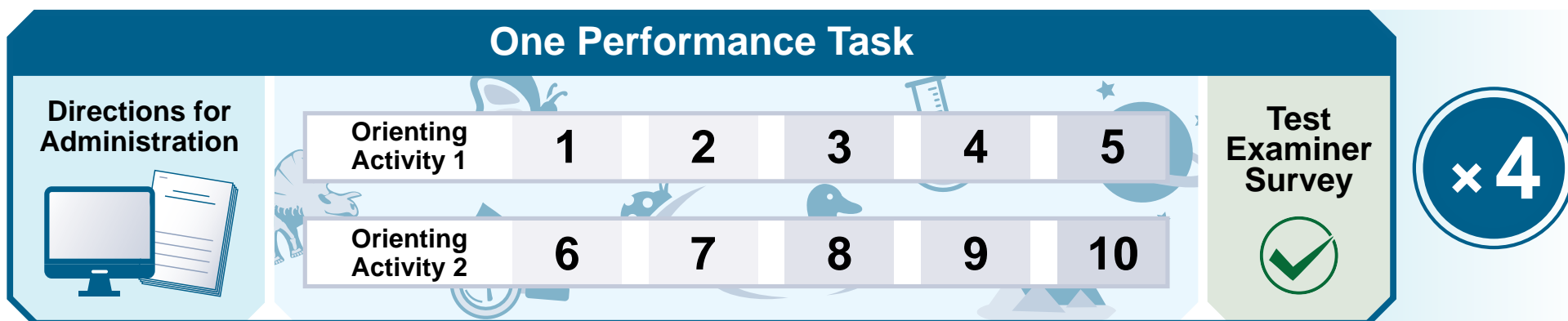


# Organization of the California Alternate Assessment for Science

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science is an untimed, computer-based assessment administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose individualized education program indicates the use of an alternate assessment. The assessment is aligned with alternate achievement standards—called the Science Core Content Connectors—which are linked to the performance expectations from the California Next Generation Science Standards. Eligible students take the assessment in grades five and eight and once in high school (grade ten, eleven, or twelve).

This assessment consists of four separate, embedded performance tasks (PTs). Each PT contains ten test questions specific to one of the three science domains, which are Earth and Space Sciences, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences. One PT consists of two sections, each of which includes an orienting activity followed by five questions at three levels of increasing complexity.

Administer each of the four performance tasks at any time throughout the year!



Test examiners administer the four embedded PTs in any order, at any time, throughout the year. Each PT is administered to the student in a one-on-one setting by a trained test examiner shortly after the student has received instruction on the related science content. The annual *Administration Planning Guide* and *Preparing for Administration* documents provide guidance on embedding the assessment into the instructional calendar. The form-specific *Directions for Administration* document for each of the four PTs contains the administration scripts and may include necessary graphics. A test examiner survey at the end of each PT asks about the student's responsiveness during the assessment and will be used to improve the testing process in the future.

## Resources

- California Department of Education CAA for Science web page: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caascience.asp>
- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress CAAs General Information web page: <https://www.caaspp.org/administration/about/caa/index.html>

