



California Subject Examinations for Teachers®

TEST GUIDE

HOME ECONOMICS SUBTEST III

Sample Questions and Responses and Scoring Information

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Sample Test Questions for CSET: Home Economics Subtest III

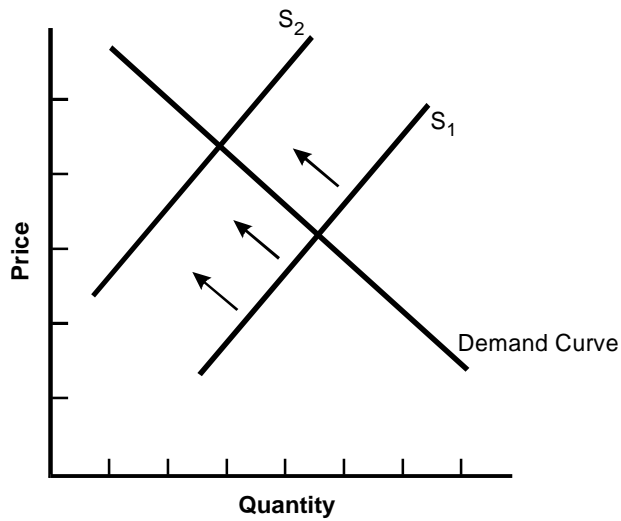
Below is a set of multiple-choice questions and constructed-response questions that are similar to the questions you will see on Subtest III of CSET: Home Economics. You are encouraged to respond to the questions without looking at the responses provided in the next section. Record your responses on a sheet of paper and compare them with the provided responses.

- Which of the following scientific achievements was most significant in the development of synthetic fibers?
 - understanding the role of carbon bonding in polymers
 - discovering the equations of electrodynamics
 - controlling phase changes by varying temperature and pressure
 - producing artificial elements through nuclear chemistry
- Which of the following colors, if paired with a forest green shirt, would provide the greatest color contrast in an outfit?
 - pale yellow
 - burnt orange
 - royal blue
 - dark purple
- Which of the following fabrics would be most appropriate to use in making a lining for a high-quality business skirt?
 - China silk
 - nylon
 - tissue taffeta
 - chiffon
- To remove candle wax or gum from a washable garment, it is commonly recommended to first treat the area by:
 - soaking it in hot water.
 - hardening it with an ice cube.
 - scraping it with a dull knife.
 - pressing it with a warm iron.

5. Which of the following construction techniques is used to give fullness to a garment?
- A. basting
 - B. facing
 - C. mitering
 - D. gathering
6. A person would like to purchase a one-story home to avoid having to go up and down stairs. Which of the following styles would best meet this person's preferences?
- A. colonial
 - B. garrison
 - C. ranch
 - D. Victorian
7. Which of the following best describes the primary mission of Fannie Mae?
- A. to make low-interest loans more available to home buyers
 - B. to provide financial counseling to first-time home buyers
 - C. to invest in affordable housing in low-income neighborhoods
 - D. to guarantee loans made to low-income families
8. An interior designer working on a commercial construction site would typically be responsible for specifying:
- A. the location of electrical outlets and switches.
 - B. the number and location of bathrooms.
 - C. the location of lighting, cabinets, and room dividers.
 - D. the type and number of windows.

9. Joseph suffers from asthma. Installing which of the following in his home is likely to be most effective in helping alleviate his health problem?
- A. a humidifier to add water vapor to the air
 - B. larger windows to improve air circulation throughout the house
 - C. an air filtration system to remove particles from the air
 - D. energy-efficient insulation to reduce drafts
10. Which of the following floor coverings offers the best soundproofing qualities?
- A. wood parquet
 - B. laminate flooring
 - C. asphalt tiles
 - D. vinyl-cork flooring
11. In making purchasing decisions, it is important to understand that the primary purpose of advertising is to:
- A. educate consumers about new products.
 - B. increase market demand for products.
 - C. compare products with those of competitors.
 - D. appeal to the public's vanity.
12. Which of the following acts of environmental stewardship will most directly result in financial savings for the consumer?
- A. purchasing meat wrapped in paper from the deli instead of meat packaged in plastic and Styrofoam
 - B. recycling newspapers, magazines, and cardboard products instead of throwing them in the trash
 - C. washing clothes using low-phosphate products instead of using common laundry detergents
 - D. replacing incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps

13. Use the graph below to answer the question that follows.



Which of the following situations could result in a shift of the supply curve of a product from S_1 to S_2 ?

- A. Competitors release similar products on the market.
- B. The cost of producing the product rises for the manufacturer.
- C. Technological advances make it cheaper to manufacture the product.
- D. The manufacturer produces more of the product than is demanded.

14. Maria is buying a new car and needs to finance \$15,000. She is undecided whether to get a four-year or a five-year loan. Compared with a four-year loan, the five-year loan will typically:

- A. have a higher total finance charge.
- B. have a higher annual percentage rate.
- C. require a greater down payment on the car.
- D. require a more extensive credit history report.

15. A homeowner's insurance policy is likely to require an additional insurance rider to cover damages or losses to the home due to which of the following?

- A. fire
- B. windstorm
- C. theft
- D. earthquake

Constructed-Response Assignment Directions

For each constructed-response assignment in this section, you are to prepare a written response of approximately, but not limited to, 75–125 words (or approximately 1 written page) on the assigned topic.

Read each assignment carefully before you begin your response. 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 final response must be either:***

- 1) typed into the on-screen response box,
- 2) written on a response sheet and scanned using the scanner provided at your workstation, or
- 3) provided using both the on-screen response box (for typed text) and a response sheet (for calculations or drawings) that you will scan using the scanner provided at your workstation.

Instructions for scanning your response sheet(s) are available by clicking the “Scanning Help” button at the top of the screen.

Your responses will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

PURPOSE: the extent to which the response addresses the constructed-response assignment’s charge in relation to relevant CSET subject matter requirements

SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE: the application of accurate subject matter knowledge as described in the relevant CSET subject matter requirements

SUPPORT: the appropriateness and quality of the supporting evidence in relation to relevant CSET subject matter requirements

The assignments are intended to assess subject matter knowledge and skills, not writing ability. Your responses, however, must be communicated clearly enough to permit a valid judgment of your knowledge and skills. Your responses should be written for an audience of educators in the field.

Your responses should be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work. Please write legibly when using response sheets. You may not use any reference materials during the assessment. Remember to review your work and make any changes you think will improve your responses.

Any time spent responding to an assignment, including scanning the response sheet(s), is part of your testing time. Monitor your time carefully. When your testing time expires, a pop-up message will appear on-screen indicating the conclusion of your test session. Only response sheets that are scanned before you end your test or before time has expired will be scored. Any response sheet that is not scanned before testing ends will NOT be scored.

16. Use the information below to complete the exercise that follows.

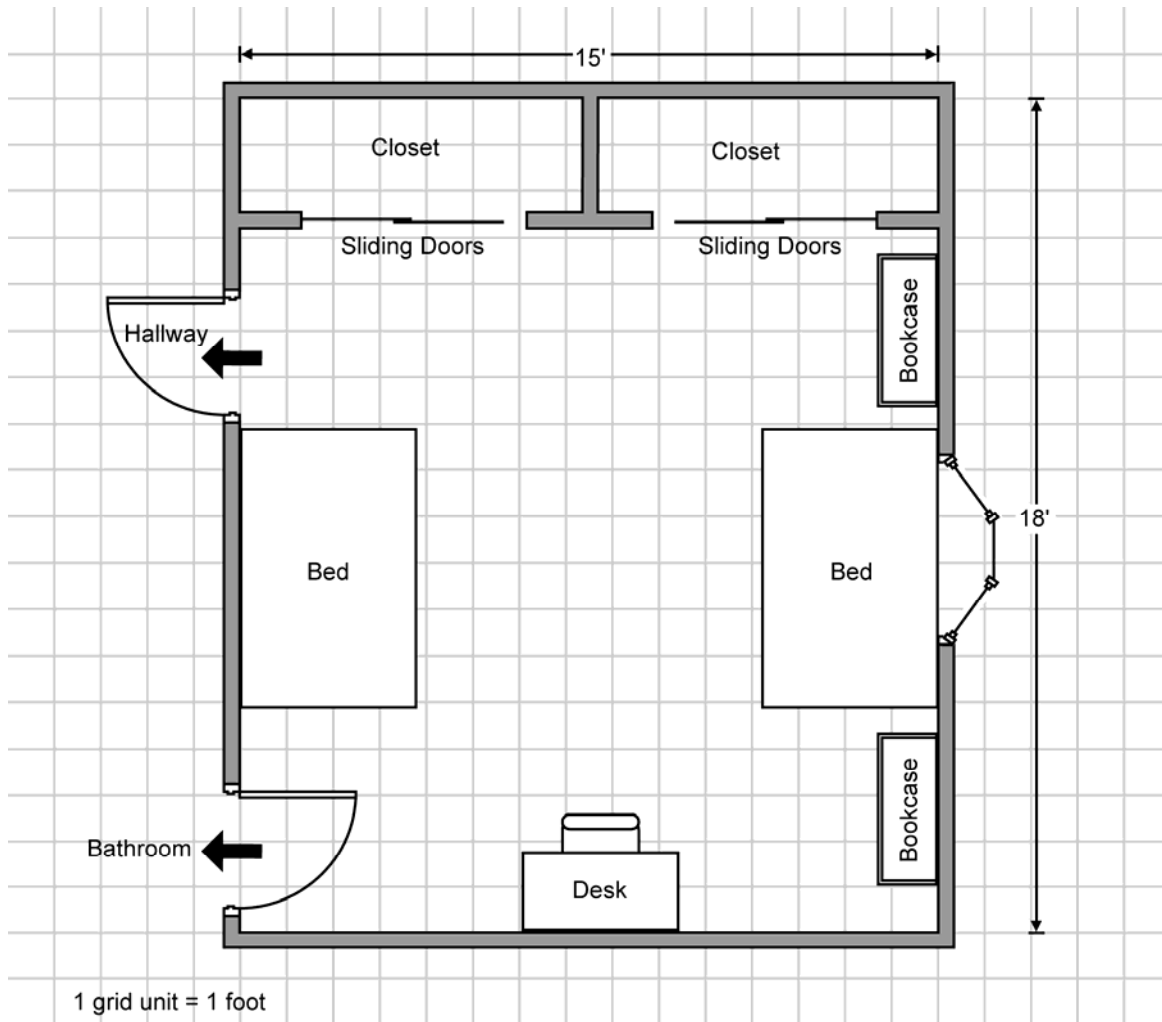
You have been asked to design a new uniform for a southern California high school marching band. It will be worn during football season and will need to be designed in the school's colors—royal blue and white. The band instructor would like the uniform to consist of a tunic and trousers and requests that your design be suitable for both male and female students.

Using your knowledge of fashion design and fabrics, write a response in which you:

- discuss how you would use one element and one principle of design to create an outfit for this particular project;
- identify one fabric to use in the construction of the outfit; and
- describe two characteristics of this fabric that would make it an appropriate choice for this application.

17. Use the information below to complete the exercise that follows.

Maggie and Carl have two young daughters, ages 9 and 11, who share a bedroom. The bedroom addressed the girls' needs for a number of years, but as they have become older and have acquired more belongings, the space has become too cramped. Maggie and Carl would like to redesign the room to better utilize the space and make it suitable for their daughters as they grow older. They would like to add a study space and are prepared to acquire new furniture if needed. Below is a diagram of their current room arrangement.



Using your knowledge of the elements and principles of interior design, write a response in which you:

- discuss two design factors that should be considered in creating a new floor plan for this room;
- sketch a new floor plan for this room showing the new furniture arrangement and room reconfiguration; and
- explain how your new floor plan meets the needs given above.

18. Use the information below to complete the exercise that follows.

Kathy purchased a new car two months ago and has already had to return it to the dealer several times for major repairs to the brakes. The repairs were covered by the car's warranty, but after the same problem occurred for the third time, Kathy asked to return the car and obtain a refund for the purchase price. The dealer refused to refund her money, but he did offer to replace Kathy's car with a new car of the same make, model, and year. Kathy would prefer the refund, since she is convinced that the new car will also prove unreliable and is concerned about the safety implications of the brake problems.

Using your knowledge of consumer rights and responsibilities, write a response in which you:

- identify the consumer's legal rights in this situation; and
- explain one course of action the consumer can take to redress this situation.

19. **Use the information below to complete the exercise that follows.**

The Johnsons have just had a baby. They have some money from cash gifts and other sources that totals \$1,000 and are considering options for investing the funds for the child. The first option is to purchase U.S. savings bonds. The second option is to purchase a mutual fund that invests primarily in corporate stocks.

Using your knowledge of personal finances, write a response in which you:

- discuss one financial advantage and one financial disadvantage of each of these options; and
- describe two personal aspects related to making consumer choices that these individuals should consider in evaluating each option.

Annotated Responses to Sample Multiple-Choice Questions for CSET: Home Economics Subtest III

Fashion and Textiles

1. **Correct Response: A.** (SMR Code 3.1) Synthetic fibers are made of long chains of molecules called polymers. The principle constituent of polymers is carbon. Carbon atoms have a property that allows them to form bonds in numerous ways. Understanding carbon bonding has allowed scientists to manipulate these bonds to create a multitude of synthetic fibers.
2. **Correct Response: B.** (SMR Code: 3.1) According to color theory, hues that are directly opposite one another on the color wheel are complementary and provide contrast for each other. On the color wheel, green is opposite red. Of the colors presented, burnt orange is closest to red and will have the greatest contrast with forest green.
3. **Correct Response: A.** (SMR Code: 3.2) China silk is commonly used as lining for garments. It is a durable, lightweight fabric that breathes well, making it appropriate for a business skirt.
4. **Correct Response: B.** (SMR Code: 3.2) In order to effectively remove candle wax or gum from a washable garment, the substance must be altered from its current state. A common method employed to do this is to harden the substance using an ice cube. After the substance is hardened, a dull knife can be used to scrape off as much of the substance as possible. The stained area can then be placed between layers of an absorbent material, such as paper towels or tissues, and pressed with a warm iron to remove the substance from the material. Finally, the garment should be washed to remove any remaining particles from the fabric.
5. **Correct Response: D.** (SMR Code: 3.3) The gathering technique is commonly used to add fullness to skirts and curtains, as well as to make puffy sleeves. In this technique, fabric is drawn together into puckers, allowing the fabric to drape in a decorative way or to curve with ease.

Housing and Interior Design

6. **Correct Response: C.** (SMR Code: 4.1) Homes built in a ranch style typically have all of the living areas (e.g., the living room, kitchen, dining area, bedrooms, bathrooms) located on one level. Since all of the living areas are on the same level, movement between the various areas does not require the use of stairs.
7. **Correct Response: A.** (SMR Code: 4.1) Fannie Mae is a private company whose mission is to facilitate first-time home buying for low-, moderate-, and middle-income families. It does this by offering low-interest loans, along with a variety of other financial services and programs, to help these families finance the purchase of a home.
8. **Correct Response: C.** (SMR Code: 4.2) Interior designers working in both residential and nonresidential settings are responsible for planning the materials, furnishings, and fixtures for the interior of a space. Among their responsibilities is specifying the location of lighting, cabinets, and room dividers.

9. **Correct Response: C.** (SMR Code: 4.3) Air filtration systems help purify the air in interior spaces by removing particles such as dust and bacteria. Since asthma is often aggravated by particulate matter, cleaner air within the home may help reduce the asthmatic symptoms Joseph is experiencing.
10. **Correct Response: D.** (SMR Code: 4.3) Cork flooring that is coated with vinyl provides a flexible, nonconductive surface that also absorbs sounds.

Consumer Education

11. **Correct Response: B.** (SMR Code: 5.1) The primary purpose of advertising is to make a product or service appealing to a consumer, which in turn may prompt the consumer to make a purchase. When making purchasing decisions, the consumer must evaluate advertising claims critically to determine their veracity and how advertising may be influencing the consumer's choices.
12. **Correct Response: D.** (SMR Code: 5.2) Although the initial cost of energy-efficient light bulbs may be higher than the cost of purchasing standard light bulbs, this replacement will result in a long-term financial savings for the consumer because of the reduction in electricity used.
13. **Correct Response: B.** (SMR Code: 5.3) In the graph presented, the supply curve shifts left and upward, showing that the quantity or supply of the product has decreased, and the price of the product has increased. Of the four scenarios given, only the rising costs for producing the item would result in a shift in the supply curve in this direction. If a product costs more to make, a manufacturer may decide to produce less of the product and raise the price to compensate for the higher cost of production.
14. **Correct Response: A.** (SMR Code: 5.4) Typically, longer-term loans cost the consumer more in financial charges. The primary advantage of taking out this type of loan is that the individual payments will be smaller. This helps reduce the financial impact of the original purchase by spreading the total cost over a longer period of time. The drawback to a longer-term loan is that, in total, it costs the consumer more than a shorter-term loan.
15. **Correct Response: D.** (SMR Code: 5.4) A standard homeowner's insurance policy covers losses resulting from theft, fire, and storms. Floods and earthquakes are typically not covered, but riders to cover the damages resulting from these events can be purchased for an additional fee.

Examples of Strong Responses to Sample Constructed-Response Questions for CSET: Home Economics Subtest III

Fashion and Textiles

Question #16 (Score Point 3 Response)

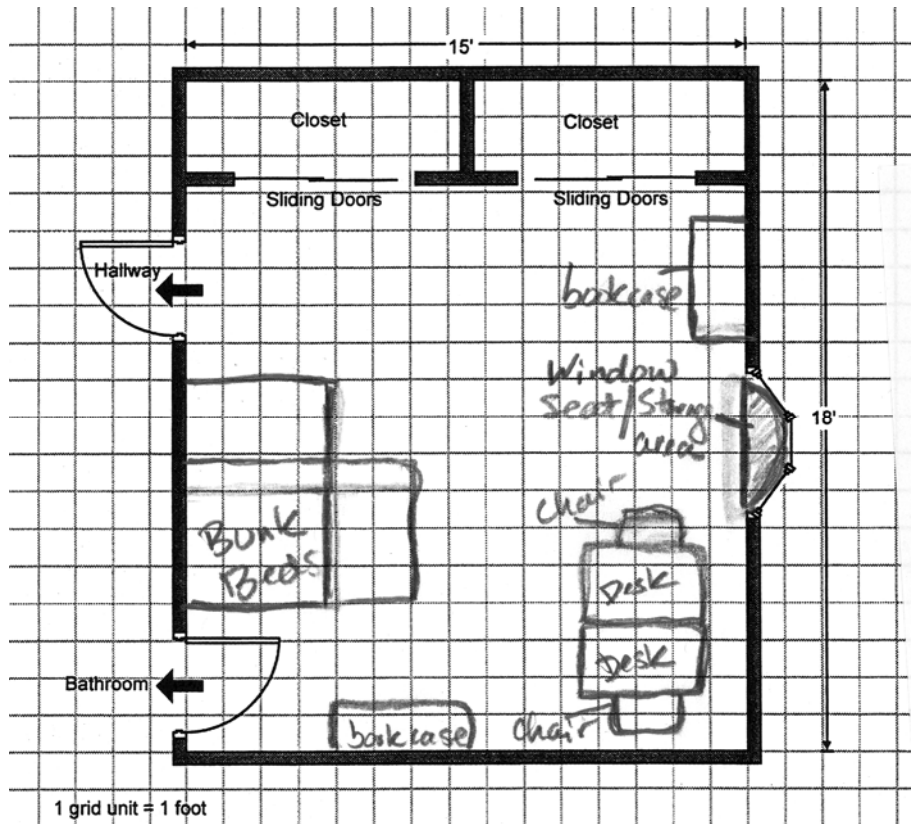
Shape is an important design element to consider for this project. Since the uniform will be worn by both male and female students of various body types and sizes, a tubular shape would be an appropriate choice. This would make the outfit look longer than it is wide.

The design principle of proportion is relevant. The top could be made longer than average to make the upper part of the body seem longer. This would accent the band instruments and create an impression of fluidity.

An appropriate fabric for this outfit would be polyester. It is washable and easy to care for and does not wrinkle, stretch, or shrink.

Housing and Interior Design

Question #17 (Score Point 3 Response)



The floor plan should increase the amount of storage while working with the existing placements of windows, doors, and closets. It should provide adequate space for movement and access to closets and bookcases and should take advantage of the natural light provided by the window.

The new arrangement frees up floor space and allows for better movement by changing from separate beds to bunk beds. The L-shape of the bunk beds allows for a tall storage area under the top bunk.

The addition of a window seat/storage unit calls attention to the window and allows more natural light into the room. It also provides additional storage.

A second desk provides a separate workspace for each girl.

Consumer Education

Question #18 (Score Point 3 Response)

According to the California Lemon Law, a consumer has the right to sell a car back to the dealer for the full purchase price (less an adjustment for usage). Or, the consumer may receive a replacement vehicle if the car is found to have a problem that could cause serious injury or death. The consumer may also receive a replacement vehicle if two or more attempts to repair the problem have been unsuccessful. The consumer has the choice of selling the car back or accepting a replacement. Since this car has a major problem that has not been successfully resolved, it appears that the provisions of this law have been met and Kathy is entitled to a refund.

Since the dealer has refused to comply with the Lemon Law, Kathy should take her concern to the next level. She should send a letter to the manufacturer along with copies of all relevant documents (bill of sale, repair records, correspondence between Kathy and the dealer). It would also be helpful to include a copy of the Lemon Law.

Question #19 (Score Point 3 Response)

U.S. savings bonds are an extremely safe and secure option. The return on the investment is predictable and guaranteed. However, the return is relatively low and the funds are locked in until the bond has matured. Bonds cannot be redeemed before their maturity date without incurring a penalty.

Mutual stock funds have a potential for substantial returns and the funds can be accessed at any time. However, the risk is higher than for bonds, and the value of the investment could decline or even be lost entirely.

The Johnsons should consider how soon they will need to access the funds and what level of risk they are willing to assume. If they will not need the money for a substantial number of years and are willing to take a chance, they may want to invest in a the stock fund, since stocks tend to grow in value over the long term at a higher rate than savings bonds. If they can set their money aside for a few years and do not want to take a financial risk, savings bonds would be a better option.

Scoring Information for CSET: Home Economics Subtest III

Responses to the multiple-choice questions are scored electronically. Scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly. There is no penalty for guessing.

There are four constructed-response questions in Subtest III of CSET: Home Economics. Each of these constructed-response questions is designed so that a response can be completed within a short amount of time—approximately 10–15 minutes. Responses to the constructed-response questions are scored by qualified California educators using focused holistic scoring. Scorers will judge the overall effectiveness of your responses while focusing on the performance characteristics that have been identified as important for this subtest (see below). Each response will be assigned a score based on an approved scoring scale (see page 17).

Your performance on the subtest will be evaluated against a standard determined by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing based on professional judgments and recommendations of California educators.

Performance Characteristics for CSET: Home Economics Subtest III

The following performance characteristics will guide the scoring of responses to the constructed-response questions on CSET: Home Economics Subtest III.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| PURPOSE | The extent to which the response addresses the constructed-response assignment's charge in relation to relevant CSET subject matter requirements. |
| SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE | The application of accurate subject matter knowledge as described in the relevant CSET subject matter requirements. |
| SUPPORT | The appropriateness and quality of the supporting evidence in relation to relevant CSET subject matter requirements. |

Scoring Scale for CSET: Home Economics Subtest III

Scores will be assigned to each response to the constructed-response questions on CSET: Home Economics Subtest III according to the following scoring scale.

| SCORE POINT | SCORE POINT DESCRIPTION |
|-------------|--|
| 3 | <p>The "3" response reflects a command of the relevant knowledge and skills as defined in the subject matter requirements for CSET: Home Economics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the assignment is fully achieved. • There is an accurate application of relevant subject matter knowledge. • There is appropriate and specific relevant supporting evidence. |
| 2 | <p>The "2" response reflects a general command of the relevant knowledge and skills as defined in the subject matter requirements for CSET: Home Economics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the assignment is largely achieved. • There is a largely accurate application of relevant subject matter knowledge. • There is acceptable relevant supporting evidence. |
| 1 | <p>The "1" response reflects a limited or no command of the relevant knowledge and skills as defined in the subject matter requirements for CSET: Home Economics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the assignment is only partially or not achieved. • There is limited or no application of relevant subject matter knowledge. • There is little or no relevant supporting evidence. |
| U | <p>The "U" (Unscorable) is assigned to a response that is unrelated to the assignment, illegible, primarily in a language other than English, or does not contain a sufficient amount of original work to score.</p> |
| B | <p>The "B" (Blank) is assigned to a response that is blank.</p> |