Earth and Space Sciences

Three calibration cases • Official criteria with hypotheses for anonymous local work

JUNE 2026 / Q14 / 1 credit criterion

Link a circulation change to weather

The guide requires both a change in the polar jet stream pattern and a corresponding weather change.

Test this possibility. A student may describe the map correctly but stop before explaining the weather consequence.

Ask: Trace the air movement toward the region. How does that change local conditions?

Exam task Official scoring criterion · PDF p. 5

JUNE 2026 / Q30 / 1 credit criterion

Track two Earth systems

The point requires two systems and two accurate descriptions of urbanization’s effect on the water cycle.

Test this possibility. A repeated term such as runoff may hide that only one system or one effect has been addressed.

Ask: Where did the water go? Which second system gained or lost water, and by what process?

Exam task Official scoring criterion · PDF p. 7

JUNE 2026 / Q46 / 1 credit criterion

Connect transit duration to a model

The guide specifies an acceptable duration range for each star and requires an explanatory relationship. It distinguishes the star 16B from the planet 16b.

Test this possibility. A reversal may be a labeling or graph-reading issue rather than a misconception about orbital motion.

Ask: Point to each dip and read its duration. Which object is crossing which disk?

Exam task Official scoring criterion · PDF p. 9

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Constructed practice responses • Read independently, then compare with the facilitator interpretation.

ESS-6 / Make a watershed decision

Two sites are compared under the same modeled storm. Site A sends 60% of rain quickly to a stream and peaks at 18 m³/s. Site B sends 35% quickly and peaks at 10 m³/s. Recommend a change to reduce A's peak, explain the mechanism, and identify one limitation.

Focal request

For the modeled storm, explain how a permeable surface could change the pathway and peak flow at Site A.

Response A

It will fix flooding because the ground is better.

Response B

More water could infiltrate or be held temporarily instead of reaching the stream immediately. Slower delivery could lower the discharge peak under this storm.

What the pair distinguishes

A predicts an outcome without a pathway and overstates certainty. B links a surface change to a process and a measurable outcome. A local student who sketches this accurately may need support expressing the link in words.

A fresh transfer check

If the soil were already saturated, which link in the explanation would weaken?

Evidence of transfer

Names the affected process and adjusts the prediction using the new condition.