

Scoring Expectations for Constructed Response (Open-Ended) Questions

Read each question carefully and follow the directions in order to answer each part of the question completely.

Some questions will have multiple parts. For example, a Part A and a Part B, each with a designated answer space. Be sure the answer(s) are in the corresponding answer box for each part.

Consider all stimulus materials including all associated charts, tables, or graphs.

Look for the specific task(s) you are being asked to answer. Often, these will be easily identified as bulleted instructions at the end of the question. The entire question, including every bullet, needs to be addressed in the response to receive full credit.

For constructed response questions, showing the reasoning of how one arrived at an answer is just as important as providing the final answer.

The correct answer, with no work shown or explanation provided, will not receive the top score point.

Carefully review the entire question for what specific work or explanation is expected.

Simply stating that one used a calculator to find the answer is not sufficient for work or explanation.

There may be multiple tasks in the same question, each requiring an explanation.

If the task requires an equation, then a proper equation with correct mathematical symbols or valid operational language must be provided to receive full credit.

Do: $2+3=5$ or "I added 2 to 3 and that equals 5."

Don't: I put 2 and 3 together and I got 5.

Avoid run-on equations.

Do: $3+4=7$, and $7+5=12$

Don't: $3+4=7+5=12$

If a question involves multiple calculations, make it clear which answer corresponds to which calculation.

Ensure you are using the proper labels and units as required by the prompt.

Define any variables used that are outside of what is provided in the stimulus materials and the question.

Drawing Tool - Constructed response items in which a visual representation of the explanation could be beneficial may include a drawing box in addition to the text box. Students may use the drawing tool to help visualize, explain, and build their answer. Unless specially requested in the question, use of the drawing box is not mandatory to receive the top score point on an item.

Before moving on, review the question then check that the calculated answer is reasonable and makes sense in the context of the question.