



SBAC Practice Tasks Introduction

We have received requests for SBAC versions of the PEI ELA performance tasks to use for practice in preparing for the SBAC. In response to this request, we have edited several of our original ELA performance tasks to align with the format of the SBAC more closely. These SBAC practice tasks also provide specific instructions for administration and SBAC scoring rubrics.

To help clarify the two versions of the PEI performance tasks, we provide the following information:

The original PEI performance tasks integrate ELA CC standards, specifically, writing and research skills, and are generally modeled after the SBAC (two work sessions, a variety of resource materials, untimed). **However, the PEI performance tasks also include opportunities for field investigations, providing students with learning experiences that take place in our local environment.** The PEI performance tasks available on this website are designed to build background knowledge around key environmental issues and to teach ways to preserve and protect the state and local environment. **The original PEI performance tasks are intended for instruction and not summative assessment.**

We have adapted several the PEI performance tasks as standalone practice assessments for teachers who may want additional ways for students to prepare for the SBAC spring assessments. The following SBAC practice tasks can be found in the corresponding grade band section:

- Vegetable Gardens (3)
- Clean Water Healthy Fish (3/4)
- Forest Benefits (4/5)
- Stormwater Pollution (4/5)
- Stormwater Engineers (5/6)
- Rain Gardens (5/6)
- Marine Debris (6/7)
- Water Quality Monitoring (6/7/8)
- Invasive Plants (6/7)
- Earth Day (9/10)

The student practice tasks are labeled “SBAC-Student.” The student versions include a Part 1 (Research & Questions) and a Part 2 (Essay Writing). **There are no outdoor investigations included in the SBAC practice tasks.**

Teachers should decide whether to include the note taking tool and/or the essay organizer when using these practice tasks for SBAC practice. Note taking tools and essay organizers are not available when students take the SBAC; however, they do provide scaffolding for students who may need additional support earlier in the school year.

Each SBAC practice task also has a set of teacher directions, labeled “SBAC-Teacher,” specific to the task and modeled after the SBAC directions. The teacher version also includes scoring notes anchored by student work samples. Teachers are encouraged to use these resources as instructional tools, helping students to understand high quality responses, and learning ways to improve their own work.

Over time, PEI will adapt additional performance tasks for SBAC practice; however, PEI must have student work samples to create scoring notes. Teachers should consider sharing student work samples for performance tasks where scoring notes are currently not available. Please contact PEI if you are interested in helping us with this work.