

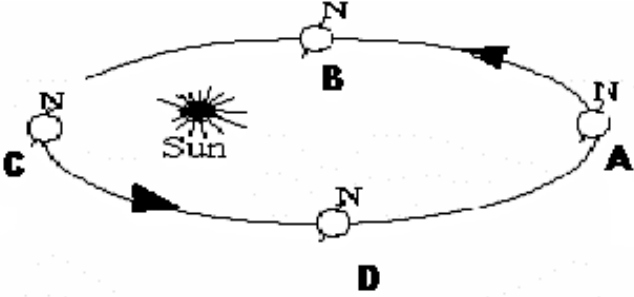
General Guidelines	Not Yet	Better
<p style="text-align: center;">1 Standard-stem alignment</p>	<p>L.EV.05.12 Describe the physical characteristics (traits) of organisms that help them survive in their environment.</p> <p>Elephants in the wild have few predators. Predators that feed on large animals usually have sharp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. scales. b. claws. c. horns. d. quills. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">2 Target appropriate depth of knowledge</p>	<p>Knowledge Level Example</p> <p>What signal did Paul Revere ask his friend to use to let him know that the British were coming by land or sea?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. blowing a horn b. a lantern in the belfry tower c. a shout and a whistle d. firing a shotgun into the air 	<p>Application Level Example</p> <p>What did a second lamp in the belfry tower indicate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The British were on foot. b. Paul Revere needed to hurry home. c. The British were marching to Lexington. d. The British were arriving by sea.
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Use clear, concise language</p>	<p>“The presence and association of the male seems to have profound effects on female physiology in domestic animals. Research has shown that in cattle, the presence of a bull has the following effect: “</p>	<p>Research has shown that the presence of a bull has which of the following effects on cows?</p> <p>17 words vs. 30</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Use correct grammar</p>	<p>During the XYZ Affair, French agents demanded a...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A. bribe. – B. more land. – C. new rights. – D. more money. 	<p>During the XYZ Affair, French agents demanded...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A. a bribe. – B. more land. – C. new rights. – D. more money.

<p style="text-align: center;">7 Avoid generalizations</p>	<p>Why are simply written items better?</p> <p>A. They allow more students to understand what is being asked.</p> <p>B. They are easier for every scorer to score.</p> <p>C. They prevent all forms of cheating.</p> <p>D. They reduce none of the time spent on testing.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">8 Avoid “tricky” items</p>	<p>Who discovered the cotton gin?</p> <p>A. Catherine Greene</p> <p>B. Leonardo Da Vinci</p> <p>C. Eli Whitney</p> <p>D. None of these*</p> <p>Why is this tricky?</p>	<p>Who invented the cotton gin?</p> <p>A. Catherine Greene</p> <p>B. Leonardo Da Vinci</p> <p>C. Eli Whitney</p> <p>D. None of these*</p> <p>Why is this tricky?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10 Avoid using synonyms</p>	<p>Miguel surveyed his classmates to learn the number of different states each one had visited outside of Michigan. His results are shown in the line plot below.</p> <p>Other States Visited</p> <p>What percent of the students Miguel polled had visited more than 5 states outside of Michigan?</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">13 Avoid unnecessary</p>	<p>What is (are) the capital(s) of Bolivia?</p> <p>A. La Paz B. Sucre C. Santa Cruz</p> <p>1) A only</p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;">14 Remember, formatting matters</p>	<p>Carol asked her 4 best friends, Alice, Clark, Ruth, and Matt, if she could measure their heights in inches. She found that Alice was 58 inches tall; Clark was 62 inches tall; Ruth was 60 inches tall; and Matt was 61 inches tall. To the nearest inch, what was the mean height of Carol's 4 friends?</p> <p>Carol measured the heights of each of her 4 best friends. Her results are shown below. Alice: 58 inches Ruth: 60 inches Clark: 62 inches Matt: 61 inches</p> <p>To the nearest inch, what is the mean height of Carol's 4 friends?</p>	<p>Carol asked her 4 best friends if she could measure their heights in inches. She obtained the following heights:</p> <p>Alice: 58 inches Ruth: 60 inches Clark: 62 inches Matt: 61 inches</p> <p>To the nearest inch, what is the mean height of Carol's 4 best friends?</p>
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Stem Guidelines	Not Yet	Better
<p style="text-align: center;">15 Stuff the stem</p>	<p>Matter _____.</p> <p>a. takes up weight. b. takes up space. c. has mass and weight. d. is when you have a problem.</p>	<p>Which of the following BEST defines anything that has mass and takes up space?</p> <p>a. compound b. element c. matter d. substance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">16 Avoid redundancy</p>	<p>Guidelines about item writing allow a greater number of which types of students to be able to answer the questions?</p> <p>A. The students that are visually impaired. B. The students that are hearing impaired. C. The students that are poor readers.</p>	<p>Which type of students will be able to answer a greater number of questions correctly due to these guidelines?</p> <p>a. visually impaired b. hearing impaired c. poor readers</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">17 Avoid the use of negatives</p>	<p>Which of these is a rule about writing the stem for an item that you have not learned today?</p> <p>A. Stems should not be tricky. B. Stems should not use “you”. C. Stems should not be open. D. Stems should not contain clues.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">18 Avoid clues in the stem</p>	<p>Which of the following diseases is caused by a virus?</p> <p>a. Diabetes b. Gallstones c. Hypertension d. Viral Meningitis</p>	

Distractor Guidelines	Not Yet	Better
<p style="text-align: center;">20 Use plausible distractors/foils</p>	<p>Which of the following is a mammal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. bear b. can of soup c. car d. rock 	<p>Which of the following is a mammal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an owl b. bear c. frog d. salmon
<p style="text-align: center;">21 Use equal length and details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Survey the next 20 customers B. Survey all the people living within one-half mile C. Survey a large random sample of people living within the listening range of that particular radio station* D. Survey customers at the shop 	
<p style="text-align: center;">22 Make all distractors equally attractive</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">23 Organize the options</p>	 <p>Summer is represented by what point?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Point C B. Point A C. Point D D. Point B 	

<p>24 Have only one correct answer</p>	<p>What is the square root of 4?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 1b. 2--Correctc. 3d. 8/4—also Correct	
<p>25 Do not use overlapping answers</p>	<p>Due to budget cutbacks, the university library now subscribes to fewer than ____ periodicals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 25,000b. 20,000 *c. 15,000d. 10,000	