New Meridian

The Value of High-Quality Assessment

In all the talk about assessment systems, the complicated and vital area of assessment quality is often misunderstood. Not all tests are created equally and the difference between a high-quality test and a low-quality test can be both dramatic and consequential. Because testing guides teaching, the quality of an assessment directly impacts classroom learning and the entire educational experience across grade levels.

The difference between high-quality and low-quality

Low-Quality Tests. Low-quality testing measures superficial skills. It favors rote memorization—the so-called "drill and kill" approach—over critical thinking. Because testing guides teaching, low-quality testing leads to low-quality learning experiences. Students become trapped in an unengaging, one-dimensional experience that does little to foster a love of learning.

High-Quality Tests. High-quality testing engages students with compelling content that promotes deeper thinking and an interest in learning. These assessments promote quality learning experiences in the classroom and provide insight into how students are progressing toward a mastery of grade-level knowledge and skills. High-quality tests also increase equity by providing a wide range of accommodations and ensuring that tests are free of cultural bias.

The New Meridian Way

At New Meridian, we provide some of the highest-quality testing available in the industry. We believe that assessment should measure the skills that matter most: critical thinking, problem solving and effective communication. To do that, every New Meridian test item is created with quality and equity in mind, vetted for cognitive complexity and grounded in the principles of evidence-centered design. Questions are then subject to rigorous statistical analysis, field tested with real students and subject to hours of review by a diverse group of educators to ensure they are free of bias. New Meridian assessments are also designed to be accessible to all students, including those with disabilities and English language learners.

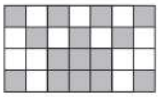
Accessibility and Accommodations Features

Magnification	Color Contrast	Large Print	Calculation Device
Answer Elimination	Text-To-Speech	Written directions in a variety of languages	Word-To-Word Dictionary
Highlighter Tool	Braille		Human Reader

High-quality testing in action

4rd Grade Math

24 A gardener planted 28 bushes in 4 rows. All of the bushes were either rose bushes or lilac bushes. The shaded parts of the model represent the lilac bushes.



Which equation shows how to find the fraction of the bushes that are lilac bushes?

F $\frac{4}{28}+\frac{3}{28}+\frac{3}{28}+\frac{5}{28}=\frac{15}{28}$

G $\frac{3}{28}+\frac{4}{28}+\frac{4}{28}+\frac{2}{28}=\frac{13}{28}$

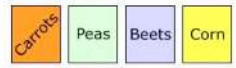
H $\frac{4}{7}+\frac{3}{7}+\frac{3}{7}+\frac{5}{7}=\frac{15}{28}$

J $\frac{15}{28}+\frac{13}{28}=\frac{28}{28}$

Part A

A community garden is divided into 10 equal sections. Carrots are planted in $\frac{5}{10}$ of the garden and peas are planted in $\frac{1}{10}$ of the garden. The rest of the garden is planted with beets and corn. More of the garden is planted with beets than corn. Find the number of sections of carrots, peas, beets, and corn that were planted.

Drag and drop the correct number of vegetable sections to build the garden.



Community Garden

Part B

What fraction of the garden is planted only with beets? Show your work or explain your answer using equations.

Enter your answer and your work or explanation in the space provided.

Low-quality Item

Promotes an unengaging, one-dimensional experience

New Meridian Item

Engages the student in the problem-solving process by requiring them to create a visual model that meets given parameters, and write an equation to support their answer.

High-quality testing in action

Biology

30 In domesticated dogs, hair type is controlled by two different alleles. The allele for wire hair is (H) and the allele for smooth hair is (h).

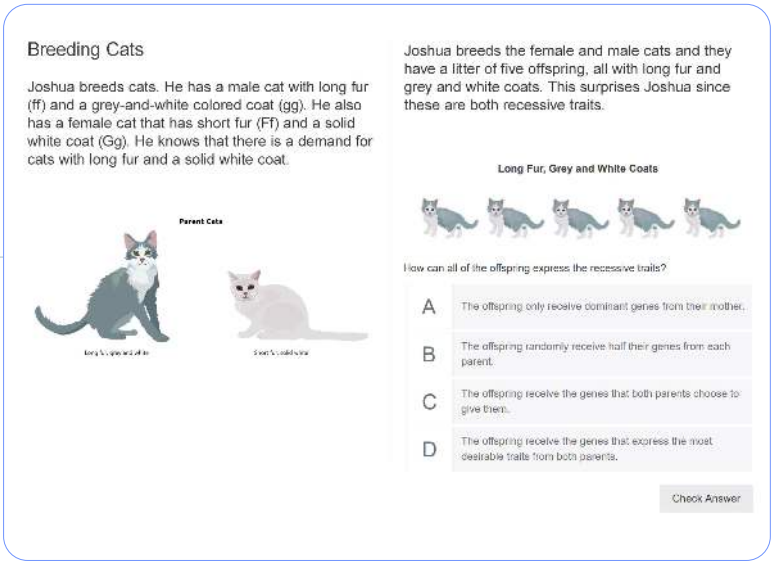
When two heterozygous dogs are crossed, what percentage of the offspring is expected to be homozygous for smooth hair?

F 0%

G 25%

H 50%

J 75%



Low-quality Item

Focuses on rote memorization over deeper level thinking without a problematized scenario

New Meridian Item

Provides a problematized task scenario that is sufficient, engaging, relevant, and accessible to a wide range of students

Want to drive real transformation in assessment? Let's get in touch.

Want to learn more about the value of high-quality assessment? Book an appointment with a New Meridian specialist. Let's talk. Contact us at sales@newmeridiancorp.org

New Meridian

newmeridiancorp.org

@newmeridiancorp

@newmeridiancorp

@newmeridiancorp