

Sample Test Directions for Open-Response Items

This section of the test consists of two open-response item assignments. You will be asked to prepare a written response of approximately 150–300 words for each assignment. You should use your time to plan, write, review, and edit your response for each assignment. **You must write responses to both of the assignments.**

For each assignment, read the topic and directions carefully before you begin to work. Think about how you will organize your response. You may use the erasable notebooklet to make notes, write an outline, or otherwise prepare your response. **However, your score will be based solely on the version of your response that is typed in the on-screen response box.**

Please note that special characters (such as letters with macrons or other diacritical marks) cannot be entered using the keyboard but are available for insertion in the on-screen response box. To access these characters, click on the Æ Symbol icon that appears in the upper left corner of the screen. Using the mouse, click on the character you wish to include in your response and then select “Insert”. The character will be inserted where the cursor is positioned in the response box.

As a whole, your response to each assignment must demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge of the field. In your response to each assignment, you are expected to demonstrate the depth of your understanding of the subject area by applying your knowledge rather than by merely reciting factual information.

Your response to each assignment will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

PURPOSE: the extent to which the response achieves the purpose of the assignment

SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE: appropriateness and accuracy in the application of subject knowledge

SUPPORT: quality and relevance of supporting evidence

RATIONALE: soundness of argument and degree of understanding of the subject area

The open-response item assignments are intended to assess subject knowledge. Your responses must be communicated clearly enough to permit valid judgment of the evaluation criteria by scorers. Your responses should be written for an audience of educators in this field. The final version of each response should conform to the conventions of edited American English. Your responses should be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work.

Be sure to write about the assigned topics. You may not use any reference materials during the test. Remember to review your work and make any changes you think will improve your responses.