Item Type Overview

The list below provides a short summary of each item type used on the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS).

- **Edit Task Inline Choice**
  Students complete a sentence or sentences by selecting from drop-down options such as a word, number, or phrase to fill in the blank(s).
    - The number of drop-down lists is typically between two and four.
    - Keeping the number of drop-downs minimal and toward the end of phrases can help students understand the context.

- **Grid**
  Students place graphical elements like arrows, symbols, or labels into predesignated boxes on a background graphic in a drag-and-drop item OR interact with an image in a hot spot item.
    - Graphical elements in a drag-and-drop item may be either refreshable (used multiple times) or nonrefreshable (used only once).
    - Hot spot item images may be graphs or diagrams.

- **Hot Text**
  Students move statements into an ordered sequence.
    - Statements may be either refreshable (used multiple times) or nonrefreshable (used only once).
    - Some statements in the sequence may be pre-filled.

- **Multiple Choice**
  Students respond to a question by selecting one answer.
    - Standard is four answer choices, one correct response.
    - Distractors (incorrect choices) can be crafted to test misconceptions.
    - Distractors should not be partially correct.
    - "All of the above" and "None of the above" are not used.

- **Multiple Select**
  Students respond to a question by selecting multiple answers.
    - Typically include up to five or six answer choices and at least two correct responses.
    - Useful item type for selecting multiple pieces of evidence that support a claim.
    - Distractors should not be partially correct.
    - "All of the above" and "None of the above" are not used.

- **Short Answer Items**
  Students write a response to a specific task statement.
    - Task statement should be carefully worded to elicit the intended student response.
    - Requires a detailed scoring rubric.

- **Table Input**
  Students enter numerical values in a table.

- **Table Match**
  Students check boxes to make identifications, classifications, or predictions. Students are informed when a row or column may be checked once, more than once, or not at all.
    - Formatted as a table used to identify options (e.g., check the box to identify the independent and dependent variables).
    - Can be useful for classification questions (e.g., classify organisms as producers, consumers, or decomposers).

- **Multi-Part Items**
  Students respond to related items grouped together. Item parts are mutually reinforcing and strengthen alignment to the PE.
    - An item typically contains two parts, part A and part B.
    - Each part may be any of the above item types.
    - Multi-part items are commonly used to ask students to select evidence to support a claim, or to select a reason or explanation for a response in Part A.

Each of the item types described in this document are included in the WCAS Training Tests. The tests can be accessed on the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP) Portal.

Table 1 identifies the grade level and item number for examples of each item type in the WCAS Training Tests.

Table 1: WCAS Training Test Item Types

Item Type	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 11
Edit Task Inline Choice	11A	7	3A, 5, 10B
Grid	2A, 4A	4, 6	2A, 10A
Hot Text	3	1A	~
Multiple Choice	1, 5, 10A, 10B, 11B	2A, 2B, 5B	1B, 2B, 4, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8, 9
Multiple Select	2B, 4B, 7	3	3B
Short Answer	8, 9	8	12
Table Input	~	~	1A
Table Match	6	1B, 5A	11
Multi-Part	2A/B, 4A/B, 10A/B, 11A/B	1A/B, 2A/B, 5A/B	1A/B, 2A/B, 3A/B, 6A/B, 7A/B, 10A/B