**Earth/Environmental Science NC Final Exam Testing Specifications**

Revised Fall 2016 by NCDPI

Here is the link to the .PDF where this information originated.

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/common-exams/specifications/hsscispecs1617.pdf>

Table 1: Weight Distributions for Earth/Environmental Science NCFE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Domain** | **EE Science Standard** | **% of NCFE** |
| Earth in the Universe | EEn.1.1 | 11% -- 16% |
| Earth Systems, Structures, Processes | EEn.2.1 | 11% -- 17% |
| EEn.2.2 | 11% -- 17 % |
| EEn.2.3 | 4% -- 10% |
| EEn.2.4 | 7% -- 12% |
| EEn.2.5 | 4% -- 10% |
| EEn.2.6 | 7% -- 10% |
| EEn.2.7 | 14% -- 19% |
| EEn.2.8 | 9% -- 14% |
|  | **Total** | 100% |

NOTE: Members of the Test Development section of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) invited teachers to collaborate and develop recommendations for a prioritization of the standards indicating the relative importance of each standard, the anticipated instructional time, and the appropriateness of the standard for multiple-choice and constructed response item formats.

Table 2: Number of Items by Clarifying Objective – Earth/Environmental Science NCFE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UNIFYING CONCEPT:** | **EE Science Objective** | **EE Science Objective Description** | **Number of Items per Objective\*** |
| Earth in the Universe | EEn.1.1.1 | Earth’s motion: precession, nutation, barycenter, path about galaxy | 1 |
| EEn.1.1.2 | Earth’s rotation & revolution affect shape, seasons, tides | 2 |
| EEn.1.1.3 | Sun’s energy and energy transfer to Earth through radiation | 1 |
| EEn.1.1.4 | Solar energy and existence of life on Earth | 1 |
| Earth Systems, Structures, Processes | EEn.2.1.1 | Impact to lithosphere due to: rock cycle, plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes | 3 |
| EEn.2.1.2 | Predict location volcanoes, earthquakes, faults based on a variety of maps | -- |
| EEn.2.1.3 | Earth’s surface affected by weathering, erosion, soil formation | 2 |
| EEn.2.1.4 | Probability & preparation for geohazards based on data: landslides, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanoes | -- |
| EEn.2.2.1 | Consequences of human activities on the lithosphere (past & present): mining, deforestation, agriculture, overgrazing, urbanization, land use. | 3 |
| EEn.2.2.2 | Energy sources: peat, coal, oil. Natural gas, nuclear fission, wood | 2 |
| EEn.2.3.1 | Water as an energy agent: currents & heat transfer | 1 |
| EEn.2.3.2 | Interaction between groundwater & surface water | 3 |
| EEn.2.4.1 | Human influences on freshwater availability | 2 |
| EEn.2.4.2 | Human influences on water quality: river basins, wetlands, tidal environments | 1 |
| EEn.2.5.1 | Structure & composition of atmosphere | 2 |
| EEn.2.5.2 | Formation of air masses and effect on weather systems | 1 |
| EEn.2.5.3 | Interaction of air masses and formation of cyclonic storms | -- |
| EEn.2.5.4 | Predict weather using weather maps and data: surface, upper atmospheric winds, satellite imagery | -- |
| EEn.2.5.5 | Human activities and effect on air quality | 1 |
| EEn.2.6.1 | Differentiate between weather & climate | -- |
| EEn.2.6.2 | Changes in global climate due to natural causes | 1 |
| EEn.2.6.3 | Impact to global climate from human activities: burning hydrocarbons, greenhouse effect, deforestation | 2 |
| EEn.2.6.4 | Changes to Earth’s systems due to climate change: temperature change, pH change in ocean, sea level change | 1 |
| EEn.2.7.1 | Interaction of biotic and abiotic factors to form various biomes | 1 |
| EEn.2.7.2 | Importance of biodiversity to the biosphere | 2 |
| EEn.2.7.3 | Impact of human activities to biosphere | 3 |
| EEn.2.8.1 | Alternative energy sources for use in NC | 1 |
| EEn.2.8.2 | Critique of conventional and sustainable agriculture and aquaculture practices in terms of environmental impact | 1 |
| EEn.2.8.3 | Effects of uncontrolled population growth on Earth’s resources | 1 |
| EEn.2.8.4 | Evaluate the concept of “reduce, reuse, recycle” in terms of impact on natural resources | 1 |

\* Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite standard, may be tested within the context of another standard, or may be included as an embedded field test item.