



# SCIENCE DISSECTED

## *Preparing for the Science CRT Exam*

The Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (SNRPDP) has created an additional resource to help students succeed on the science portion of the 8th grade Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). SNRPDP developed practice review packets for each of the unifying themes of the Nevada State Science Standards. The packets provide teachers with a review that contains the benchmarks for each standard, item specifications, and sample CRT-style questions.

The review packets will be useful to students as well as classroom teachers because they provide abbreviated sections of the state science standards. The standards are divided into four strands: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Science, and Nature of Science. Within each strand are unifying concepts and benchmarks for each standard. The item specifications provide detailed information about the benchmark and are used as guidelines for test item writers. Each review packet lists the benchmarks for the unifying concepts and includes the item specifications associated with that benchmark. An answer key is also conveniently included with the review packets.

The science portion of the 8th grade CRT is composed of 46 core questions with a combination of multiple choice and constructed response format. Each question is categorized according to its Depth of Knowledge (DOK) level. A majority of the multiple choice questions on the CRT are assessed at DOK level 2 and the constructed response questions are designed to test at DOK level 3. The following matrix provides the number of questions that will be asked from each content strand and the DOK level.

**DOK Level Review**  
**DOK 1 = Recall**  
**DOK 2 = Application**  
**DOK 3 = Advanced Reasoning**

**2010 8th Grade Science CRT Matrix**

	Physical Science	Life Science	Earth Science	Nature of Science	Totals
<b>DOK 1</b>	5	5	5	3	18 (39%)
<b>DOK 2</b>	7	7	6	5	25 (54%)
<b>DOK 3*</b>	1	1	1	0	3 (7%)
<b>Totals</b>	13	13	12	8	46 items (52 points)
	28%	28%	26%	18%	

\*DOK 3 items are all constructed response, each worth 3 points

RPDP is continually developing resources to help teachers promote student achievement. In addition to the CRT reviews, RPDP also has High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) review packets for teachers. To access the middle school or high school review sheets, visit the *Targeted Interventions for Proficiency in Science (TIPS)* Website at [http://rpd.net/sciencetips\\_v3/](http://rpd.net/sciencetips_v3/). The review packets are also available from RPDP's website ([www.rpd.net](http://www.rpd.net)) under the Science tab. Visit the TIPS and RPDP websites often to find newly added teacher resources.