

## Performance Characteristics and Scoring Scale

### Performance Characteristics

The following characteristics guide the scoring of responses to the open-response item(s).

<b>Purpose</b>	The extent to which the response achieves the purpose of the assignment
<b>Content Knowledge</b>	Accuracy and appropriateness in the application of subject matter knowledge
<b>Support</b>	Quality and relevance of supporting details
<b>Rationale</b>	Soundness of argument and degree of understanding of the subject matter

### Scoring Scale

The scoring scale below, which is related to the performance characteristics for the tests, is used by scorers in assigning scores to responses to the open-response item(s).

<b>Score Point</b>	<b>Score Point Description</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>The "4" response reflects a thorough knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of the assignment is fully achieved.</li> <li>There is substantial, accurate, and appropriate application of subject matter knowledge.</li> <li>The supporting evidence is sound; there are high-quality, relevant examples.</li> <li>The response reflects an ably reasoned, comprehensive understanding of the topic.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>The "3" response reflects an adequate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of the assignment is largely achieved.</li> <li>There is a generally accurate and appropriate application of subject matter knowledge.</li> <li>The supporting evidence is adequate; there are some acceptable, relevant examples.</li> <li>The response reflects an adequately reasoned understanding of the topic.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>The "2" response reflects a limited knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of the assignment is partially achieved.</li> <li>There is a limited, possibly inaccurate or inappropriate, application of subject matter knowledge.</li> <li>The supporting evidence is limited; there are few relevant examples.</li> <li>The response reflects a limited, poorly reasoned understanding of the topic.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<b>The "1" response reflects a weak knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of the assignment is not achieved.</li> <li>There is little or no appropriate or accurate application of subject matter knowledge.</li> <li>The supporting evidence, if present, is weak; there are few or no relevant examples.</li> <li>The response reflects little or no reasoning about or understanding of the topic.</li> </ul>
<b>U</b>	<b>The response is unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, primarily in a language other than English, not of sufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment.</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>There is no response to the assignment.</b>