



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

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

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.