



# Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

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## ENGLISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE

(Including the Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Mathematics  
Scoring Rubrics for Assessment Center Exercises)

### Scoring Guide *for Candidates*

- **Part 1** provides you with the tools to understand and interpret your scores.
- **Part 2** provides the scoring rubrics for your certificate area, guiding you as you develop your portfolio entries and prepare for your assessment center exercises.

*National Board Certification  
Promotes Better Teaching,  
Better Learning, Better Schools*

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## About This Scoring Guide

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The *Scoring Guide for Candidates* is a comprehensive overview of the National Board's scoring process. It is essential reading for anyone pursuing National Board Certification®. Together the two parts of the *Scoring Guide for Candidates* will help you on your path toward becoming a National Board Certified Teacher® (NBCT®).

### Part 1: Understanding and Interpreting Your Scores

**Part 1** guides you through the scoring process, providing you with the tools to understand and interpret your scores. Applicable to all certificate areas, **Part 1** includes crucial information about the role of the National Board Standards, which represent a professional consensus on the critical aspects of practice that distinguish accomplished teachers in the field and function as the foundation of each assessment.

Additionally, you will find information in **Part 1** about NBPTS® assessors—the qualified professionals who assign your scores. You will also find the score ranges, which will allow you to match your score to the appropriate level of performance. **Part 1** also discusses the National Board's retake policies, relevant to you if you do not meet the performance standard on your initial certification attempt. In **Part 1** you will learn how to interpret your individual scores and, if necessary, develop strategies to improve them.

### Part 2: Understanding and Applying the Scoring Criteria

**Part 2** provides the scoring rubrics for each portfolio entry and assessment center exercise in your certificate area, guiding you as you develop your portfolio entries and prepare for your assessment center exercises. The rubrics are presented here in a bulleted format to highlight the vital information contained in each. Reading the scoring rubrics will help you think about ways to strengthen your practice and best demonstrate your teaching expertise. The rubrics are the tool that assessors use to determine the appropriate scores for performance in your field.

The NBPTS Web site provides additional documents to assist you in the process of developing your portfolio entries and evaluating your performance. One such document is the [Evaluation of Evidence Guide](#). Each certificate-specific guide corresponds to an individual portfolio entry for your certificate area, and each includes questions that shape how assessors view the evidence you submit.

Other resources that will help you prepare for your assessment include the following certificate-specific documents, all of which are available online at [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org):

- *Assessment at a Glance*
- Standards for Accomplished Teaching
- *Portfolio Instructions*



## Part 1:

# Understanding and Interpreting Your Scores

This resource is available as a PDF file. You may select the link below to view or print **Part 1**.

[Scoring Guide for Candidates, Part 1: Understanding and Interpreting Your Scores](#)



## Part 2:

# Understanding and Applying the Scoring Criteria

**Part 2: Understanding and Applying the Scoring Criteria** presents the scoring rubrics for your certificate area. You should read the rubrics while developing your portfolio entries and preparing for your assessment center exercises. These rubrics, which are derived from the Standards, define the levels of accomplished teaching that you must demonstrate. This reference information will help you understand how the rubrics guide assessors in evaluating your work.

Each rubric begins with an overarching statement that summarizes the quality of performance at each of the rubric levels. For example, the overarching statement for a Level 4 rubric might read: "The Level 4 performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the teacher's knowledge and practice in his or her field." This precise language is used to distinguish between the four levels of the score scale. The body of the rubric consists of statements organized in a manner that reflects the order of tasks or questions within the entry or exercise. If you are asked to discuss your goals in the first response, for example, then the quality statement about goals will be stated at the beginning of the body of the rubric.

One way to understand the meaning of the entire rubric and how it relates to the quality of a performance is to read across the rubric. You can do this by reading the first sentence for Level 4, the first sentence for Level 3, and so on. This reveals the gradations of quality delineated for each feature of the response. A careful reading of the rubrics is an invaluable step in helping you successfully develop your portfolio entries and prepare for your assessment center exercises.

Your portfolio entries and assessment center exercises are scored holistically. To score holistically, an assessor must look at the entry and exercise for its overall quality and evaluate the work as a whole. The response may have characteristics of adjacent performance levels, but the assessor must assign the score that best describes the work as a whole. When scoring, an assessor reads completely, and views, when applicable, the entire entry and exercise before assigning a score. An assessor should read and review supportively, looking for and rewarding those things done well in the entry or exercise.

For more information about understanding and interpreting your scores, please refer to **Part 1**.

### Contents:

- Scoring Rubrics for Portfolio Entries
- Scoring Rubrics for Assessment Center Exercises

## Scoring Rubrics for Portfolio Entries

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### Entry 1: Assessment as a Tool for Unit Planning

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**In this entry:** You submit two assessments for each of two students, as well as a Written Commentary that provides an overview of your unit plan and contextualizes the assessments as they are used to inform your planning. You describe the implementation of the unit plan and any adjustments you made to your teaching during the implementation. You discuss how the students' assessments, as well as their linguistic and cultural diversity, informed your planning.

**THE LEVEL 4** performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence that the teacher is able to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform planning.

**The Level 4 performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence:**

- that the teacher sets high, worthwhile, and appropriate language, content, and process goals for student learning based on a detailed knowledge of students' skills, aspirations, and values, as well as their cultural and linguistic history.
- that the teacher recognizes the students' cultural diversity and plans ways for the students to actively participate in the culture of the new language.
- of the teacher's ability to employ appropriate assessment measures in determining the students' language development needs.
- that the teacher plans instruction which reflects consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and shows appropriate and challenging expectations while integrating subject matter with reading, writing, listening, and speaking within the established goals.
- that the teacher uses instructional resources, including media and/or technological resources, to facilitate language learning.
- of the teacher's ability to determine when to give feedback to students and when given, to make it supportive and constructive feedback that enhances student learning.
- that the teacher accurately describes, analyzes, and evaluates student work, and appropriately applies knowledge of language acquisition and development to future instruction.
- that the teacher engages in reflective thinking whereby she or he describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future instruction.

Overall, there is *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the teacher's ability to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform planning.

**THE LEVEL 3** performance provides *clear* evidence that the teacher is able to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform planning.

**The Level 3 performance provides *clear* evidence:**

- that the teacher sets high, worthwhile, and appropriate language, content, and process goals for student learning based on a detailed knowledge of students' skills, aspirations, and values as well as their cultural and linguistic history.
- that the teacher recognizes the students' cultural diversity and plans ways for the students to actively participate in the culture of the new language. There is clear evidence
- of the teacher's ability to employ appropriate assessment measures in determining the students' language development needs.
- that the teacher plans instruction which reflects consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and shows appropriate and challenging expectations while integrating subject matter with reading, writing, listening, and speaking within the established goals, though it may not be as strong as in a Level 4 response.
- that the teacher uses instructional resources, including media and/or technological resources, to facilitate language learning.
- of the teacher's ability to determine when to give feedback to students and when given, to make it supportive and constructive feedback that enhances student learning, though it may not be as strong as in a Level 4 response.
- that the teacher accurately describes, analyzes, and evaluates student work, and appropriately applies knowledge of language acquisition and development to future instruction.
- that the teacher engages in reflective thinking whereby she or he describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future instruction. However, the reflection may not be as detailed or as insightful as in a Level 4 response.

A Level 3 performance may show imbalance in the analysis and/or evidence presented for each student or assignment. One part of the performance may be more indicative of accomplished practice than another, but overall, there is *clear* evidence of the teacher's ability to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform planning.

**THE LEVEL 2** performance provides *limited* evidence that the teacher is able to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform planning.

**The Level 2 performance provides *limited* evidence:**

- that the teacher sets high, worthwhile, and appropriate language, content, and process goals for student learning based on a detailed knowledge of students' skills, aspirations, and values as well as their cultural and linguistic history.
- that the teacher recognizes the students' cultural diversity and plans ways for the students to actively participate in the culture of the new language.
- of the teacher's ability to employ appropriate assessment measures in determining the students' language development needs.
- that the teacher plans instruction which reflects consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and which shows appropriate expectations while integrating subject matter with reading, writing, listening, and speaking within the established goals.
- that the teacher uses media and/or technological resources to facilitate language learning.
- of the teacher's ability to determine when to give feedback to students and when given, to make it supportive and constructive feedback that enhances student learning.
- that the teacher accurately describes, analyzes, and evaluates student work, and appropriately applies knowledge of language acquisition and development to future instruction.
- that the teacher engages in reflective thinking whereby she or he describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future instruction.

The Level 2 performance may be characterized by evidence that hints at accomplished practice, but overall, there is *limited* evidence of the teacher's ability to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform her or his planning.

**THE LEVEL 1** performance provides *little or no* evidence that the teacher is able to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform planning.

**The Level 1 performance provides *little or no* evidence:**

- that the teacher sets high, worthwhile, and appropriate language, content, and process goals for student learning based on a detailed knowledge of students' skills, aspirations, and values as well as their cultural and linguistic history.
- that the teacher recognizes the students' cultural diversity and plans ways for the students to actively participate in the culture of the new language.
- of the teacher's ability to employ appropriate assessment measures in determining the students' language development needs.
- of the teacher's ability to plan instruction which reflects consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and which shows appropriate and challenging expectations while integrating subject matter with reading, writing, listening, and speaking within the established goals.
- that the teacher uses instructional resources, including media and/or technological resources, to facilitate language learning.
- of the teacher's ability to determine when to give feedback to students and, when given, to make it supportive and constructive feedback that enhances student learning.
- that the teacher accurately describes, analyzes, and evaluates student work, and appropriately applies knowledge of language acquisition and development to future instruction.
- that the teacher engages in reflective thinking whereby she or he describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future instruction.

Overall, there is *little or no* evidence of the teacher's ability to plan and implement a unit of instruction for linguistically and culturally diverse learners, and to administer and interpret appropriate assessments as a means to inform her or his planning.

## Entry 2: Scaffolding Learning

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**In this entry:** You submit a 15-minute video recording that illustrates your ability to apply your knowledge of your students as individual content and language learners as you set worthwhile and realistic goals for them and prepare them for the study of a unit, topic, or concept that is new to them. You discuss your instructional objectives, adaptation of instructional resources, and approach to second-language acquisition. You provide evidence that your students are actively engaged with each other, their materials, and/or you in a content-based English language learning experience. You provide a Written Commentary analyzing the video recording and assessment materials.

**THE LEVEL 4** performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they actively engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

**The Level 4 performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests.
- of the ability to actively engage the students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the use of teaching strategies that reflect consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and shows high expectations for all students.
- of the ability to support active learning by scaffolding new information and providing students the opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the scaffolded information.
- of the ability to draw on knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to use varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources, including media and/or technology, to engage students.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate classroom interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into the students' learning.
- of the ability to engage in reflective thinking in which the teacher describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it fully and thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future teaching.

Overall, there is *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they actively engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

**THE LEVEL 3** performance provides *clear* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they actively engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

**The Level 3 performance provides *clear* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests.
- of the ability to actively engage the students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the use of teaching strategies that reflect consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and shows high expectations for all students.
- of the ability to support active learning by scaffolding new information and providing students the opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the scaffolded information.
- of the ability to draw on knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to use varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources, including media and/or technology, to engage students.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate classroom interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into the students' learning.
- of the ability to engage in reflective thinking in which the teacher describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it fully and thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future teaching.

One part of the performance may be more indicative of accomplished practice than another, but overall, there is *clear* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they actively engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

**THE LEVEL 2** performance provides *limited* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

**The Level 2 performance provides *limited* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests.
- of the ability to actively engage the students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the use of teaching strategies that reflect consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and shows routine expectations for all students.
- of the ability to support active learning by scaffolding new information and providing students the opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the scaffolded information.
- of the ability to draw on knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to use varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources, including media and/or technology, to engage students.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate classroom interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into the students' learning.
- of the ability to engage in reflective thinking in which the teacher describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it fully and thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future teaching.

The Level 2 performance may be characterized by evidence that hints at accomplished practice, but overall, there is *limited* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

**THE LEVEL 1** performance provides *little or no* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

**The Level 1 performance provides *little or no* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests.
- of the ability to actively engage the students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the use of teaching strategies that reflect consideration of the unique learning needs of the students and shows routine expectations for all students.
- of the ability to support active learning by scaffolding new information and providing students the opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the scaffolded information.
- of the ability to draw on knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to use varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources, including media and/or technology, to engage students.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate classroom interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into the students' learning.
- of the ability to engage in reflective thinking in which the teacher describes her or his practice accurately, analyzes it fully and thoughtfully, and reflects on its implications and significance for future teaching.

Overall, the Level 1 performance provides *little or no* evidence of the teacher's ability to facilitate and support students' language development as they engage with each other, their materials, and/or the teacher during introduction of new, scaffolded information.

### Entry 3: Facilitating Interactions: Small Groups

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**In this entry:** You submit a 15-minute video recording to demonstrate your practice and your ability to facilitate small interactive groups of linguistically and culturally diverse learners who are engaged in collaborative work. You provide evidence of how you foster the engagement of students in a meaningful English language activity in which students share ideas and listen attentively to each other. You provide a Written Commentary analyzing the video recording and assessment materials.

**THE LEVEL 4** performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

**The Level 4 performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to facilitate and support students' learning and language development.
- of the ability to actively engage students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the ability to support active learning by asking insightful, open-ended questions, and listening attentively to student responses and to encourage student-initiated discussion.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests, which is reflected in teaching strategies and demonstrates understanding of the unique learning styles of the students.
- of the ability to draw on the knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to connect learning goals to an integration of reading, writing, listening and speaking objectives.
- of the ability to plan and use organized, sequenced, and structured learning activities that afford students significant learning experiences that enable the students to achieve the stated goals.
- of the use of varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources which include media and/or technology to engage students.
- of the ability to create situations in which the learners can negotiate meaning through interactions with the teacher and each other.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate group interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into student learning.
- of the teacher's ability to fully and thoughtfully describe, analyze, and reflect on the implications of her or his practice for future teaching.

Overall, there is *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the teacher's ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

**THE LEVEL 3** performance provides *clear* evidence of the ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

**The Level 3 performance provides *clear* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to facilitate and support students' learning and language development.
- of the ability to actively engage students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the ability to support active learning by asking insightful, open-ended questions, and listening attentively to student responses and to encourage student-initiated discussion.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests, which is reflected in teaching strategies and demonstrates understanding of the unique learning styles of the students.
- of the ability to draw on the knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to connect learning goals to an integration of reading, writing, listening and speaking objectives.
- of the ability to plan and use organized, sequenced, and structured learning activities that afford students significant learning experiences that enable the students to achieve the stated goals.
- of the use of varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources which include media and/or technology to engage students.
- of the ability to create situations in which the learners can negotiate meaning through interactions with the teacher and each other.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate group interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into student learning.
- of the teacher's ability to fully and thoughtfully describe, analyze, and reflect on the implications of her or his practice for future teaching.

One part of the performance may be more indicative of accomplished practice than another, but overall, there is *clear* evidence of the teacher's ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

**THE LEVEL 2** performance provides *limited* evidence of the ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

**The Level 2 performance provides *limited* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to facilitate and support students' learning and language development.
- of the ability to actively engage students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the ability to support active learning by asking insightful, open-ended questions, and listening attentively to student responses and to encourage student-initiated discussion.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests, which is reflected in teaching strategies and demonstrates understanding of the unique learning styles of the students.
- of the ability to draw on the knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to connect learning goals to an integration of reading, writing, listening, and speaking objectives.
- of the ability to plan and use organized, sequenced, and structured learning activities that afford students significant learning experiences that enable the students to achieve the stated goals.
- of the use of varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources which include media and/or technology to engage students.
- of the ability to create situations in which the learners can negotiate meaning through interactions with the teacher and each other.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate group interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into student learning.
- of the teacher's ability to fully and thoughtfully describe, analyze, and reflect on the implications of her or his practice for future teaching.

The Level 2 performance may be characterized by evidence that hints at accomplished practice, but overall, there is *limited* evidence of the teacher's ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

**THE LEVEL 1** performance provides *little or no* evidence of the ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

**The Level 1 performance provides *little or no* evidence:**

- of the ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and challenging learning environment.
- of the ability to facilitate and support students' learning and language development.
- of the ability to actively engage students in the activities and substance of the lesson.
- of the ability to support active learning by asking insightful, open-ended questions, and listening attentively to student responses and to encourage student-initiated discussion.
- of the ability to access and utilize detailed knowledge of students' backgrounds and interests, which is reflected in teaching strategies and demonstrates understanding of the unique learning styles of the students.
- of the ability to draw on the knowledge of language development and set high, attainable, and worthwhile language-learning goals for the students.
- of the ability to connect learning goals to an integration of reading, writing, listening, and speaking objectives.
- of the ability to plan and use organized, sequenced, and structured learning activities that afford students significant learning experiences that enable the students to achieve the stated goals.
- of the use of varied, appropriate, and thought-provoking instructional resources which include media and/or technology to engage students.
- of the ability to create situations in which the learners can negotiate meaning through interactions with the teacher and each other.
- of the ability to accurately describe, analyze, and evaluate group interactions, showing knowledge of students and insight into student learning.
- of the teacher's ability to fully and thoughtfully describe, analyze, and reflect on the implications of her or his practice for future teaching.

Overall, there is *little or no* evidence of the teacher's ability to engage linguistically and culturally diverse learners in small-group collaborative learning and to reflect on the planning and implementation of the lesson.

## Entry 4: Documented Accomplishments: Contributions to Student Learning

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**In this entry:** You illustrate your partnerships with students' families and community, and your development as a learner and collaborator with other professionals by submitting descriptions and documentation of your activities and accomplishments in those areas. Your description must make the connection between each accomplishment and its impact on student learning.

**THE LEVEL 4** performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the teacher's ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

**The Level 4 performance provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence:**

- that the teacher treats parents and other interested adults as valued partners in the child's education, and uses thoughtfully chosen, appropriate strategies for reaching out to the families of his or her students. The selected strategies may or may not be original to the teacher, but they are implemented with skill and enthusiasm and are effective in engaging parents and other interested adults in communication that is highly interactive, fostering extensive two-way dialogue focused primarily on substantive teaching and learning issues and individual student progress.
- that the teacher facilitates ongoing, mutually beneficial communications between students and the wider community in a way that enhances teaching and learning.
- that the teacher has strengthened his or her own teaching practice through conscious and deliberate professional development to strengthen knowledge, skills, and abilities in areas that are relevant to his or her teaching and learning context for the purpose of impacting student learning.
- that the teacher has worked collaboratively with colleagues to improve teaching and learning, either within the school or in the wider professional community.
- that the teacher has shared his or her expertise in a leadership role with other educators through facilitating the professional development of other teachers, improving instructional practices, or advocating for positive change in educational policy.
- that the teacher's work outside the classroom has been driven by a conscious and deliberate focus on improving teaching and learning, as opposed to merely fulfilling job requirements. The descriptions and documentation provide a rich, detailed, coherent view of a teacher who has made an impact on student learning through work with other colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.
- that the teacher accurately analyzes and thoughtfully reflects on the significance of all accomplishments taken together, and can appropriately plan for future opportunities to impact student learning.

Overall, there is *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the teacher's ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

**THE LEVEL 3** performance provides *clear* evidence of the teacher's ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

**The Level 3 performance provides *clear* evidence:**

- that the teacher treats parents and other interested adults as valued partners in the child's education, and uses appropriate strategies for reaching out to the families of his or her students. The selected strategies may or may not be original to the teacher, but they are effective in engaging parents and other interested adults in communication that is interactive, fostering two-way dialogue focused primarily on substantive teaching and learning issues and individual student progress.
- that the teacher facilitates ongoing, mutually beneficial communications between students and the wider community in a way that enhances teaching and learning, although the communications may not be as effective as those in a Level 4 performance.
- that the teacher has strengthened his or her own teaching practice through conscious and deliberate professional development to strengthen knowledge, skills, and abilities in areas that are relevant to his or her teaching and learning context.
- that the teacher has worked with colleagues as a partner or collaborator to improve teaching and learning, either within the school or in a larger professional context, such as within a professional organization.
- that the teacher has shared his or her expertise in a leadership role with other educators through facilitating the professional development of other teachers, improving instructional practices, or advocating for positive changes in educational policy.
- that the teacher's work outside the classroom has been driven by a conscious focus on improving teaching and learning, as opposed to merely fulfilling job requirements. The descriptions and evidence provide a coherent view of a teacher who has made an impact on student learning through work with other colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.
- that the teacher accurately analyzes and thoughtfully reflects on the significance of all accomplishments taken together, and can appropriately plan for future opportunities to impact student learning.

Overall, there is *clear* evidence of the teacher's ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

**THE LEVEL 2** performance provides *limited* evidence of the teacher’s ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

**The Level 2 performance provides *limited* evidence:**

- that the teacher treats parents and other interested adults as valued partners in the child’s education, and uses appropriate strategies for reaching out to the families of his or her students. The rationale for the selected strategies may be a bit vague and/or there may be limited evidence that the strategies are effective in engaging parents and other interested adults. There may be evidence that though the strategies work with many families, some families are not being fully engaged.
- that the communications with families are focused on substantive teaching and learning issues. Instead, many of the communications may be dominated by procedural issues, behavior, or disciplinary matters, or the communications may not show much differentiation between individual students, with the same communication going to all families.
- that the communications with families are interactive. There may be frequent communications home but these may rely primarily on one-way media, such as notes home or newsletters. The evidence may suggest that parents are well informed about what is going on in the classroom, but there is limited evidence of two-way dialogue with families.
- regarding meaningful communications between the students and the wider community for the purpose of enhancing teaching and learning.
- that the teacher has strengthened his or her own teaching practice through professional development; even if the teacher has engaged in extensive professional development activities, it may be unclear how these activities relate to the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are relevant to his or her teaching and learning context.
- that the teacher has shared what she or he has learned with colleagues by working with them in a role as a partner, collaborator, or leader.

The evidence in a Level 2 performance may indicate that the teacher is an accomplished practitioner within his or her own classroom, but that she or he has not shared his or her expertise with others in a significant way through professional development of other teachers, improving instructional practices, or advocating for positive change in educational policy.

The evidence may suggest that the preponderance of the teacher’s activities outside of the classroom has been to fulfill job requirements, as opposed to being a conscious and deliberate effort to impact student learning and improve teaching and learning.

- that the teacher analyzes and reflects on the significance of all accomplishments taken together, and can appropriately plan for future opportunities to impact student learning.

The Level 2 performance may be characterized by evidence that occasionally hints at accomplished practice, but overall, there is *limited* evidence of the teacher’s ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

**THE LEVEL 1** performance provides *little or no* evidence of the teacher's ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

**The Level 1 performance provides *little or no* evidence:**

- that the teacher treats parents and other interested adults as partners in the child's education, and uses appropriate strategies for reaching out to the families of his or her students. The rationale for the selected strategies may be very vague, unclear, or absent.
- that the strategies are effective in engaging parents and other interested adults. There may be evidence that some families are overlooked or ignored.
- that the communications with families are focused on substantive teaching and learning issues. Instead, the communications are taken up almost exclusively by procedural issues, behavior, or disciplinary matters.
- that the communications with families are interactive. Communications with families are entirely one-way and/or infrequent. Parents may not be kept informed about what is going on in the classroom. If evidence regarding outreach to the wider community is present, the connections may promote trivial interactions with little impact on student learning.

The Level 1 performance may contain negative or disparaging comments about parents, community, or professionals with little or no evidence of the teacher's efforts to improve the situation.

- that the teacher has strengthened his or her own teaching practice through professional development. If professional development activities are cited, they may be very sketchy or weak or of little or no relevance to the teacher's context.
- that the teacher has worked with colleagues as a partner, collaborator, or leader. If school projects are cited, there may be little or no evidence of their impact on teaching and learning, or the teacher's role in the project may be very unclear or very passive.

There may be evidence that the teacher is an accomplished practitioner within his or her own classroom, but there is little or no evidence that she or he has shared his or her expertise with others.

The evidence may suggest that the teacher's work outside of the classroom has been carried out solely to fulfill job requirements, as opposed to being a conscious and deliberate effort to improve teaching and learning.

- that the teacher analyzes and reflects on the significance of all accomplishments taken together, and can appropriately plan for future opportunities to impact student learning.

Overall, there is *little or no* evidence of the teacher's ability to impact student learning through work with colleagues, professionals, families, and the community, and as a learner.

## Scoring Rubrics for Assessment Center Exercises

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### Exercise 1: Algebra

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**In this exercise:** You demonstrate knowledge of theoretical, graphical, and symbolic representations of functions, and the interrelationships that exist between two concepts in algebra.

**THE LEVEL 4** response provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence that for a given problem situation, the candidate can provide an accurate model and find its solution; graph the equations/inequalities and interpret the graph; and provide an accurate and thorough explanation of the interrelationships that exist between two algebraic concepts.

**Characteristics:**

- Explanation is thorough and accurate.
- Model includes an algebraic equation and fully and accurately represents the situation; solutions are accurate and complete.
- Graph is accurate and complete.
- Interpretation is logical and appropriate.

**THE LEVEL 3** response provides *clear* evidence that for a given problem situation, the candidate can provide an accurate model and find its solution; graph the equations/inequalities and interpret the graph; and provide an accurate and thorough explanation of the interrelationships that exist between two algebraic concepts.

**Characteristics:**

- Explanation is accurate, though may be lacking detail.
- Model includes an algebraic equation and accurately represents the situation, though may be lacking detail; solutions are accurate and complete, though may have minor errors.
- Graph is accurate, though may be lacking detail.
- Interpretation is appropriate, though may be lacking detail.

**THE LEVEL 2** response provides *limited* evidence that for a given problem situation, the candidate can provide an accurate model and find its solution; graph the equations/inequalities and interpret the graph; and provide an accurate and thorough explanation of the interrelationships that exist between two algebraic concepts.

**Characteristics:**

- Explanation is somewhat illogical or misses important detail.
- Model may not include an algebraic equation and is somewhat inaccurate or incomplete in its representation of the situation; solutions are somewhat inaccurate or incomplete.
- Graph is somewhat inaccurate or incomplete.
- Interpretation is somewhat inappropriate.

**THE LEVEL 1** response provides *little or no* evidence that for a given problem situation, the candidate can provide an accurate model and find its solution; graph the equations/inequalities and interpret the graph; and provide an accurate and thorough explanation of the interrelationships that exist between two algebraic concepts.

**Characteristics:**

- Explanation is illogical and contains a major misconception.
- Model may not include an algebraic equation and is inaccurate or incomplete in its representation of the situation; solutions are inaccurate or incomplete.
- Graph is inaccurate and incomplete.
- Interpretation is inappropriate or incomplete.

## Exercise 2: Calculus

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**In this exercise:** You demonstrate knowledge of limits and continuity, differentiation and integration, and the ability to apply the knowledge to meaningful situations.

**THE LEVEL 4** response provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the ability to identify discontinuities, evaluate and provide rationales for limits, interpret relationships between graphs of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ , and apply a definite integral to areas of bounded regions.

**Characteristics:**

- accurate identification of location and type of discontinuities, and accurate evaluations and complete rationales for given limits
- accurate and substantiated identification of intervals and/or points
- accurate identification and evaluation of a graph's definite integral; and accurate interpretation of the graph's definite integral

**THE LEVEL 3** response provides *clear* evidence of the ability to identify discontinuities, evaluate and provide rationales for limits, interpret relationships between graphs of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ , and apply a definite integral to areas of bounded regions.

**Characteristics:**

- accurate identification of location and type of discontinuities, and accurate evaluations and rationales for given limits, though response may exhibit minor flaws
- accurate and substantiated identification of intervals and/or points, though the rationales may not be as strong as in a Level 4 response
- accurate identification and evaluation of a graph's definite integral; and somewhat accurate interpretation of the graph's definite integral, though the interpretation may be vague

**THE LEVEL 2** response provides *limited* evidence of the ability to identify discontinuities, evaluate and provide rationales for limits, interpret relationships between graphs of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ , and apply a definite integral to areas of bounded regions.

**Characteristics:**

- inaccurate identification of location and type of some discontinuities, and somewhat inaccurate evaluations and rationales for given limits
- partially inaccurate identification of intervals and/or points; rationales may be weak or partially inaccurate
- Identification and evaluation of a graph's definite integral may be partially accurate; and interpretation of the graph's definite integral may be inaccurate or missing.

**THE LEVEL 1** response provides *little or no* evidence of the ability to identify discontinuities, evaluate and provide rationales for limits, interpret relationships between graphs of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ , and apply a definite integral to areas of bounded regions.

**Characteristics:**

- inaccurate identification of location and type of discontinuities, and inaccurate evaluations and incomplete or missing rationales for given limits
- inaccurate and/or unsubstantiated identification of intervals and/or points
- inaccurate identification and evaluation of a graph's definite integral; and inaccurate or missing interpretation of the graph's definite integral

### Exercise 3: Discrete Mathematics

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**In this exercise:** You demonstrate knowledge of sequence and series, probability, and counting theory.

**THE LEVEL 4** response provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the ability to (1) generate arithmetic and geometric sequences, identify given terms in sequences, and use sigma notation; (2) apply various counting principles; and (3) create a model of a given problem situation, find relevant probabilities, and interpret a given probability in terms of the problem.

**Characteristics:**

- accurate and complete arithmetic and geometric sequences, accurately identified terms, and accurately written sigma notation
- accurate and appropriate application of various counting principles
- an appropriate visual model of a given problem situation, accurate relevant probabilities, and appropriate interpretation of a given probability in terms of the problem

**THE LEVEL 3** response provides *clear* evidence of the ability to (1) generate arithmetic and geometric sequences, identify given terms in sequences, and use sigma notation; (2) apply various counting principles; and (3) create a model of a given problem situation, find relevant probabilities, and interpret a given probability in terms of the problem.

**Characteristics:**

- accurate and complete arithmetic and geometric sequences, accurately identified terms, and accurately written sigma notation, though there may be minor flaws in the sequences, terms, or sigma notation
- accurate and appropriate application of various counting principles, though there may be minor flaws in either reasoning or computations
- an appropriate visual model of a given problem situation, accurate relevant probabilities, and appropriate interpretation of a given probability in terms of the problem, though there may be minor flaws in the model, probabilities, or interpretation

**THE LEVEL 2** response provides *limited* evidence of the ability to (1) generate arithmetic and geometric sequences, identify given terms in sequences, and use sigma notation; (2) apply various counting principles; and (3) create a model of a given problem situation, find relevant probabilities, and interpret a given probability in terms of the problem.

**Characteristics:**

- Arithmetic and geometric sequences are somewhat inaccurate or incomplete, given terms are inaccurately identified, or sigma notation is inaccurately written.
- somewhat inaccurate application of counting principles
- a somewhat inappropriate visual model of a given problem situation, inaccurate relevant probabilities, and incorrect or inappropriate interpretation of a given probability in terms of the problem

**THE LEVEL 1** response provides *little or no* evidence of the ability to (1) generate arithmetic and geometric sequences, identify given terms in sequences, and use sigma notation; (2) apply various counting principles; and (3) create a model of a given problem situation, find relevant probabilities, and interpret a given probability in terms of the problem.

**Characteristics:**

- Arithmetic and geometric sequences are inaccurate or incomplete, given terms are inaccurately identified, and sigma notation is inaccurately used.
- inaccurate application of counting principles
- inappropriate or inaccurate visual model of a given problem situation, inaccurate relevant probabilities, and incorrect and/or inappropriate interpretation of a given probability in terms of the problem

## Exercise 4: Geometry

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**In this exercise:** You demonstrate the ability to use deductive reasoning to construct a proof, explain the interrelationships between two important concepts in geometry, and apply measurement formulas to a three-dimensional figure generated by the rotation of a two-dimensional figure about an axis.

**THE LEVEL 4** response provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the ability to construct a proof, explain the relationship between two important geometric concepts, and express the volume of a solid generated by the rotation of a two-dimensional object about an axis.

**Characteristics:**

- a thorough and accurate proof, including appropriate justifications for any inferences made
- a logical and thorough explanation of the relationship between two important concepts in geometry
- a logical process leading to an accurate solution of a measurement problem

**THE LEVEL 3** response provides *clear* evidence of the ability to construct a proof, explain the relationship between two important geometric concepts, and express the volume of a solid generated by the rotation of a two-dimensional object about an axis.

**Characteristics:**

- a logical proof, including justifications for any inferences made, though the justifications may be incomplete or less compelling than in a Level 4 response
- a logical explanation of the relationship between two important concepts in geometry
- a logical process leading to an accurate solution of a measurement problem, though there may be a minor flaw in either the process or solution

**THE LEVEL 2** response provides *limited* evidence of the ability to construct a proof, explain the relationship between two important geometric concepts, and express the volume of a solid generated by the rotation of a two-dimensional object about an axis.

**Characteristics:**

- an incomplete or inaccurate proof, with some inappropriate justifications for inferences made
- a somewhat incomplete or inaccurate explanation of the relationship between two important concepts in geometry
- a somewhat flawed process leading to an inaccurate solution of a measurement problem

**THE LEVEL 1** response provides *little or no* evidence of the ability to construct a proof, explain the relationship between two important geometric concepts, and express the volume of a solid generated by the rotation of a two-dimensional object about an axis.

**Characteristics:**

- an inaccurate or missing proof, with either misconceived or missing justifications for any inferences made
- a conceptually misconceived or missing explanation of the relationship between two important concepts in geometry
- a significantly flawed process leading to an inaccurate or missing solution of a measurement problem

## Exercise 5: Statistics and Data Analysis

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**In this exercise:** You demonstrate knowledge of statistics and data analysis to graph a normal distribution of a given situation and find various probabilities; identify and explain types of association, effects on trend lines, and values of correlation coefficients; graph and provide a numerical analysis of given data; and explain an important statistical concept.

**THE LEVEL 4** response provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the ability to graph and provide a numerical analysis of given data; identify and explain types of association, effects on trend lines, and values of correlation coefficients; and graph a normal distribution of a given situation and find various probabilities.

**Characteristics:**

- accurate graphing and analysis of a given set of data
- accurate interpretations and modeling for given statistical characteristics
- accurate estimation of probabilities

**THE LEVEL 3** response provides *clear* evidence of the ability to graph and provide a numerical analysis of given data; identify and explain types of association, effects on trend lines, and values of correlation coefficients; and graph a normal distribution of a given situation and find various probabilities.

**Characteristics:**

- mostly accurate graphing and analysis of a given set of data
- mostly accurate interpretations and modeling for given statistical characteristics
- mostly accurate estimation of probabilities

**THE LEVEL 2** response provides *limited* evidence of the ability to graph and provide a numerical analysis of given data; identify and explain types of association, effects on trend lines, and values of correlation coefficients; and graph a normal distribution of a given situation and find various probabilities.

**Characteristics:**

- significantly flawed graphing and analysis of a given set of data
- significantly flawed interpretations and modeling for given statistical characteristics
- significantly flawed estimation of probabilities

**THE LEVEL 1** response provides *little or no* evidence of the ability to graph and provide a numerical analysis of given data; identify and explain types of association, effects on trend lines, and values of correlation coefficients; and graph a normal distribution of a given situation and find various probabilities.

**Characteristics:**

- mostly inaccurate or missing graphing and analysis of a given set of data
- mostly inaccurate or missing interpretations and modeling for given statistical characteristics
- mostly inaccurate or missing estimation of probabilities

## Exercise 6: Technology

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**In this exercise:** You demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate use of technology that supports instructional goals, and errors and limitations associated with graphing calculators.

**THE LEVEL 4** response provides *clear, consistent, and convincing* evidence of the ability to explain the instructional benefits of technological resources, and identify and explain an error or limitation in the use of a graphing calculator.

**Characteristics:**

- thorough explanation of a given mathematics concept
- thorough explanation of the use of technological resources to improve student understanding
- accurate identification and thorough explanation of differences in the use of a graphing calculator

**THE LEVEL 3** response provides *clear* evidence of the ability to explain the instructional benefits of technological resources, and identify and explain an error or limitation in the use of a graphing calculator.

**Characteristics:**

- accurate explanation of a given mathematics concept
- accurate explanation of the use of technological resources to improve student understanding
- accurate identification and explanation of differences in the use of a graphing calculator

**THE LEVEL 2** response provides *limited* evidence of the ability to explain the instructional benefits of technological resources, and identify and explain an error or limitation in the use of a graphing calculator.

**Characteristics:**

- inaccurate explanation of a given mathematics concept
- inaccurate explanation of the use of technological resources to improve student understanding
- inaccurate identification and explanation of differences in the use of a graphing calculator

**THE LEVEL 1** response provides *little or no* evidence of the ability to explain the instructional benefits of technological resources, and identify and explain an error or limitation in the use of a graphing calculator.

**Characteristics:**

- inaccurate explanation of a given mathematics concept
- significantly flawed explanation of the use of technological resources to improve student understanding
- significantly flawed identification and explanation of differences in the use of a graphing calculator

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