted into energy**
  - C. Carbon dioxide is absorbed by plants**
  - D. Sugars are stored for future use**
  
- 4. What type of organism consumes both plants and animals?**
  - A. Herbivore**
  - B. Carnivore**
  - C. Omnivore**
  - D. Detritivore**
  
- 5. What is homeostasis?**
  - A. The process of cellular respiration**
  - B. The ability to reproduce**
  - C. The ability to maintain a stable internal environment**
  - D. The process of evolution**
  
- 6. Which organisms are known as primary consumers in a food web?**
  - A. Herbivores**
  - B. Carnivores**
  - C. Detritivores**
  - D. Producers**

- 7. What does the term 'push' refer to in physical science?**
- A. A method of cooling**
  - B. Applying force to move something forward**
  - C. Pulling something towards oneself**
  - D. Stopping an object**
- 8. What is the dominant gas in Earth's atmosphere?**
- A. Oxygen**
  - B. Carbon Dioxide**
  - C. Nitrogen**
  - D. Helium**
- 9. What are trophic levels in ecology?**
- A. The different types of habitats**
  - B. The various adaptations of organisms**
  - C. The different stages in a food chain, representing energy transfer**
  - D. The categories of species in an ecosystem**
- 10. Which term is used for the act of speeding up a process?**
- A. Decelerate**
  - B. Accelerate**
  - C. Modulate**
  - D. Enhance**

## Answers

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1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. C
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is the primary role of chlorophyll in plants?

- A. To absorb water for photosynthesis
- B. To absorb light energy for photosynthesis**
- C. To store energy for respiration
- D. To synthesize proteins

The primary role of chlorophyll in plants is to absorb light energy for photosynthesis. Chlorophyll is a green pigment found in the chloroplasts of plant cells, and it is crucial for the process of photosynthesis, where plants convert light energy from the sun into chemical energy in the form of glucose. This process not only provides energy for the plant but also produces oxygen as a byproduct, which is essential for the survival of many organisms on Earth. Without chlorophyll, plants would be unable to harness sunlight effectively, thereby hindering their ability to produce food and oxygen.

## 2. What is a common effect of habitat destruction?

- A. Increased biodiversity
- B. Higher rates of natural selection
- C. Loss of species and ecosystem imbalance**
- D. Improved habitat connectivity

Habitat destruction significantly alters ecosystems, leading to a loss of species and an imbalance within ecosystems. When habitats are destroyed—such as forests, wetlands, or coral reefs—many organisms that depend on those specific environments for food, shelter, and breeding opportunities are displaced or perish. This results in a decline in biodiversity, as species that cannot adapt or relocate may go extinct. Moreover, the disruption of species interactions can lead to imbalances. For example, if a predator is lost due to habitat destruction, this can result in an overpopulation of herbivores, which may further degrade the habitat and disrupt the food web. Similarly, the loss of plant species can affect pollinators and other animals that rely on those plants for survival. In contrast, increased biodiversity, higher rates of natural selection, and improved habitat connectivity are generally not associated with habitat destruction. Instead, these outcomes are often linked to healthy, undisturbed ecosystems. Thus, the impact of habitat destruction is primarily observed through the loss of species and the resulting ecological imbalances.

### 3. Which process occurs during cellular respiration?

- A. Oxygen is created from glucose
- B. Glucose is converted into energy**
- C. Carbon dioxide is absorbed by plants
- D. Sugars are stored for future use

During cellular respiration, glucose is converted into energy, which is a fundamental process that occurs in the cells of organisms. This process involves breaking down glucose molecules to release energy that is stored in the form of ATP (adenosine triphosphate), which is vital for cellular activities. Cellular respiration primarily occurs in three main stages: glycolysis, the Krebs cycle, and the electron transport chain. In glycolysis, glucose is broken down into pyruvate, releasing a small amount of energy. The pyruvate then enters the Krebs cycle, where it undergoes further transformation, releasing carbon dioxide and generating high-energy carriers. Finally, the electron transport chain uses these carriers to produce a large amount of ATP by utilizing oxygen to accept electrons. This energy conversion is essential for sustaining life processes, enabling cells to perform functions necessary for growth, reproduction, and maintenance.

### 4. What type of organism consumes both plants and animals?

- A. Herbivore
- B. Carnivore
- C. Omnivore**
- D. Detritivore

Omnivores are organisms that have a versatile diet comprising both plant and animal matter. This adaptation enables them to exploit a wider range of food sources compared to herbivores, which only eat plants, and carnivores, which are exclusively meat-eaters. For instance, humans, bears, and many birds are classified as omnivores. Their ability to consume various types of organic material allows them to thrive in diverse environments and adapt to different ecological niches. Herbivores primarily focus on plant-based food, while carnivores rely solely on other animals for their nutritional needs. Detritivores break down organic matter from dead organisms, contributing to nutrient cycling but do not actively consume living plants or animals in the way omnivores do.

### 5. What is homeostasis?

- A. The process of cellular respiration
- B. The ability to reproduce
- C. The ability to maintain a stable internal environment**
- D. The process of evolution

Homeostasis refers to the physiological processes that organisms use to maintain a stable internal environment despite external changes. This includes regulation of factors such as temperature, pH, hydration, and electrolyte balance. For example, humans maintain a core body temperature of approximately 98.6°F (37°C) through various mechanisms like sweating or shivering, which help to either release or conserve heat. The concept of homeostasis is fundamental to biology because it is essential for the survival and functioning of living organisms. A stable internal environment allows cells to operate effectively, ensuring proper function and overall health. When homeostasis is disrupted, it can lead to various health issues or even death, emphasizing its importance in biological systems.

**6. Which organisms are known as primary consumers in a food web?**

- A. Herbivores**
- B. Carnivores**
- C. Detritivores**
- D. Producers**

Primary consumers are organisms that primarily feed on producers, which are the autotrophs in an ecosystem, such as plants and algae. In a typical food web, primary consumers are herbivores, as they consume plant material to obtain energy. These organisms play a crucial role in transferring energy from the primary producers to higher levels in the food web. Herbivores can include animals such as deer, rabbits, and certain insect species that rely on plants for their sustenance. This relationship underlines the importance of primary consumers in maintaining the balance of ecosystems, as they help control plant populations and provide energy for secondary consumers, which are the carnivores. Predators, such as carnivores, and detritivores, which feed on decomposing organic matter, occupy different roles in the food web and do not serve as primary consumers. Producers, on the other hand, are the foundation of the food web, converting solar energy into chemical energy through photosynthesis, and are not classified as consumers at all. Thus, the designation of primary consumers is clearly aligned with herbivores in an ecosystem.

**7. What does the term 'push' refer to in physical science?**

- A. A method of cooling**
- B. Applying force to move something forward**
- C. Pulling something towards oneself**
- D. Stopping an object**

In physical science, the term 'push' refers specifically to applying a force that moves an object away from the source of the force, effectively moving it forward. This concept aligns with Newton's laws of motion, where an external force causes an object to accelerate in the direction of that force. When a person pushes an object, they exert a force that works against any opposing forces, such as friction or resistance. This action is essential in understanding basic mechanics and motion, as it illustrates how forces can lead to changes in velocity and position. Grasping this concept helps students comprehend more complex interactions in dynamics and the principles governing object movement.

## 8. What is the dominant gas in Earth's atmosphere?

- A. Oxygen
- B. Carbon Dioxide
- C. Nitrogen**
- D. Helium

The dominant gas in Earth's atmosphere is nitrogen, which makes up about 78% of the atmosphere by volume. This abundance is significant as nitrogen plays a crucial role in several biological and chemical processes on Earth. For example, it is a key component of amino acids, proteins, and nucleic acids, which are fundamental to life. Additionally, nitrogen acts as a stabilizing agent in the atmosphere, diluting the concentration of oxygen and preventing rapid combustion. Oxygen, while essential for respiration in many organisms, makes up only about 21% of the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, though important for photosynthesis and as a greenhouse gas, occurs in much smaller quantities, roughly 0.04%. Helium is present in trace amounts and is not involved in the life processes on Earth. Understanding the composition of the atmosphere helps in grasping various environmental and biological concepts.

## 9. What are trophic levels in ecology?

- A. The different types of habitats
- B. The various adaptations of organisms
- C. The different stages in a food chain, representing energy transfer**
- D. The categories of species in an ecosystem

Trophic levels are a foundational concept in ecology that refer to the different stages in a food chain. Each trophic level represents a specific position of organisms in a sequence of energy transfer. At the base are primary producers, typically plants and photosynthetic organisms, that convert sunlight into usable energy. The next level consists of primary consumers, or herbivores, that feed on these producers. Following them are secondary consumers, or carnivores, which eat herbivores, and this pattern continues up the chain with tertiary consumers and beyond. Understanding trophic levels is essential because they help illustrate how energy flows through an ecosystem. Each transfer of energy between levels involves a significant loss of energy, usually as heat, making the ecosystem's structure and function reliant on these interactions. This concept is critical when studying ecosystems, as it provides insight into population dynamics, species interactions, and the overall health of an environment.

**10. Which term is used for the act of speeding up a process?**

- A. Decelerate**
- B. Accelerate**
- C. Modulate**
- D. Enhance**

The term that refers to the act of speeding up a process is "accelerate." In scientific terms, acceleration is a change in the velocity of an object, which can refer to increasing speed in various contexts, such as physical motion or the progression of a process in chemistry or other fields. In many instances, acceleration implies an increase in the rate of occurrence or change, which aligns directly with the idea of speeding something up. This concept can be applied to different scenarios, including increasing reaction rates in chemical processes or boosting growth rates in biological contexts. While terms like "decelerate" indicate a reduction in speed and "modulate" refers to adjusting or varying a process, "enhance" generally means to improve the quality or effectiveness of something but does not necessarily imply speeding it up specifically. Therefore, "accelerate" is the most appropriate term when describing the action of increasing the speed of a process.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://nweasciencemap.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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