



Preparation Manual
Pedagogy and
Professional Responsibilities EC–12 (160)

Overview and Exam Framework
Sample Selected-Response Questions
Sample Selected-Response Answers and Rationales

Preparation Manual

Section 3: Overview and Exam Framework Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 (160)

Exam Overview

Exam Name	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12
Exam Code	160
Time	5 hours
Number of Questions	100 selected-response questions
Format	Computer-administered test (CAT)

The TExES Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 (160) test is designed to assess whether an examinee has the requisite knowledge and skills that an entry-level educator in this field in Texas public schools must possess. The 100 selected-response questions are based on the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 test framework and cover grades EC–12. The test may contain questions that do not count toward the score. Your final scaled score will be based only on scored questions.

The Standards

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12

Standard I

The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.

Standard II

The teacher creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity and excellence.

Standard III

The teacher promotes student learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies that actively engage students in the learning process and timely, high-quality feedback.

Standard IV

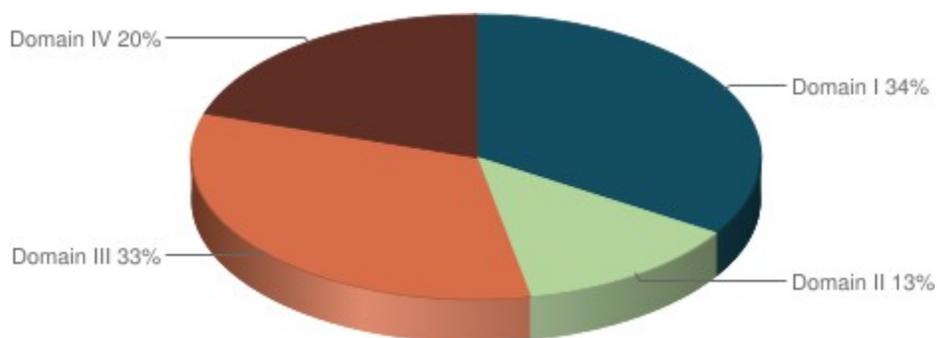
The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

Technology Applications

- Standard I** All teachers use and promote creative thinking and innovative processes to construct knowledge, generate new ideas, and create products.
- Standard II** All teachers collaborate and communicate both locally and globally using digital tools and resources to reinforce and promote learning.
- Standard III** All teachers acquire, analyze, and manage content from digital resources.
- Standard IV** All teachers make informed decisions by applying critical-thinking and problem solving skills.
- Standard V** All teachers practice and promote safe, responsible, legal, and ethical behavior while using technology tools and resources.
- Standard VI** All teachers demonstrate a thorough understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.

Domains and Competencies

Domain	Domain Title	Approx. Percentage of Exam	Standards Assessed
I	Designing Instruction and Assessment to Promote Student Learning	34%	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12: I
II	Creating a Positive, Productive Classroom Environment	13%	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12: II
III	Implementing Effective, Responsive Instruction and Assessment	33%	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12: I, III; Technology Applications: I-VII
IV	Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities	20%	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12: IV



The content covered by this exam is organized into broad areas of content called **domains**. Each domain covers one or more of the educator standards for this field. Within each domain, the content is further defined by a set of **competencies**. Each competency is composed of two major parts:

- The **competency statement**, which broadly defines what an entry-level educator in this field in Texas public schools should know and be able to do.
- The **descriptive statements**, which describe in greater detail the knowledge and skills eligible for testing.

Domain I—Designing Instruction and Assessment to Promote Student Learning

Competency 001—The teacher understands human developmental processes and applies this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs.

The beginning teacher:

- Knows the typical stages of cognitive, social, physical and emotional development of students in early childhood through grade 12.
- Recognizes the wide range of individual developmental differences that characterizes students in early childhood through grade 12 and the implications of this developmental variation for instructional planning.
- Analyzes ways in which developmental characteristics of students in early childhood through grade 12 impact learning and performance and applies knowledge of students' developmental characteristics and needs to plan effective learning experiences and assessments.
- Demonstrates an understanding of physical changes that occur in early childhood through adolescence, factors that affect students' physical growth and health (e.g., nutrition, sleep, prenatal exposure to drugs, abuse) and ways in which physical development impacts development in other domains (i.e., cognitive, social, emotional).
- Recognizes factors affecting the social and emotional development of students in early childhood through adolescence (e.g., lack of affection and attention, parental divorce, homelessness) and knows that students' social and emotional development impacts their development in other domains (i.e., cognitive, physical).
- Uses knowledge of cognitive changes in students in early childhood through adolescence (e.g., from an emphasis on concrete thinking to the emergence and refinement of abstract thinking and reasoning, increased ability to engage in reflective thinking, increased focus on the world beyond the school setting) to plan developmentally appropriate instruction and assessment that promote learning and development.
- Understands that development in any one domain (i.e., cognitive, social, physical, emotional) impacts development in other domains.
- Recognizes signs of developmental delays or impairments in students in early childhood through grade 4.
 - Knows the stages of play development (i.e., from solitary to cooperative) and the important role of play in young children's learning and development.
- Uses knowledge of the developmental characteristics and needs of students in early childhood through grade 4 to plan meaningful, integrated and active learning and play experiences that promote the development of the whole child.
- Recognizes that positive and productive learning environments involve creating a culture of high academic expectations, equity throughout the learning community and developmental responsiveness.
- Recognizes the importance of helping students in early childhood through grade 12 learn and apply life skills (e.g., decision-making skills, organizational skills, goal-setting skills, self-direction, workplace skills).

- M. Knows the rationale for appropriate middle-level education and how middle-level schools are structured to address the characteristics and needs of young adolescents.
- N. Recognizes typical challenges for students during later childhood, adolescence and young adulthood (e.g., self-image, physical appearance, eating disorders, feelings of rebelliousness, identity formation, educational and career decisions) and effective ways to help students address these challenges.
- O. Understands ways in which student involvement in risky behaviors (e.g., drug and alcohol use, gang involvement) impacts development and learning.
- P. Demonstrates knowledge of the importance of peers, peer acceptance and conformity to peer group norms and expectations for adolescents and understands the significance of peer-related issues for teaching and learning.

Competency 002—The teacher understands student diversity and knows how to plan learning experiences and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students' learning.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of students with diverse personal and social characteristics (e.g., those related to ethnicity, gender, language background, exceptionalty) and the significance of student diversity for teaching, learning and assessment.
- B. Accepts and respects students with diverse backgrounds and needs.
- C. Knows how to use diversity in the classroom and the community to enrich all students' learning experiences.
- D. Knows strategies for enhancing one's own understanding of students' diverse backgrounds and needs.
- E. Knows how to plan and adapt lessons to address students' varied backgrounds, skills, interests and learning needs, including the needs of English-language learners and students with disabilities.
- F. Understands cultural and socioeconomic differences (including differential access to technology) and knows how to plan instruction that is responsive to cultural and socioeconomic differences among students.
- G. Understands the instructional significance of varied student learning needs and preferences.
- H. Knows the ELPS in the domains of listening and speaking in accordance with the proficiency-level descriptors for the beginning, intermediate, advanced and advanced-high levels.
- I. Knows the ELPS in the domains of reading and writing in accordance with the proficiency-level descriptors for beginning, intermediate, advanced and advanced-high levels.

Competency 003—The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Understands the significance of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and of prerequisite knowledge and skills in determining instructional goals and objectives.
- B. Uses appropriate criteria to evaluate the appropriateness of learning goals and objectives (e.g., clarity; relevance; significance; age-appropriateness; ability to be assessed; responsiveness to students' current skills and knowledge, background, needs and interests; alignment with campus and district goals).
- C. Uses assessment to analyze students' strengths and needs, evaluate teacher effectiveness and guide instructional planning for individuals and groups.

- D. Understands the connection between various components of the Texas statewide assessment program, the TEKS and instruction and analyzes data from state and other assessments using common statistical measures to help identify students' strengths and needs.
- E. Demonstrates knowledge of various types of materials and resources (including technological resources and resources outside the school) that may be used to enhance student learning and engagement and evaluates the appropriateness of specific materials and resources for use in particular situations, to address specific purposes and to meet varied student needs.
- F. Plans lessons and structures units so that activities progress in a logical sequence and support stated instructional goals.
- G. Plans learning experiences that provide students with developmentally appropriate opportunities to explore content from integrated and varied perspectives (e.g., by presenting thematic units that incorporate different disciplines, providing intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary instruction, designing instruction that enables students to work cooperatively, providing multicultural learning experiences, prompting students to consider ideas from multiple viewpoints, encouraging students' application of knowledge and skills to the world beyond the school).
- H. Allocates time appropriately within lessons and units, including providing adequate opportunities for students to engage in reflection, self-assessment and closure.

Competency 004—The teacher understands learning processes and factors that impact student learning and demonstrates this knowledge by planning effective, engaging instruction and appropriate assessments.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Understands the role of learning theory in the instructional process and uses instructional strategies and appropriate technologies to facilitate student learning (e.g., connecting new information and ideas to prior knowledge, making learning meaningful and relevant to students).
- B. Understands that young children think concretely and rely primarily on motor and sensory input and direct experience for development of skills and knowledge and uses this understanding to plan effective, developmentally appropriate learning experiences and assessments.
- C. Understands that the middle-level years are a transitional stage in which students may exhibit characteristics of both older and younger children and that these are critical years for developing important skills and attitudes (e.g., working and getting along with others, appreciating diversity, making a commitment to continued schooling).
- D. Recognizes how characteristics of students at different developmental levels (e.g., limited attention span and need for physical activity and movement for younger children; importance of peers, search for identity, questioning of values and exploration of long-term career and life goals for older students) impact teaching and learning.
- E. Stimulates reflection, critical thinking and inquiry among students (e.g., supports the concept of play as a valid vehicle for young children's learning; provides opportunities for young children to manipulate materials and to test ideas and hypotheses; engages students in structured, hands-on problem-solving activities that are challenging; encourages exploration and risk-taking; creates a learning community that promotes positive contributions, effective communication and the respectful exchange of ideas).
- F. Enhances learning for students by providing age-appropriate instruction that encourages the use and refinement of higher-order thinking skills (e.g., prompting students to explore ideas from diverse perspectives; structuring active learning experiences involving cooperative learning, problem solving, open-ended questioning and inquiry; promoting students' development of research skills).
- G. Teaches, models and monitors organizational and time-management skills at an age-appropriate level (e.g., establishing regular places for classroom toys and materials for young children, keeping related materials together, using organizational tools, using effective strategies for locating information and organizing information systematically).

- H. Teaches, models and monitors age-appropriate study skills (e.g., using graphic organizers, outlining, note-taking, summarizing, test-taking) and structures research projects appropriately (e.g., teaches students the steps in research, establishes checkpoints during research projects, helps students use time-management tools).
- I. Analyzes ways in which teacher behaviors (e.g., teacher expectations, student grouping practices, teacher-student interactions) impact student learning and plans instruction and assessment that minimize the effects of negative factors and enhance all students' learning.
- J. Analyzes ways in which factors in the home and community (e.g., parent expectations, availability of community resources, community problems) impact student learning and plans instruction and assessment with awareness of social and cultural factors to enhance all students' learning.
- K. Understands the importance of self-directed learning and plans instruction and assessment that promote students' motivation and their sense of ownership of and responsibility for their own learning.
- L. Analyzes ways in which various teacher roles (e.g., facilitator, lecturer) and student roles (e.g., active learner, observer, group participant) impact student learning.
- M. Incorporates students' different approaches to learning (e.g., auditory, visual, tactile, kinesthetic) into instructional practices.
- N. Provides instruction to ensure that students can apply various learning strategies (e.g., using prior knowledge, metacognition, graphic organizers) across content areas, in accordance with the ELPS.
- O. Provides instruction in a manner that is linguistically accommodated (communicated, sequenced and scaffolded) to the student's level of English-language proficiency to ensure that the student learns the knowledge and skills across content areas, in accordance with the ELPS.
- P. Applies knowledge of the implications for learning and instruction of the range of thinking abilities found among students in any one grade level and students' increasing ability over time to engage in abstract thinking and reasoning.

Domain II—Creating a Positive, Productive Classroom Environment

Competency 005—The teacher knows how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Uses knowledge of the unique characteristics and needs of students at different developmental levels to establish a positive, productive classroom environment (e.g., encourages cooperation and sharing among younger students; provides middle-level students with opportunities to collaborate with peers; encourages older students' respect for the community and the people in it).
- B. Establishes a classroom climate that emphasizes collaboration and supportive interactions, respect for diversity and individual differences and active engagement in learning by all students.
- C. Analyzes ways in which teacher-student interactions and interactions among students impact classroom climate and student learning and development.
- D. Presents instruction in ways that communicate the teacher's enthusiasm for learning.
- E. Uses a variety of means to convey high expectations for all students.
- F. Knows characteristics of physical spaces that are safe and productive for learning, recognizes the benefits and limitations of various arrangements of furniture in the classroom and applies strategies for organizing the physical environment to ensure physical accessibility and facilitate learning in various instructional contexts.

- G. Creates a safe, nurturing and inclusive classroom environment that addresses students' emotional needs and respects students' rights and dignity.

Competency 006—The teacher understands strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Analyzes the effects of classroom routines and procedures on student learning, and knows how to establish and implement age-appropriate routines and procedures to promote an organized and productive learning environment.
- B. Demonstrates an understanding of how young children function in groups and designs group activities that reflect a realistic understanding of the extent of young children's ability to collaborate with others.
- C. Organizes and manages group activities that promote students' ability to work together cooperatively and productively, assume responsible roles and develop collaborative skills and individual accountability.
- D. Recognizes the importance of creating a schedule for young children that balances restful and active movement activities and that provides large blocks of time for play, projects and learning centers.
- E. Schedules activities and manages time in ways that maximize student learning, including using effective procedures to manage transitions; to manage materials, supplies and technology; and to coordinate the performance of noninstructional duties (e.g., taking attendance) with instructional activities.
- F. Uses technological tools to perform administrative tasks such as taking attendance, maintaining grade books and facilitating communication.
- G. Works with volunteers and paraprofessionals to enhance and enrich instruction and applies procedures for monitoring the performance of volunteers and paraprofessionals in the classroom.
- H. Applies theories and techniques related to managing and monitoring student behavior.
- I. Demonstrates awareness of appropriate behavior standards and expectations for students at various developmental levels.
- J. Applies effective procedures for managing student behavior and for promoting appropriate behavior and ethical work habits (e.g., academic integrity) in the classroom (e.g., communicating high and realistic behavior expectations, involving students in developing rules and procedures, establishing clear consequences for inappropriate behavior, enforcing behavior standards consistently, encouraging students to monitor their own behavior and to use conflict resolution skills, responding appropriately to various types of behavior).

Domain III—Implementing Effective, Responsive Instruction and Assessment

Competency 007—The teacher understands and applies principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Demonstrates clear, accurate communication in the teaching and learning process and uses language that is appropriate to students' ages, interests and backgrounds.
- B. Engages in skilled questioning and leads effective student discussions, including using questioning and discussion to engage all students in exploring content; extends students' knowledge; and fosters active student inquiry, higher-order thinking, problem solving and productive, supportive interactions, including appropriate wait time.

- C. Communicates directions, explanations and procedures effectively and uses strategies for adjusting communication to enhance student understanding (e.g., by providing examples, simplifying complex ideas, using appropriate communication tools).
- D. Practices effective communication techniques and interpersonal skills (including both verbal and nonverbal skills and electronic communication) for meeting specified goals in various contexts.

Competency 008—The teacher provides appropriate instruction that actively engages students in the learning process.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Employs various instructional techniques (e.g., discussion, inquiry, problem solving) and varies teacher and student roles in the instructional process and provides instruction that promotes intellectual involvement and active student engagement and learning.
- B. Applies various strategies to promote student engagement and learning (e.g., by structuring lessons effectively, using flexible instructional groupings, pacing lessons flexibly in response to student needs, including wait time).
- C. Presents content to students in ways that are relevant and meaningful and that link with students' prior knowledge and experience.
- D. Applies criteria for evaluating the appropriateness of instructional activities, materials, resources and technologies for students with varied characteristics and needs.
- E. Engages in continuous monitoring of instructional effectiveness.
- F. Applies knowledge of different types of motivation (i.e., internal, external) and factors affecting student motivation.
- G. Employs effective motivational strategies and encourages students' self-motivation.
- H. Provides focused, targeted and systematic second language acquisition instruction to English-language learners in grade 3 or higher who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English-language proficiency in listening and/or speaking in accordance with the ELPS.
- I. Provides focused, targeted and systematic second language acquisition instruction to English-language learners in grade 3 or higher who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English-language proficiency in reading and/or writing in accordance with the ELPS.
- J. Develops the foundation of English language vocabulary, grammar, syntax and mechanics necessary to understand content-based instruction and accelerated learning of English in accordance with the ELPS.

Competency 009—The teacher incorporates the effective use of technology to plan, organize, deliver and evaluate instruction for all students.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of basic terms and concepts of current technology, systems, and operations (e.g., hardware, software applications and functions, input/output devices, networks, and basic design principles).
- B. Understands issues related to the safe and appropriate use of technology in society and follows guidelines for the legal and ethical use of technology and digital information (e.g., privacy guidelines, copyright laws, acceptable use policies, and digital etiquette).
- C. Applies procedures for acquiring, analyzing, and evaluating electronic information (e.g., locating information on networks, accessing and manipulating information from secondary storage and remote devices, using online help and other documentation, and evaluating electronic information for accuracy and validity).

- D. Knows how to use task-appropriate tools and procedures to synthesize knowledge, create and modify solutions, and evaluate results to support the work of individuals and groups in problem-solving situations and project-based learning activities (e.g., planning, creating, and editing word processing documents, spreadsheet documents, and databases; using graphic tools; participating in electronic communities as learner, initiator, and contributor; and sharing information through online communication).
- E. Knows how to use productivity tools to collaborate and communicate information in various formats (e.g., slide show, multimedia presentation, and newsletter) and applies procedures for publishing information in various ways (e.g., printed copy, monitor display, Internet document, and video).
- F. Knows how to plan, organize, deliver, and evaluate instruction that incorporates the effective use of current technology; knows how to use developmentally appropriate instructional practices, activities, and materials to integrate the Technology Applications TEKS into the curriculum.
- G. Knows how to promote creative thinking and innovative process to construct knowledge, generate new ideas, and create products (e.g., design multimedia presentations, explore complex systems or issues, and develop steps for the creation of products).
- H. Identifies and addresses equity issues related to the use of technology.

Competency 010—The teacher monitors student performance and achievement; provides students with timely, high-quality feedback; and responds flexibly to promote learning for all students.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics, uses, advantages and limitations of various assessment methods and strategies, including technological methods and methods that reflect real-world applications.
- B. Creates assessments that are congruent with instructional goals and objectives and communicates assessment criteria and standards to students based on high expectations for learning.
- C. Uses appropriate language and formats to provide students with timely, effective feedback that is accurate, constructive, substantive and specific.
- D. Knows how to promote students' ability to use feedback and self-assessment to guide and enhance their own learning.
- E. Responds flexibly to various situations (e.g., lack of student engagement in an activity, the occurrence of an unanticipated learning opportunity) and adjusts instructional approaches based on ongoing assessment of student performance.

Domain IV—Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities

Competency 011—The teacher understands the importance of family involvement in children's education and knows how to interact and communicate effectively with families.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Applies knowledge of appropriate ways (including electronic communication) to work and communicate effectively with families in various situations.
- B. Engages families, parents, guardians and other legal caregivers in various aspects of the educational program.

- C. Interacts appropriately with all families, including those that have diverse characteristics, backgrounds and needs.
- D. Communicates effectively with families on a regular basis (e.g., to share information about students' progress) and responds to their concerns.
- E. Conducts effective conferences with parents, guardians and other legal caregivers.
- F. Effectively uses family support resources (e.g., community, interagency) to enhance family involvement in student learning.

Competency 012—The teacher enhances professional knowledge and skills by effectively interacting with other members of the educational community and participating in various types of professional activities.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Interacts appropriately with other professionals in the school community (e.g., vertical teaming, horizontal teaming, team teaching, mentoring).
- B. Maintains supportive, cooperative relationships with professional colleagues and collaborates to support students' learning and to achieve campus and district goals.
- C. Knows the roles and responsibilities of specialists and other professionals at the building and district levels (e.g., department chairperson, principal, board of trustees, curriculum coordinator, technology coordinator, special education professional).
- D. Understands the value of participating in school activities and contributes to school and district (e.g., by participating in decision making and problem solving, sharing ideas and expertise, serving on committees, volunteering to participate in events and projects).
- E. Uses resources and support systems effectively (e.g., mentors, service centers, state initiatives, universities) to address professional development needs.
- F. Recognizes characteristics, goals and procedures associated with teacher appraisal and uses appraisal results to improve teaching skills.
- G. Works productively with supervisors, mentors and other colleagues to address issues and to enhance professional knowledge and skills.
- H. Understands and uses professional development resources (e.g., mentors and other support systems, conferences, online resources, workshops, journals, professional associations, coursework) to enhance knowledge, pedagogical skills and technological expertise.
- I. Engages in reflection and self-assessment to identify strengths, challenges and potential problems; improve teaching performance; and achieve professional goals.

Competency 013—The teacher understands and adheres to legal and ethical requirements for educators and is knowledgeable of the structure of education in Texas.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows legal requirements for educators (e.g., those related to special education, students' and families' rights, student discipline, equity, child abuse) and adheres to legal guidelines in education-related situations.
- B. Knows and adheres to legal and ethical requirements regarding the use of educational resources and technologies (e.g., copyright, Fair Use, data security, privacy, acceptable use policies).
- C. Applies knowledge of ethical guidelines for educators in Texas (e.g., those related to confidentiality, interactions with students and others in the school community), including policies and procedures described in the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators.
- D. Follows procedures and requirements for maintaining accurate student records.

- E. Understands the importance of and adheres to required procedures for administering state- and district-mandated assessments.
- F. Uses knowledge of the structure of the state education system, including relationships among campus, local and state components, to seek information and assistance.
- G. Advocates for students and for the profession in various situations.

Preparation Manual

Section 4: Sample Selected-Response Questions Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 (160)

This section presents some sample exam questions for you to review as part of your preparation for the exam. To demonstrate how each competency may be assessed, sample questions are accompanied by the competency that they measure. While studying, you may wish to read the competency before and after you consider each sample question. Please note that the competency statements do not appear on the actual exam.

For each sample exam question, there is a correct answer and a rationale for each answer option. The sample questions are included to illustrate the formats and types of questions you will see on the exam; however, your performance on the sample questions should not be viewed as a predictor of your performance on the actual exam.

Domain I—Designing Instruction and Assessment to Promote Student Learning

Competency 001—The teacher understands human developmental processes and applies this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs.

1. Which of the following activities would be the most developmentally appropriate for a first-grade teacher to include in a unit on the life cycle of plants?

- A. Planting a bean and observing the stages of growth
- B. Reading nonfiction books about plants and creating posters
- C. Visiting a science center and touring the plant exhibits
- D. Watching a video about plants and drawing the bean life cycle

Answer _____

2. Which of the following strategies most directly leads to increased academic performance?

- A. Integrating social-emotional learning in classes
- B. Scheduling daily time for students to read for pleasure
- C. Rewarding students for meeting specific objectives
- D. Enforcing regulations regarding excessive tardiness

Answer _____

3. Which of the following is the most powerful influence on a person's sense of identity before adolescence?

- A. School
- B. Family
- C. Media
- D. Peers

Answer _____

4. Which of the following rationales would a supporter of block scheduling provide to convince others to support the organizational structure?

- A. Teachers can focus on more subjects in a shorter time.
- B. There is an emphasis on mastering facts and skills.
- C. Students' time in quality learning situations is increased.
- D. The responsibility for learning is shifted to the teachers.

Answer _____

Competency 002—The teacher understands student diversity and knows how to plan learning experiences and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students' learning.

5. During a unit of study, a teacher uses books, artwork, and posters from different countries. For the culminating activity, the teacher invites members of the local community from diverse backgrounds to talk to the students about their experiences related to the unit. The teacher is most likely trying to

- A. make social connections to the community.
- B. adhere to state standards for curriculum.
- C. introduce different languages to students.
- D. promote students' cultural awareness.

Answer _____

6. Which of the following instructional practices best ensures that a teacher structures the learning environment to address the needs of diverse students?

- A. Differentiation
- B. Remediation
- C. Enrichment
- D. Modeling

Answer _____

7. Which of the following approaches is best for a teacher to take to increase students' awareness about local cultures?

- A. Assigning a yearlong project focusing on students' cultures
- B. Introducing students to authors' cultures from around the world
- C. Showing video clips of various cultural cuisines
- D. Inviting community members to discuss their cultures

Answer _____

Competency 003—The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.

8. A social studies teacher is planning a unit for National Hispanic Heritage month. Which of the following activities will best engage kinesthetic learners?

- A. Observing performers model dances from different regions of Mexico
- B. Creating masks like those traditionally used in the Ponce Carnival in Puerto Rico
- C. Identifying important geographical features on a map of Argentina
- D. Comparing the monetary system of Colombia to that of the United States

Answer _____

9. Which of the following approaches is the most effective way for a new teacher to improve implementation of a recently adopted curriculum?

- A. Focusing on keeping pace with the other teachers in the grade
- B. Using supplementary materials from the educational supply store
- C. Continuing to use the old curriculum while gradually introducing the new one
- D. Inviting another teacher to observe several lessons and give feedback

Answer _____

Competency 004—The teacher understands learning processes and factors that impact student learning and demonstrates this knowledge by planning effective, engaging instruction and appropriate assessments.

10. In a science class that includes English-language learners (ELLs), a teacher encourages all students to monitor their own level of understanding by having them take notes in their journal as they read assigned texts. What is the primary purpose of teaching ELLs in particular the skill of learning how to monitor understanding?

- A. Decreasing the students' intimidation associated with learning a new language
- B. Acknowledging the prior cultural experiences of the students
- C. Cultivating a positive environment in which the students can learn
- D. Promoting the students' ability to adjust their thinking as needed

Answer _____

11. Which of the following strategies best supports a teacher's goal to incorporate critical thinking skills into language arts lessons?

- A. Providing students with opportunities to seek additional content knowledge
- B. Creating a forum for students to debate points of view
- C. Having students individually summarize various literature read
- D. Asking students to create practice questions as a review activity

Answer _____

12. Which of the following activities best supports improving middle school students' engagement in experiments during science class?

- A. Conducting debriefing activities where students discuss the validity and implications of the experiments

- B. Having students work in heterogeneous groups to complete lab reports immediately following the experiments
- C. Providing students with a checklist to mark as they complete each step of the scientific process for the experiments
- D. Allowing students to choose the topics and methodology to help plan the next classroom experiments

Answer _____

Domain II—Creating a Positive, Productive Classroom Environment

Competency 005—The teacher knows how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive.

13. A teacher changes the arrangement of desks in the classroom from rows to a circle facing the center. Which of the following is the primary benefit of the adjustment?

- A. Varying students' view of the classroom posters and instructional aids
- B. Maximizing students' opportunities for interaction and discussion
- C. Establishing a direct line of vision between the students and the front of the classroom
- D. Allowing students opportunities to move freely around the classroom

Answer _____

14. Every week a teacher who has a personal interest in music shares with the class current news about musicians and music events and then displays the articles on a bulletin board. The teacher then encourages students to share current events of their own choosing with the class. By doing this the teacher is

- A. modeling good reading strategies.
- B. making text-to-text connections.
- C. promoting a passion for learning.
- D. brainstorming topics for writing.

Answer _____

Competency 006—The teacher understands strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior.

15. Which of the following is the most effective informal strategy for continuous monitoring of student learning?

- A. Administering benchmark assessments to track progress
- B. Using formative assessments at the end of the unit
- C. Questioning students during daily class discussions
- D. Incorporating graphic organizers to teach key concepts for each unit of study

Answer _____

16. Which THREE of the following are important factors to consider when establishing routines for cooperative group work?

- A. Goals to be met
- B. Daily schedule
- C. Classroom setting
- D. Individual accountability
- E. Equal opportunities

Answer _____

Domain III—Implementing Effective, Responsive Instruction and Assessment

Competency 007—The teacher understands and applies principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

17. During whole class instruction, a middle school teacher realizes that most of the students are reluctant to participate in class discussions and give one-word answers when they do participate. Which of the following strategies is most effective for the teacher to use to increase student engagement?

- A. Having students answer questions on paper in class
- B. Giving students think time after asking probing questions
- C. Asking students to answer questions online for homework
- D. Assessing students' understanding using an oral pop quiz

Answer _____

18. A teacher has posted the steps of a procedure on the board. While explaining the procedure to the class, the teacher points to each step. The primary reason the teacher uses a nonverbal hand gesture is to

- A. correctly sequence the order of completion.
- B. show that the steps are being read verbatim.
- C. provide visual cues to direct students' focus.
- D. allow for movement during lesson delivery.

Answer _____

Competency 008—The teacher provides appropriate instruction that actively engages students in the learning process.

19. Which of the following strategies is most appropriate for assisting English-language learners (ELLs) at the beginning level of proficiency with reading content-specific material?

- A. Providing instruction on text-based academic vocabulary prior to reading
- B. Requiring students to develop outlines of the text in English while reading
- C. Having students read content material aloud in groups with other ELLs
- D. Providing students with parallel texts in English and their native language

Answer _____

20. A class is learning about the impact a famous person had on society. As an enrichment activity, the teacher allows students to choose any person that has influenced their life in a positive way and write about that person. By giving students a choice, the teacher best demonstrates an understanding of the importance of

- A. having the students participate in community service projects.
- B. promoting motivation to better engage students in the learning process.
- C. making the students responsible for their own work.
- D. asking the students to work in groups to complete the project.

Answer _____

21. A teacher is beginning a new unit of study covering cultures. To best meet the student's needs and drive instruction, the teacher's first step should be to

- A. administer an anticipation guide to activate prior knowledge of the cultures.
- B. provide a short video clip showcasing the cultures.
- C. show pictures of the part of the world associated with the cultures.
- D. assign groups to research the cultures and countries.

Answer _____

Competency 009—The teacher incorporates the effective use of technology to plan, organize, deliver and evaluate instruction for all students.

22. A school district has implemented a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy, which allows students to use their Internet-capable personal devices in class with teacher permission. Teachers are planning to have students use the devices for end-of-chapter quizzes. Which of the following is the most appropriate way for the teachers to ensure that students who do not own personal devices can participate?

- A. Requiring all students to answer the quizzes on paper and to submit the paper
- B. Providing loaner devices from school inventories that are capable of accessing the quizzes
- C. Asking students to share their devices with students who do not own a device
- D. Telling students about activities in advance and requiring them to borrow or rent a device

Answer _____

23. A teacher plans to use an online discussion board on which students will respond to open-ended questions about the novel they are studying. Parents have already given permission for the students to post online. Which of the following is the next step the teacher should take?

- A. Assigning a certain time of day for students to contribute to the discussion board
- B. Modeling the types of communication the students should use
- C. Securing permission for the board from the school technology coordinator
- D. Assessing the computer literacy skills of the students

Answer _____

24. A teacher plans to integrate technology into a collaborative learning environment. Which of the following student activities will be most engaging to the students and achieve the teacher's goal?

- A. Presenting a multimedia presentation on a key concept
- B. Creating a blog discussing the attributes of a book they read recently
- C. Reading an electronic version of a chapter in a textbook
- D. Comparing accounts of historical events in film and print sources

Answer _____

Competency 010—The teacher monitors student performance and achievement; provides students with timely, high-quality feedback; and responds flexibly to promote learning for all students.

25. After students have taken a summative assessment, which of the following strategies is best for a teacher to use to provide feedback to students on their progress?

- A. Comparing individual student results with former students' performance
- B. Having parents provide signatures to acknowledge receipt of the assessment
- C. Discussing the results with students to establish learning goals
- D. Including the assessment results in student portfolios

Answer _____

26. Which of the following teacher strategies will best help students enhance their own learning after being given quality feedback?

- A. Assigning practice work and reassessing skills at the end of each unit of study
- B. Asking students to confer with peers and regularly correct their work on their own time
- C. Sending a letter home to the parents detailing the progress a student has made
- D. Providing students with timely opportunities to talk with the teacher about their work

Answer _____

27. A teacher implements a scientifically based instructional reading strategy for the first time with a class. The teacher then assesses students' learning but does not see the desired results. Which of the following is most important for the teacher to consider before using the strategy again?

- A. Students' learning levels differ, and the assessment results may not be valid for all the students in the class.
- B. Some students participating in the lesson may not have liked the content of the lesson, and so they may not have scored as well on the assessment as they would have for different subject matter.
- C. Students must be exposed to the strategy over time by a teacher who is using the strategy faithfully as designed before seeing improved learning results.
- D. Students were unfamiliar with the assessment format and so scored poorly.

Answer _____

Domain IV—Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities

Competency 011—The teacher understands the importance of family involvement in children’s education and knows how to interact and communicate effectively with families.

28. Which of the following teacher actions will best promote parents as partners in their child's education?

- A. Having the parents sign their child's progress report so they can monitor the child's learning
- B. Contacting parents with good news about their child as needed
- C. Sending home with each child a copy of the school's policy on family involvement
- D. Encouraging parents to have high aspirations for their child's learning

Answer _____

29. A teacher wants to increase parental involvement for a kindergarten class. After some parents did not attend the school open house at the beginning of the year, the teacher set up home visits with three families. Which of the following is the most important reason for home visits?

- A. Engaging with the family
- B. Verifying attendance for a student
- C. Checking out local neighborhoods
- D. Verifying that parents receive paperwork

Answer _____

30. To best help parents from culturally diverse backgrounds actively participate in school, a teacher should

- A. complete training to learn to speak the parents' language.
- B. encourage parents to provide direct instruction at home.
- C. explain to parents how to join a parent organization.
- D. send messages home in the parents' native language.

Answer _____

Competency 012—The teacher enhances professional knowledge and skills by effectively interacting with other members of the educational community and participating in various types of professional activities.

31. Which THREE of the following topics are most appropriate for a beginning teacher to discuss with a mentor?

- A. The school's attendance and tardiness policies
- B. Specific details of a student's home environment
- C. Clarification of a topic discussed at a staff meeting
- D. Methods for starting after-school tutoring for struggling students

Answer _____

32. Which of the following is the best way for a teacher to improve personal knowledge of technology use in the classroom?

- A. Attending a professional development workshop
- B. Collaborating with district technology-support personnel
- C. Adding a variety of technology tools to the classroom
- D. Scheduling more time for students to use the computer lab

Answer _____

33. A sixth-grade teacher wants to have a better understanding of what students will be expected to know when they leave fifth grade and when they enter seventh grade. The committee type that will best help this teacher is

- A. vertical teaming.
- B. horizontal teaming.
- C. campus improvement.
- D. superintendent's round table.

Answer _____

Competency 013—The teacher understands and adheres to legal and ethical requirements for educators and is knowledgeable of the structure of education in Texas.

34. Which of the following is the most appropriate first step to take if a teacher is concerned that a student is suffering from abuse?

- A. Calling the parents for a conference to discuss the suspicions
- B. Reporting the suspicions to the child protective services agency
- C. Sharing the concerns with the designated school personnel
- D. Asking the student pointed questions to ensure that all is well at home

Answer _____

35. A student qualifies for special education services, and the student needs an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Which THREE of the following people must be involved in developing the plan?

- A. A special education teacher
- B. A school administrator
- C. A social worker
- D. A counselor
- E. A general education teacher

Answer _____

36. A teacher wants to require students to purchase a novel for an assigned reading. Which of the following is the most appropriate source for the teacher to check whether requiring the purchase is allowable?

- A. Texas Education Code

- B. Copyright law
- C. Educators' Code of Ethics
- D. Acceptable use policy

Answer _____

Multiple-Competencies Passages

Questions 37–40 refer to the following information.

A middle school teacher is preparing a class for a field trip to the state legislature and planning a unit to help the students understand the role of a legislator in state government.

LEGISLATIVE UNIT PLAN

Objective 1 — Research

Students will work in small groups to gather information about a legislative issue and to publish that information in report form.

Objective 2 — Analysis

Students will form an opinion on their issue and demonstrate an awareness of the significance of the issue.

Objective 3 — Propose a bill

Students will work in small groups to write a draft of a proposed bill about their issue.

Objective 4 — Discussions

Students will discuss the issue with peers, attempting to persuade peers to adopt a certain position on the issue.

Objective 5 — Mock legislative session

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the legislative process and participate in a mock legislative session.

Competency 003—The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.

37. Which of the following is a primary concern for the teacher to address when evaluating objective 2 of the unit?
- A. The desired outcome is not directly measurable.
 - B. The student action is not appropriate for a group activity.
 - C. The intended action does not meet the goal of the project.
 - D. The proposed objective does not require higher-level thinking.

Answer _____

Competency 005—The teacher knows how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive.

38. Which of the following will best ensure the proper classroom climate for objective 5?

- A. Discussing the importance of professional attire for the activity
- B. Having the students agree to ground rules for the activity
- C. Allowing students to rearrange the room to resemble a legislative chamber
- D. Showing students a video of a famous debate that occurred in a legislative session

Answer _____

Competency 007—The teacher understands and applies principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

39. Which of the following statements is the best way to express the desired outcome of objective 3 in a lesson plan?

- A. Students will be able to outline the process involved in drafting legislation for consideration.
- B. Students will understand the collaborative part of the legislative process.
- C. Students will appreciate the complexities of the legislative process.
- D. Students will be able to draft a piece of legislation to present for debate.

Answer _____

Competency 006—The teacher understands strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior.

40. Which of the following questions is best designed to elicit student responses that demonstrate mastery of both components of objective 4?

- A. What is the main objective of your bill?
- B. Why should I vote for your bill?
- C. Where did you find the information you used to draft your bill?
- D. Who else supports this bill?

Answer _____

Preparation Manual

Section 4: Sample Selected-Response Answers and Rationales

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 (160)

This section presents some sample exam questions for you to review as part of your preparation for the exam. To demonstrate how each competency may be assessed, sample questions are accompanied by the competency that they measure. While studying, you may wish to read the competency before and after you consider each sample question. Please note that the competency statements do not appear on the actual exam.

For each sample exam question, there is a correct answer and a rationale for each answer option. The sample questions are included to illustrate the formats and types of questions you will see on the exam; however, your performance on the sample questions should not be viewed as a predictor of your performance on the actual exam.

Domain I—Designing Instruction and Assessment to Promote Student Learning

Competency 001—The teacher understands human developmental processes and applies this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs.

1. Which of the following activities would be the most developmentally appropriate for a first-grade teacher to include in a unit on the life cycle of plants?
- A. Planting a bean and observing the stages of growth
 - B. Reading nonfiction books about plants and creating posters
 - C. Visiting a science center and touring the plant exhibits
 - D. Watching a video about plants and drawing the bean life cycle

Answer

Option A is correct because children in first grade are concrete learners who learn best by doing experiments and observing real events as they occur. **Option B is incorrect** because reading about a topic in a book is not as effective as observing a real plant as it grows. **Option C is incorrect** because touring an exhibit on plants is not as effective as watching a real seed grow into a plant. **Option D is incorrect** because watching a video is not as effective as observing the real plant as it grows.

2. Which of the following strategies most directly leads to increased academic performance?
- A. Integrating social-emotional learning in classes
 - B. Scheduling daily time for students to read for pleasure
 - C. Rewarding students for meeting specific objectives
 - D. Enforcing regulations regarding excessive tardiness

Answer

Option A is correct because research supports the conclusion that integrating social-emotional learning across the curriculum improves academic performance. **Option B is incorrect** because research suggests that simply allowing time for reading does not necessarily lead to improved skills in reading. **Option C is incorrect** because giving incentives for student performance reduces intrinsic motivation to learn. **Option D is incorrect** because although attendance is important to learning, a strategy focused only on tardy students will not improve student performance.

3. Which of the following is the most powerful influence on a person's sense of identity before adolescence?
- A. School
 - B. Family
 - C. Media
 - D. Peers

Answer

Option B is correct because the family has the initial and most powerful influence upon children before and immediately after birth. The impact of socialization on personality development begins with the family before it extends to other social entities. **Option A is incorrect** because identity formation stems from early childhood exposure to family beliefs, values, and customs. The influence of school is secondary. **Option C is incorrect** because identity formation stems from early childhood exposure to family beliefs, values, and customs. Influence from media is secondary. **Option D is incorrect** because identity formation stems from early childhood exposure to family beliefs, values, and customs. However, as the child develops, the influence shifts so that peers and social forces in play a more powerful role. This occurs during adolescence, not before.

4. Which of the following rationales would a supporter of block scheduling provide to convince others to support the organizational structure?
- A. Teachers can focus on more subjects in a shorter time.
 - B. There is an emphasis on mastering facts and skills.
 - C. Students' time in quality learning situations is increased.
 - D. The responsibility for learning is shifted to the teachers.

Answer

Option C is correct because block scheduling gives students longer periods so that they are able to spend more time in quality learning situations. **Option A is incorrect** because the students in a block schedule do not get instruction in more subjects in a shorter time. That is actually the opposite of block scheduling. **Option B is incorrect** because this is what tends to happen when there is a shorter time in class. Teachers feel rushed to teach skills and facts instead of giving students time to explore and discover. **Option D is incorrect** because block scheduling puts the emphasis on students to take responsibility for their own learning.

Competency 002—The teacher understands student diversity and knows how to plan learning experiences and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students' learning.

5. During a unit of study, a teacher uses books, artwork, and posters from different countries. For the culminating activity, the teacher invites members of the local community from diverse backgrounds to talk to the students about their experiences related to the unit. The teacher is most likely trying to

- A. make social connections to the community.
- B. adhere to state standards for curriculum.
- C. introduce different languages to students.
- D. promote students' cultural awareness.

Answer

Option D is correct because the teacher is trying to take every opportunity to reach all students and help them make a connection to their various cultures. **Option A is incorrect** because the teacher is trying to help students understand the importance of their various cultures, not work on community connections. **Option B is incorrect** because expanding the curriculum and instruction or lesson planning is not the goal. **Option C is incorrect** because the teacher is not intending to introduce different languages to the students. The teacher is trying to work on building cultural awareness through personal connections.

6. Which of the following instructional practices best ensures that a teacher structures the learning environment to address the needs of diverse students?

- A. Differentiation
- B. Remediation
- C. Enrichment
- D. Modeling

Answer

Option A is correct because research shows that students learn better when lessons are tailored to their ability and learning style. Accommodating different ability levels within the class provides a positive learning environment for all students. **Option B is incorrect** because providing remedial instruction for some students does not address the needs of those students who are performing at or above expectations. **Option C is incorrect** because enrichment describes instructional approaches typically aimed at gifted learners. **Option D is incorrect** because during modeling, the teacher provides a demonstration of a finished product to students and does not make any adjustments for individual differences.

7. Which of the following approaches is best for a teacher to take to increase students' awareness about local cultures?

- A. Assigning a yearlong project focusing on students' cultures
- B. Introducing students to authors' cultures from around the world
- C. Showing video clips of various cultural cuisines
- D. Inviting community members to discuss their cultures

Answer

Option D is correct because involving community members is a great way to showcase the unique local cultures and encourage ethnocentric education within the classroom. **Option A is incorrect** because this is not a quick

way to encourage cultural awareness, since the project takes all year the effect will be lost by the end of the year. **Option B is incorrect** because while it is a nice way to share authors from around the world but it does not necessarily make a connection to the students local community. **Option C is incorrect** because it does not address local cultures but showcase cuisines from around the world.

Competency 003—The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.

8. A social studies teacher is planning a unit for National Hispanic Heritage month. Which of the following activities will best engage kinesthetic learners?

- A. Observing performers model dances from different regions of Mexico
- B. Creating masks like those traditionally used in the Ponce Carnival in Puerto Rico
- C. Identifying important geographical features on a map of Argentina
- D. Comparing the monetary system of Colombia to that of the United States

Answer

Option B is correct because it allows the students to work with their hands, which is appealing for a kinesthetic learner; it also integrates the arts. **Option A is incorrect** because, though it integrates social studies and the arts, it does not incorporate the student's bodies in the dance movements. Watching the dance is passive.

Option C is incorrect because it incorporates other subjects in the social studies lesson but does not involve hands-on learning. **Option D is incorrect** because comparing the two monetary systems is a paper-and-pencil activity is not a hands-on activity.

9. Which of the following approaches is the most effective way for a new teacher to improve implementation of a recently adopted curriculum?

- A. Focusing on keeping pace with the other teachers in the grade
- B. Using supplementary materials from the educational supply store
- C. Continuing to use the old curriculum while gradually introducing the new one
- D. Inviting another teacher to observe several lessons and give feedback

Answer

Option D is correct because peer observation is the most effective way for teachers to get an objective view of their teaching and make needed changes in their teaching strategies. **Option A is incorrect** because the focus for the teacher is on completing the units on time rather than on ensuring that students master the needed skills.

Option B is incorrect because using supplementary materials will not help her master the math curriculum she needs to be teaching. **Option C is incorrect** because the teacher should primarily be using the district-adopted curriculum.

Competency 004—The teacher understands learning processes and factors that impact student learning and demonstrates this knowledge by planning effective, engaging instruction and appropriate assessments.

10. In a science class that includes English-language learners (ELLs), a teacher encourages all students to monitor their own level of understanding by having them take notes in their journal as they read assigned texts. What is the primary purpose of teaching ELLs in particular the skill of learning how to monitor understanding?

- A. Decreasing the students' intimidation associated with learning a new language
- B. Acknowledging the prior cultural experiences of the students
- C. Cultivating a positive environment in which the students can learn
- D. Promoting the students' ability to adjust their thinking as needed

Answer

Option D is correct because by writing notes in their journals about what they are reading, the students are deploying metacognitive skills, i.e., monitoring and adjusting their thinking about the reading assignments.

Option A is incorrect because the primary reason to encourage students to monitor their own understanding is not to decrease the intimidation associated with learning a new language but to aid them in becoming accomplished learners. **Option B is incorrect** because the primary reason to encourage ELL students to monitor their own understanding is not to acknowledge the prior cultural experiences of the students but to help them use metacognitive skills to learn. **Option C is incorrect** because the primary reason to encourage ELL students to monitor their own understanding is not to cultivate a positive environment in which students can learn but to help them use metacognition to monitor learning.

11. Which of the following strategies best supports a teacher's goal to incorporate critical thinking skills into language arts lessons?

- A. Providing students with opportunities to seek additional content knowledge
- B. Creating a forum for students to debate points of view
- C. Having students individually summarize various literature read
- D. Asking students to create practice questions as a review activity

Answer

Option B is correct because a debate allows students to analyze arguments, claims, or evidence, which strengthens critical thinking skills. **Option A, C and D are incorrect** because these are lower levels of understanding and do not provide students with critical thinking opportunities.

12. Which of the following activities best supports improving middle school students' engagement in experiments during science class?

- A. Conducting debriefing activities where students discuss the validity and implications of the experiments
- B. Having students work in heterogeneous groups to complete lab reports immediately following the experiments
- C. Providing students with a checklist to mark as they complete each step of the scientific process for the experiments
- D. Allowing students to choose the topics and methodology to help plan the next classroom experiments

Answer

Option A is correct because students will engage when they are asked to think critically about evidence and offer explanations. **Option B is incorrect** because assigning groups and recording results does not promote engagement. **Option C is incorrect** because a checklist does not involve critical thinking and is more of a year-long activity. **Option D is incorrect** because these students do not have a knowledge of standards sufficient to develop their own experiments.

Domain II—Creating a Positive, Productive Classroom Environment

Competency 005—The teacher knows how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive.

13. A teacher changes the arrangement of desks in the classroom from rows to a circle facing the center. Which of the following is the primary benefit of the adjustment?

- A. Varying students' view of the classroom posters and instructional aids
- B. Maximizing students' opportunities for interaction and discussion
- C. Establishing a direct line of vision between the students and the front of the classroom
- D. Allowing students opportunities to move freely around the classroom

Answer

Option B is correct because by arranging classes to maximize eye contact, a teacher can promote a safe, engaging classroom climate. **Option A is incorrect** because the teacher is trying to foster a more engaging classroom, not focus on students' views from within the classroom. **Option C is incorrect** because the teacher is trying to maximize interactions, not put the focus on the front of the classroom. **Option D is incorrect** because this arrangement can limit movement. This arrangement is designed to increase eye contact and stimulate engaging classroom interactions.

14. Every week a teacher who has a personal interest in music shares with the class current news about musicians and music events and then displays the articles on a bulletin board. The teacher then encourages students to share current events of their own choosing with the class. By doing this the teacher is

- A. modeling good reading strategies.
- B. making text-to-text connections.
- C. promoting a passion for learning.
- D. brainstorming topics for writing.

Answer

Option C is correct because the teacher is showing enthusiasm for a topic and therefore engaging students in the learning process. **Option A is incorrect** because the teacher is not directly modeling any specific reading strategies. **Option B is incorrect** because the teacher is not necessarily modeling making text-to-text connections by sharing the articles. **Option D is incorrect** because there is no evidence that the purpose of sharing these current events is to develop topics for writing.

Competency 006—The teacher understands strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior.

15. Which of the following is the most effective informal strategy for continuous monitoring of student learning?
- A. Administering benchmark assessments to track progress
 - B. Using formative assessments at the end of the unit
 - C. Questioning students during daily class discussions
 - D. Incorporating graphic organizers to teach key concepts for each unit of study

Answer

Option C is correct because the teacher is continuously monitoring student understanding and can adjust instruction as needed. **Option A is incorrect** because a benchmark assessment is a formal assessment. **Option B is incorrect** because a formative assessment is used to inform instruction in the unit; if given at the end of the unit, it cannot help the teacher make changes to instruction based on student performance, so it is ineffective. **Option D is incorrect** because this is an appropriate strategy for introducing a new concept rather than a way to informally assess understanding of it.

16. Which THREE of the following are important factors to consider when establishing routines for cooperative group work?
- A. Goals to be met
 - B. Daily schedule
 - C. Classroom setting
 - D. Individual accountability
 - E. Equal opportunities

Answer

Option A is correct because knowing the goals to be met should be part of planning the cooperative learning teams so that students understand what is to be accomplished and earn recognition for the improvement of each member of a group. **Option D is correct** because while the teammates work together the learning gains of individuals form the basis of a team score. **Option E is correct** because within a cooperative team there should be equal opportunities for success. **Option B is incorrect** because the daily schedule does not affect whether the classwork is completed individually or in cooperative learning teams. **Option C is incorrect** because the classroom setting does not determine the routines for cooperative group work.

Domain III—Implementing Effective, Responsive Instruction and Assessment

Competency 007—The teacher understands and applies principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

17. During whole class instruction, a middle school teacher realizes that most of the students are reluctant to participate in class discussions and give one-word answers when they do participate. Which of the following strategies is most effective for the teacher to use to increase student engagement?

- A. Having students answer questions on paper in class

- B. Giving students think time after asking probing questions
- C. Asking students to answer questions online for homework
- D. Assessing students' understanding using an oral pop quiz

Answer

Option B is correct because increasing the wait time after an initial question can evoke higher-level thinking and result in more detailed student responses. **Option A is incorrect** because writing answers to questions on paper does not increase student engagement. **Option C is incorrect** because writing answers to questions for homework does not increase student engagement. **Option D is incorrect** because without the appropriate wait time, oral quiz questions would produce the same reluctance from students and therefore would not increase student engagement.

18. A teacher has posted the steps of a procedure on the board. While explaining the procedure to the class, the teacher points to each step. The primary reason the teacher uses a nonverbal hand gesture is to

- A. correctly sequence the order of completion.
- B. show that the steps are being read verbatim.
- C. provide visual cues to direct students' focus.
- D. allow for movement during lesson delivery.

Answer

Option C is correct because students benefit from auditory and visual cues when receiving instructions, since it helps them retain information. **Option A is incorrect** because the primary purpose of pointing and using gestures is to direct the students' focus. **Option B is incorrect** because using hand signals in this situation is not intended as a reading tracking tool. **Option D is incorrect** because gestures and hand signals have nothing to do with the teacher's movement, but instead aid with helping students clarify questions and focus.

Competency 008—The teacher provides appropriate instruction that actively engages students in the learning process.

19. Which of the following strategies is most appropriate for assisting English-language learners (ELLs) at the beginning level of proficiency with reading content-specific material?

- A. Providing instruction on text-based academic vocabulary prior to reading
- B. Requiring students to develop outlines of the text in English while reading
- C. Having students read content material aloud in groups with other ELLs
- D. Providing students with parallel texts in English and their native language

Answer

Option A is correct because providing instruction on content-specific vocabulary has been proven to help both ELLs and native speakers acquire new vocabulary and comprehend content instruction. **Option B is incorrect** because note taking is not appropriate for beginning ELLs, as they lack the language skills to take notes in a second language. **Option C is incorrect** because ELLs at this level will most likely lack the language skills to comprehend content-specific texts. **Option D is incorrect** because although providing information in students' native language may help with their content knowledge, it will not help them with language acquisition.

20. A class is learning about the impact a famous person had on society. As an enrichment activity, the teacher allows students to choose any person that has influenced their life in a positive way and write about that person. By giving students a choice, the teacher best demonstrates an understanding of the importance of

- A. having the students participate in community service projects.
- B. promoting motivation to better engage students in the learning process.
- C. making the students responsible for their own work.
- D. asking the students to work in groups to complete the project.

Answer

Option B is correct because the students always learn better if they can relate the lesson to their own life or real-life experience. **Option A is incorrect** because making students do community service project is going to help them learn how to serve their community, not encourage students' self-motivation. **Option C is incorrect** because making the students responsible for their work will help student become accountable for their work, not encourage students' self-motivation. **Option D is incorrect** because students working in groups is not going to encourage student motivation.

21. A teacher is beginning a new unit of study covering cultures. To best meet the student's needs and drive instruction, the teacher's first step should be to

- A. administer an anticipation guide to activate prior knowledge of the cultures.
- B. provide a short video clip showcasing the cultures.
- C. show pictures of the part of the world associated with the cultures.
- D. assign groups to research the cultures and countries.

Answer

Option A is correct because anticipation guides are a great way for students to make predictions as well as build curiosity of a new topic while also activating prior knowledge. **Option B is incorrect** because the students' are just watching a video and this is not helping with adjusting instruction as needed. **Option C is incorrect** because showing pictures of the world does not help with activating prior knowledge. **Option D is incorrect** because students are not helping adjust the teacher's instruction by working on a group assignment.

Competency 009—The teacher incorporates the effective use of technology to plan, organize, deliver and evaluate instruction for all students.

22. A school district has implemented a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy, which allows students to use their Internet-capable personal devices in class with teacher permission. Teachers are planning to have students use the devices for end-of-chapter quizzes. Which of the following is the most appropriate way for the teachers to ensure that students who do not own personal devices can participate?

- A. Requiring all students to answer the quizzes on paper and to submit the paper
- B. Providing loaner devices from school inventories that are capable of accessing the quizzes
- C. Asking students to share their devices with students who do not own a device
- D. Telling students about activities in advance and requiring them to borrow or rent a device

Answer

Option B is correct because it provides each student with the opportunity to participate in the activity using a basic device fulfilling the original purpose of the activity: informal assessment and student engagement. **Option A is incorrect** because it does not provide an equal opportunity for all students to participate in the activity using technology. **Option C is incorrect** because it can identify inequities between students in the area of personal devices. Additionally, students may not be able to share devices because of parental concerns or liability issues. **Option D is incorrect** because it requires students to provide technology to participate in class activities. Science is not a course of study that requires payment for materials in the classroom.

23. A teacher plans to use an online discussion board on which students will respond to open-ended questions about the novel they are studying. Parents have already given permission for the students to post online. Which of the following is the next step the teacher should take?

- A. Assigning a certain time of day for students to contribute to the discussion board
- B. Modeling the types of communication the students should use
- C. Securing permission for the board from the school technology coordinator
- D. Assessing the computer literacy skills of the students

Answer

Option B is correct because students need to understand the expectations for online communication and what is acceptable to the teacher. **Option A is incorrect** because one of the advantages of online communication is that it can be completed at any time of day. There should not be one specific time assigned for making contributions. **Option C is incorrect** because it is not necessary to get permission from the school technology coordinator if the teacher already has the students' Acceptable Use Policy. **Option D is incorrect** because assessing computer skills is not the most important next step. If a student has a concern about how to use the computer, the teacher can show the student individually.

24. A teacher plans to integrate technology into a collaborative learning environment. Which of the following student activities will be most engaging to the students and achieve the teacher's goal?

- A. Presenting a multimedia presentation on a key concept
- B. Creating a blog discussing the attributes of a book they read recently
- C. Reading an electronic version of a chapter in a textbook
- D. Comparing accounts of historical events in film and print sources

Answer

Option B is correct because a blog is a collaborative activity that requires student interaction. **Option A is incorrect** because the activity does not promote collaboration among students. **Option C is incorrect** because the activity does not promote collaboration among students. **Option D is incorrect** because the activity does not promote collaboration among students.

Competency 010—The teacher monitors student performance and achievement; provides students with timely, high-quality feedback; and responds flexibly to promote learning for all students.

25. After students have taken a summative assessment, which of the following strategies is best for a teacher to use to provide feedback to students on their progress?

- A. Comparing individual student results with former students' performance
- B. Having parents provide signatures to acknowledge receipt of the assessment
- C. Discussing the results with students to establish learning goals
- D. Including the assessment results in student portfolios

Answer

Option C is correct because looking back over the test allows students to gain understanding and to reflect on any errors they might have made. **Option A is incorrect** because it does not provide a way for students to reflect on their learning and improve their understanding after going over an assessment. It is inappropriate to compare students with each other in front of the students, and it is not helpful for the teacher to do alone. **Option B is incorrect** because it does not give students the opportunity to reflect on their misconceptions after the assessment. Making parents aware of assessment scores is useful only for giving them information and/or soliciting support. **Option D is incorrect** because assessments in a portfolio create a good record of learning but do not give feedback to students.

26. Which of the following teacher strategies will best help students enhance their own learning after being given quality feedback?

- A. Assigning practice work and reassessing skills at the end of each unit of study
- B. Asking students to confer with peers and regularly correct their work on their own time
- C. Sending a letter home to the parents detailing the progress a student has made
- D. Providing students with timely opportunities to talk with the teacher about their work

Answer

Option D is correct because it gives students the ability to talk about their mistakes and then correct what they have learned from their feedback. **Option A is incorrect** because assigning practice work when students do not know how to do it correctly can only reinforce their misconceptions. **Option B is incorrect** because it asks students to confer and make corrections on their own time instead of providing an opportunity for them to do so. **Option C is incorrect** because it places the expectation of learning from the feedback onto the parent, not the student.

27. A teacher implements a scientifically based instructional reading strategy for the first time with a class. The teacher then assesses students' learning but does not see the desired results. Which of the following is most important for the teacher to consider before using the strategy again?

- A. Students' learning levels differ, and the assessment results may not be valid for all the students in the class.
- B. Some students participating in the lesson may not have liked the content of the lesson, and so they may not have scored as well on the assessment as they would have for different subject matter.
- C. Students must be exposed to the strategy over time by a teacher who is using the strategy faithfully as designed before seeing improved learning results.
- D. Students were unfamiliar with the assessment format and so scored poorly.

Answer

Option C is correct because implementing the strategy on a one-time basis does not guarantee improved student learning outcomes. The teacher must be committed to using the strategy faithfully as designed and over time. **Option A is incorrect** because while it is a factor in the results, the teacher's commitment to using the strategy faithfully as designed is more important. **Option B is incorrect** because the content of the lesson should be a lesser factor affecting the successful use of a scientifically based instructional strategy. **Option D is incorrect** because even though it may be true, it is fidelity to the original research that must be considered first.

Domain IV—Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities

Competency 011—The teacher understands the importance of family involvement in children's education and knows how to interact and communicate effectively with families.

28. Which of the following teacher actions will best promote parents as partners in their child's education?
- A. Having the parents sign their child's progress report so they can monitor the child's learning
 - B. Contacting parents with good news about their child as needed
 - C. Sending home with each child a copy of the school's policy on family involvement
 - D. Encouraging parents to have high aspirations for their child's learning

Answer

Option A is correct because parents are vital partners in their child's education and life success. Having parents sign progress reports ensures that they are aware of their child's learning. **Option B is incorrect** because sending home good-news reports should be an ongoing action, not one that occurs as needed. **Option C is incorrect** because the action will provide important information for the parents, but it will not promote parents as partners. **Option D is incorrect** because while all parents should have high aspirations for their children, this action will not guarantee that that will happen.

29. A teacher wants to increase parental involvement for a kindergarten class. After some parents did not attend the school open house at the beginning of the year, the teacher set up home visits with three families. Which of the following is the most important reason for home visits?

- A. Engaging with the family
- B. Verifying attendance for a student
- C. Checking out local neighborhoods
- D. Verifying that parents receive paperwork

Answer

Option A is correct because the teacher understands the importance of parent contact and that when not all parents can come to school, home visits are the best option. **Option B is incorrect** because the teacher is not responsible for verifying attendance; this would be the job of an administrator or attendance clerk. **Option C is incorrect** because the teacher should not be concerned about looking over homes in the local neighborhood. **Option D is incorrect** because the teacher does not need to make a home visit for paperwork.

30. To best help parents from culturally diverse backgrounds actively participate in school, a teacher should
- A. complete training to learn to speak the parents' language.
 - B. encourage parents to provide direct instruction at home.
 - C. explain to parents how to join a parent organization.
 - D. send messages home in the parents' native language.

Answer

Option C is correct because educators should adopt the role of advocate. Parents from culturally diverse backgrounds should be encouraged to join parent organizations and share their cultural points of view. **Option A is incorrect** because it is not necessary to learn to speak the other language to get parents to actively participate in schools. **Option B is incorrect** because it encourages parental participation at home, not school. **Option D is incorrect** because this is used to facilitate communication, not encourage parents to actively participate in schools. Also, the teacher may not have the resources to do this.

Competency 012—The teacher enhances professional knowledge and skills by effectively interacting with other members of the educational community and participating in various types of professional activities.

31. Which THREE of the following topics are most appropriate for a beginning teacher to discuss with a mentor?
- A. The school's attendance and tardiness policies
 - B. Specific details of a student's home environment
 - C. Clarification of a topic discussed at a staff meeting
 - D. Methods for starting after-school tutoring for struggling students

Answer

Option A is correct because the requirements for taking attendance can vary, so it is important for a beginning teacher to receive guidance from a veteran teacher who is familiar with the process. **Option C is correct** because a mentor teacher will be a good source to answer the question or know where to get clarification. **Option D is correct** because each school has a different procedure for tutoring, and it is important to be on the same page as the rest of the campus and be aligned with the school's expectations. **Option B is incorrect** because discussing personal information about a student's home environment is against FERPA.

32. Which of the following is the best way for a teacher to improve personal knowledge of technology use in the classroom?
- A. Attending a professional development workshop
 - B. Collaborating with district technology-support personnel
 - C. Adding a variety of technology tools to the classroom
 - D. Scheduling more time for students to use the computer lab

Answer

Option B is correct because it will provide the teacher with someone in a supportive role for ongoing contact. **Option A is incorrect** because one-time workshops often don't change teacher practice and have no effect on student achievement. **Option C is incorrect** because quantity does not ensure quality, and the teacher will not know how to use the tools without training and support. **Option D is incorrect** because spending more time in the computer lab will not improve the teacher's knowledge directly.

33. A sixth-grade teacher wants to have a better understanding of what students will be expected to know when they leave fifth grade and when they enter seventh grade. The committee type that will best help this teacher is

- A. vertical teaming.
- B. horizontal teaming.
- C. campus improvement.
- D. superintendent's round table.

Answer

Option A is correct because a vertical team is comprised of members from different grade levels who meet to share ideas and fine tune their curriculum. **Option B is incorrect** because a horizontal team is comprised of members from different content areas, but they are all on the same grade level. **Option C is incorrect** because the campus improvement team addresses issues for the whole campus and is comprised of members from all departments and grade levels. **Option D is incorrect** because the superintendent's round table is focused on addressing issues affecting the entire district, not necessarily curriculum.

Competency 013—The teacher understands and adheres to legal and ethical requirements for educators and is knowledgeable of the structure of education in Texas.

34. Which of the following is the most appropriate first step to take if a teacher is concerned that a student is suffering from abuse?

- A. Calling the parents for a conference to discuss the suspicions
- B. Reporting the suspicions to the child protective services agency
- C. Sharing the concerns with the designated school personnel
- D. Asking the student pointed questions to ensure that all is well at home

Answer

Option B is correct because state law mandates that anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect must report it to appropriate authorities immediately. **Option A is incorrect** because contacting the parents may bring repercussions for the child. **Option C is incorrect** because while it is important to follow school policy and report suspected abuse or neglect to school personnel, the initial person is responsible for ensuring that it gets reported to the authorities immediately. **Option D is incorrect** because the student may deny the abuse and the action does not follow the law.

35. A student qualifies for special education services, and the student needs an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Which THREE of the following people must be involved in developing the plan?

- A. A special education teacher
- B. A school administrator
- C. A social worker
- D. A counselor
- E. A general education teacher

Answer

Options A, B and E are correct because according to the legal requirements for the Individualized Education Program team, a special education teacher, school administrator and general education teacher are team members who are able to assist in writing an IEP. **Options C and D are incorrect** because social workers and counselors do not have to be present when an IEP is being written.

36. A teacher wants to require students to purchase a novel for an assigned reading. Which of the following is the most appropriate source for the teacher to check whether requiring the purchase is allowable?

- A. Texas Education Code
- B. Copyright law
- C. Educators' Code of Ethics
- D. Acceptable use policy

Answer

Option A is correct because the Texas Education Code and district policy will show that a school board may not charge fees for textbooks. **Option B is incorrect** because copyright law is in place to protect the author, not to determine whether students can be required to buy books. **Option C is incorrect** because it is not specific enough to address the situation. While it relays the need to be ethical, it does not provide the teacher with information to know if the action is allowable. **Option D is incorrect** because the acceptable use policy refers to procedures for using school computers and resources.

Multiple-Competencies Passages

Questions 37–40 refer to the following information.

A middle school teacher is preparing a class for a field trip to the state legislature and planning a unit to help the students understand the role of a legislator in state government.

LEGISLATIVE UNIT PLAN

Objective 1 — Research

Students will work in small groups to gather information about a legislative issue and to publish that information in report form.

Objective 2 — Analysis

Students will form an opinion on their issue and demonstrate an awareness of the significance of the issue.

Objective 3 — Propose a bill

Students will work in small groups to write a draft of a proposed bill about their issue.

Objective 4 — Discussions

Students will discuss the issue with peers, attempting to persuade peers to adopt a certain position on the issue.

Objective 5 — Mock legislative session

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the legislative process and participate in a mock legislative session.

Competency 003—The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.

37. Which of the following is a primary concern for the teacher to address when evaluating objective 2 of the unit?
- A. The desired outcome is not directly measurable.
 - B. The student action is not appropriate for a group activity.
 - C. The intended action does not meet the goal of the project.
 - D. The proposed objective does not require higher-level thinking.

Answer

Option A is correct because there is no specific method given for students to demonstrate awareness, so there is no way for the teacher to measure or assess student mastery of the objective. **Option B is incorrect** because although members of the group may initially have differing opinions, building consensus is a part of any group project and is therefore appropriate for the task. **Option C is incorrect** because students must form an opinion about the issue before they can work on legislation about the issue, so the objective does align with the overall goal of the project. **Option D is incorrect** because forming an opinion about an issue requires students to analyze and evaluate information, both of which are higher-level thinking skills.

Competency 005—The teacher knows how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive.

38. Which of the following will best ensure the proper classroom climate for objective 5?
- A. Discussing the importance of professional attire for the activity
 - B. Having the students agree to ground rules for the activity
 - C. Allowing students to rearrange the room to resemble a legislative chamber
 - D. Showing students a video of a famous debate that occurred in a legislative session

Answer

Option B is correct because allowing the students to set the guidelines for the activity will help create a respectful atmosphere in which all students can freely and safely participate. **Option A is incorrect** because although proper attire may help establish a certain tone for the activity, clear guidelines about expectations and behavior will be more effective at creating a safe and supportive environment for student participation. **Option C is incorrect** because although room arrangement can facilitate participation, most legislative chambers are not organized to facilitate group discussion; furthermore, room arrangement will not necessarily foster the climate of respect and support needed to encourage full student participation. **Option D is incorrect** because although this may help students understand certain expectations, it will not necessarily help them set and understand the necessary guidelines of behavior to support full and active participation.

Competency 007—The teacher understands and applies principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

39. Which of the following statements is the best way to express the desired outcome of objective 3 in a lesson plan?
- A. Students will be able to outline the process involved in drafting legislation for consideration.
 - B. Students will understand the collaborative part of the legislative process.
 - C. Students will appreciate the complexities of the legislative process.
 - D. Students will be able to draft a piece of legislation to present for debate.

Answer

Option D is correct because the statement clearly explains the outcome that the teacher expects by stating what students should be able to produce to show that they have met the objective. **Option A is incorrect** because the statement does not express a measurable and observable goal. **Option B is incorrect** because understanding a process is a nebulous goal, and students may or may not be able to assess whether they have met the goal. **Option C is incorrect** because it does not provide students with a concrete method of demonstrating their appreciation or understanding, so they most likely will be unable to judge whether they have met the goal.

Competency 006—The teacher understands strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior.

40. Which of the following questions is best designed to elicit student responses that demonstrate mastery of both components of objective 4?

- A. What is the main objective of your bill?
- B. Why should I vote for your bill?
- C. Where did you find the information you used to draft your bill?
- D. Who else supports this bill?

Answer

Option B is correct because the question requires students to provide information about the bill as well as demonstrating persuasive skills by constructing an argument to convince the audience. **Option A is incorrect** because the question just requires the student to provide information rather than to persuade the audience. **Option C is incorrect** because simply listing the sources used does not effectively persuade the audience to support the bill. **Option D is incorrect** because although the response to the question may help persuade some listeners, it does not prompt the speaker to provide information and construct an argument in support of the bill.