

SCIENCE ITEM WRITING SHELLS

The following “shells” can be used to develop science questions that assess various thinking skills:

- What is the meaning of
- Which is the **best** example of
- Which example **best** shows.....?
- What is the cause of
- Which **most likely** will cause.....?
- How does _____ cause _____?
- How does _____ affect _____?
- What effect does _____ have on _____?
- What **most likely** will happen if.....?
- Which statement **best** describes.....?
- Which word/term **best** describes.....?
- Which is the **best** reason.....?
- Which characteristic does _____ and _____ have in common?
- In what way (s) is/are _____ and _____ similar?
- In what way (s) is/are _____ and _____ different?
- How does _____ compare with _____?
- What is the **best** way to _____?
- What process is **most** responsible for.....?
- Which has the **greatest** effect on.....?
- Which will cause an increase in
- Which will cause a decrease in
- What is the relationship between _____ and _____?
- Which **best** shows the relationship between _____ and _____?

Source:

Haladyna, T. M. & Shindoll, R. R. (1989). Shells: A method for writing effective multiple-choice test items. *Evaluation and the Health Professions*.