

Performance Characteristics and Scoring Scale

Performance Characteristics

The following characteristics guide the scoring of responses to the open-response item(s).

Purpose	The extent to which the response achieves the purpose of the assignment.
Subject Matter Knowledge	Accuracy and appropriateness in the application of subject matter knowledge.
Support	Quality and relevance of supporting details.
Rationale	Soundness of argument and degree of understanding of the subject matter.

Scoring Scale

The scoring scale below, which is related to the performance characteristics for the tests, is used by scorers in assigning scores to responses to the open-response item(s).

Score Point	Score Point Description
4	The "4" response reflects a thorough knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. - The purpose of the assignment is fully achieved. - There is substantial, accurate, and appropriate application of subject matter knowledge. - The supporting evidence is sound; there are high-quality, relevant examples. - The response reflects an ably reasoned, comprehensive understanding of the topic.
3	The "3" response reflects an adequate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. - The purpose of the assignment is largely achieved. - There is a generally accurate and appropriate application of subject matter knowledge. - The supporting evidence is adequate; there are some acceptable, relevant examples. - The response reflects an adequately reasoned understanding of the topic.
2	The "2" response reflects a limited knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. - The purpose of the assignment is partially achieved. - There is a limited, possibly inaccurate or inappropriate, application of subject matter knowledge. - The supporting evidence is limited; there are few relevant examples. - The response reflects a limited, poorly reasoned understanding of the topic.
1	The "1" response reflects a weak knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. - The purpose of the assignment is not achieved. - There is little or no appropriate or accurate application of subject matter knowledge. - The supporting evidence, if present, is weak; there are few or no relevant examples. - The response reflects little or no reasoning about or understanding of the topic.
U	The response is unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, primarily in a language other than English, not of sufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment.
B	There is no response to the assignment.