

APPENDIX B: ITEM TYPES

Item and response types

As students engage with the Smarter Balanced assessments, they will be asked test questions that require them to respond in several ways, some of which may be new to students.

Smarter Balanced has produced several resources that teachers and students can use to get ready for the test, including a Practice Test and a Training Test. It is **highly recommended** that **ALL** students access the Training Test Web site before taking the test. Doing so will provide students an opportunity to view and practice each of the item types.

The Practice Tests and Training Tests are available on the CAASPP Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://caaspp.org/practice-and-training/>.

Summary of item types and how to provide responses

Table 15 lists the different item types and briefly describes each one.



Not all assessments will necessarily include all item types.

Table 15: Item and Scoring Types

Content Area	Type of Item	Brief Description of How to Respond
English language arts/literacy (ELA) and Mathematics	Multiple Choice, single correct response	Four-option multiple choice
	Multiple Choice, multiple correct responses	Multiple-option selected response
	Matching Tables (with a variation True/False or Yes/No)	Table format, click entry
	Short text	Keyboard alphanumeric entry
Mathematics Only	Drag-and-Drop	Drag-and-drop single or multiple elements
	Hot Spot	Select text
	Table Fill In	Table format, click entry
	Graphing	Plot points and/or draw lines
	Equation/Numeric	Enter equation or numeric response
ELA Only	Two-part multiple choice, with evidence-based response	Two part, multiple choice
	Hot Text	Select and order text
	Essay	Keyboard alphanumeric entry

Table 16 catalogues each specific item type and briefly describes the student actions necessary to provide a response.

Table 16: Item Types in the Practice/Training Test

All Roles

Content Area	Item Type	How Student Responds	Practice Test Examples	Training Test Examples
ELA and Math	Multiple choice, single correct response (radio buttons)	Select the radio button corresponding to an option. To deselect an option, select a different radio button. Select only one option.	Grade (G) 3 ELA, Question 4 G3 Math, Question 10 G4 ELA, Question 2 G4 Math, Question 2 G5 ELA, Question 2 G5 Math, Question 1 G6 ELA, Question 1 G6 Math, Question 1 G7 ELA, Question 2 G7 Math, Question 3 G8 ELA, Question 2 G8 Math, Question 4 G11 ELA, Question 1 G11 Math, Question 24	G3–5 ELA, Question 2, Part A G3–5 Math, Question 1 G6–8, ELA, Question 4 G6–8 Math, Question 7 G11 ELA, Question 4
ELA and Math	Multiple choice, single correct response (highlight)	Highlight an option by selecting an option. To deselect an option, select a different option. Select only one option.	G3 ELA, Question 10 G4 ELA, Question 28 G5 ELA, Question 10 G6 ELA, Question 11 G8 ELA, Question 1 G11 ELA, Question 2 G11 Math, Question 14, Part B	None available
ELA and Math	Multiple choice, multiple correct responses (checkboxes)	Mark a checkbox corresponding to an option. To deselect an option, select the checkbox that is already marked. Mark one or more options.	G3 ELA, Question 6 G3 Math, Question 7 G4 ELA, Question 3 G4 Math, Question 19 G5 ELA, Question 19 G5 Math, Question 26 G6 ELA, Question 7 G6 Math, Question 7 G7 ELA, Question 7 G7 Math, Question 7 G8 ELA, Question 7 G8 Math, Question 16 G11 ELA, Question 14 G11 Math, Question 6	G3–5 ELA, Question 2, Part B G3–5 Math, Question 6 G6–8 Math, Question 4 G11 Math, Question 6

Content Area	Item Type	How Student Responds	Practice Test Examples	Training Test Examples
ELA and Math	Multiple choice, multiple correct responses (highlight)	<p>Highlight an option by selecting it.</p> <p>To deselect an option, select the previously highlighted option.</p> <p>Select one or more options.</p>	<p>G3 ELA, Question 1</p> <p>G3 Math, Question 4</p> <p>G4 ELA, Question 20 (Highlight sentences in a paragraph)</p> <p>G4 Math, Question 10</p> <p>G5 ELA, Question 17</p> <p>G6 ELA, Question 21</p> <p>G7 ELA, Question 1</p> <p>G7 Math, Question 21 Part A</p> <p>G8 ELA, Question 3</p> <p>G11 ELA, Question 10</p> <p>G11 Math, Question 4</p>	None available
ELA and Math	Matching Tables (variation using True/False or Yes/No format)	<p>Select a checkbox corresponding to an option in a table cell.</p> <p>To deselect an option, select a checkbox that is already marked.</p>	<p>G3 ELA, Question 29</p> <p>G3 Math, Question 2</p> <p>G4 Math, Question 4</p> <p>G5 ELA, Question 22</p> <p>G5 Math, Question 22</p> <p>G6 Math, Question 3</p> <p>G7 ELA, Question 26</p> <p>G7 Math, Question 18</p> <p>G8 Math, Question 2</p> <p>G11 ELA, Question 30</p> <p>G11 Math, Question 3</p>	<p>G3-5 ELA, Question 6</p> <p>G3-5 Math, Question 4</p> <p>G6-8 ELA, Question 5</p> <p>G6-8 Math, Question 6</p> <p>G11 ELA, Question 6</p> <p>G11 Math, Question 3</p>
ELA and Math	Short Text	<p>Respond via keyboard entry into a multiline text box (no text formatting).</p> <p>This item type offers the ability to edit previously entered text.</p>	<p>G3 ELA, Question 18</p> <p>G4 ELA, Question 17</p> <p>G5 ELA, Question 16</p> <p>G6 ELA, Question 4</p> <p>G7 ELA, Question 2</p> <p>G8 ELA, Question 4</p> <p>G8 Math, Question 20</p> <p>G11 ELA, Question 12</p> <p>G11 Math, Question 18</p>	<p>G3-5 ELA, Question 1</p> <p>G3-5 Math, Question 8</p> <p>G6-8 ELA, Question 1</p> <p>G11 ELA, Question 1</p> <p>G11 Math, Question 2</p>
Math Only	Drag and Drop (select and move objects)	<p>Select and drag an object to the appropriate location in the Question response area.</p>	<p>G3 Math, Question 9</p> <p>G4 Math, Question 7</p> <p>G5 Math, Question 21</p> <p>G6 Math, Question 4 Part B</p> <p>G7 Math, Question 8</p> <p>G8 Math, Question 1</p> <p>G11 Math, Question 1</p>	<p>G3-5 Math, Question 3</p> <p>G6-8 Math, Question 5</p> <p>G11 Math, Question 1</p>

All Roles

Content Area	Item Type	How Student Responds	Practice Test Examples	Training Test Examples
Math Only	Hot Spot	Select targeted areas in the response area.	G3 Math, Question 22 G4 Math, Question 24 G5 Math, Question 16 G6 Math, Question 4 Part A G7 Math, Question 13 G8 Math, Question 21 G11 Math, Question 10	G3–5 Math, Question 5 G6–8 Math, Question 8 G11 Math, Question 5
Math Only	Table Fill In	Respond via keyboard entry into table cells or drag/drop objects into table cells.	G4 Math, Question 17 G6 Math, Question 27 G8 Math, Question 28 G11 Math, Question 23	G3–5 Math, Question 9 G6–8 Math, Question 3 G11 Math, Question 7
Math Only	Graphing	Select the [Add Point] icon and then select the Question response area to create a new point. To remove the point, select the [Delete] icon and then select the point to be deleted. <i>or</i> Select the [Connect Line] icon and then select the Question response area where the line is to start. Select and drag to the area where the line is to end. To remove the line, select the [Delete] icon and then select the line to be deleted.	G3 Math, Question 6 G6 Math, Question 6 G8 Math, Question 5 G11 Math, Question 7	G3–5 Math, Question 7 G6–8 Math, Question 1 G11 Math, Question 8
Math Only	Equation/ Numeric	Select buttons representing numbers and mathematic symbols to create a numeric response or equation.	G3 Math, Question 3 G4 Math, Question 1 G5 Math, Question 14 G6 Math, Question 2 G7 Math, Question 1 G8 Math, Question 3 G11 Math, Question 2	G3–5 Math, Question 2 G6–8 Math, Question 2 G11 Math, Question 4

Content Area	Item Type	How Student Responds	Practice Test Examples	Training Test Examples
ELA Only	Two-part multiple choice, with evidence responses	Questions are multiple-choice (radio buttons) or multiple-choice (highlight).	G3 ELA, Question 13 G4 ELA, Question 10 G7 ELA, Question 5 G11 ELA, Question 5	G3–5 ELA, Question 2 G6–8 ELA, Question 3 G11 ELA, Question 2
ELA Only	Hot Text (select and move text)	Select text and then select and drag text to a new area.	G3 ELA, Question 16 G11 ELA, Question 16	None available
ELA Only	Listening Tasks	Student must start or pause an audio clip by selecting buttons.	G3 ELA, Question 22 G4 ELA, Question 22 G5 ELA, Question 25 G6 ELA, Question 22 G7 ELA, Question 25 G8 ELA, Question 22 G11 ELA, Question 22	G3-5 ELA, Question 5 G6-8 ELA, Question 4 G11 ELA, Question 5
ELA Only	Essay	Respond via keyboard entry using text formatting buttons. Test-taker can edit previously entered text.	ELA Performance Tasks	None available

Technical skills to access embedded resources

To access some of the embedded resources (such as strikethrough, highlighter, American Sign Language videos, and text-to-speech) that are available to help work through these item types, students may need to access the **context menu with their right mouse button**. Please note the method to access the menu is dependent on the student’s device type. Devices and methods are shown in Table 17.

Table 17: Context Menu for Selecting with the Right Mouse Button

Device Type	Method to Access Context Menu with the Right Mouse Button
Windows-based desktop or laptop (two-button mouse)	Select with the right mouse button.
Mac OS-based desktop or laptop (one-button mouse)	Hold down the [Ctrl] key on keyboard and then select with the mouse button.
iPad tablet (touchscreen)	Tap on the menu in the upper-left corner of the secure browser application.
Android-based tablet (touchscreen)	Tap on the menu in the upper-left corner of the secure browser application.
Chromebook (trackpad)	Hold down the [Alt] key on the keyboard and tap the trackpad.