

The “A” Outcomes

Analytical Thinking

Critical Thinking

The student's work evidences:	Exceptional	Strong	More than acceptable	Acceptable	Marginally acceptable	Unacceptable
1. An accurate identification of the topic to be analyzed	Extremely articulate and thorough comprehension of the topic	Effective identification and clear comprehension of topic	Effective identification and some comprehension of topic	Accurate identification of topic	Vague identification of topic	No or inaccurate identification of topic
2. Consideration of pertinent information before decision-making or formulating a response	Sophisticated comprehension of information that is pertinent for consideration and a thoroughness in the amount and nature of information that has been applied	Clear comprehension of information that is pertinent for consideration and some depth to the nature of information that has been applied	Some comprehension of information that is pertinent for consideration and consideration of more than a minimal amount of pertinent information	Minimal comprehension of what information is pertinent and at least adequate use of such pertinent information	Very limited comprehension of which information is pertinent and a very limited use of such pertinent information	No comprehension of which information is pertinent or use of such pertinent information
3. Use of an appropriate analytical process*	Sophisticated application of an analytical process that yields highly insightful and original analysis of the topic and pertinent information	Effective use of an analytical process that yields a very well informed analysis of the topic and pertinent information	Appropriate use of an analytical process that yields an effective analysis of the topic and pertinent information	Basic use of an identifiable analytical process that yields a minimal analysis of the topic and pertinent information	Some evidence of an attempt to use an identifiable analytical process that yields a flawed analysis of the topic and pertinent information	No use of an identifiable analytical process that yields any kind of acceptable analysis of the topic and pertinent information
4. Drawing of logical conclusions	Synthesis of analyzed information into insightful conclusions evidencing very effective comprehension of the topic and sophisticated use of analytical thinking and evaluation	Some synthesis of analyzed information into effective conclusions evidencing effective comprehension of the topic and use of analytical thinking and evaluation	Clearly stated conclusions evidencing some understanding of the topic and use of reasoning and evaluation	A statement of a conclusion relevant to the topic	An unclear attempt to state a conclusion of questionable relevance to the topic	A statement of a conclusion irrelevant to the topic or no statement of conclusion whatsoever
5. The supporting of conclusions with evidence and reason	Very thorough synthesis and evaluation of well documented evidence and reason	Some synthesis and evaluation of well documented evidence and reason	Adequate use of evidence and reason to support conclusions	Some use of appropriate evidence and reasoning	Very minimal use of evidence or reasoning	No use of supporting evidence or reasoning
6. Application of relevant principles/ concepts to current topic	Sophisticated application and synthesis of numerous relevant principles/ concepts to current topic for purpose of evaluation	Effective application of several relevant principles/ concepts to current topic for purpose of evaluation	Effective application of at least one relevant principle/ concept to current topic for purpose of evaluation	A recognizable attempt to apply at least one relevant principle/concept to current topic for purpose of evaluation	An ineffective attempt to apply a relevant principle/concept to current topic for purpose of evaluation	No attempt to apply any relevant principle/concept to current topic for purpose of evaluation
7. Insight into the topic or an original response	Sophisticated synthesis in approach to the topic and/or a highly effective original evaluative response	Effective insight into the topic and/or an effective original response	Some insight into the topic or some originality in the response	A suggestion of insight into the topic or the suggestion of possible originality in the response	No insight into the topic or originality of response	Inappropriate insight into the topic or very clichéd response

*“analytical process” refers to such approaches as comparison/contrast; classification; cause and effect; etc.

Problem Solving

The student's work evidences:	Exceptional	Strong	More than acceptable	Acceptable	Marginally acceptable	Unacceptable
1. The identification of the task to be completed or problem to be solved	Extremely articulate and thorough comprehension of a highly challenging task	Effective identification and clear comprehension of a challenging task	Effective identification and some comprehension of a common task	Accurate identification of a common task	Partial identification of a common task	Inaccurate or no identification of the task
2. The breaking of the problem into solvable steps	Sophisticated comprehension of a highly challenging task demonstrated through the application of solvable steps	Clear comprehension of a challenging task demonstrated through the application of solvable steps	Clear comprehension of a common task demonstrated through the application of solvable steps	An adequate comprehension of a common task demonstrated through the application of solvable steps	A flawed comprehension of a common task demonstrated through the application of solvable steps	An inaccurate or no comprehension of a task demonstrated through the application of solvable steps
3. The narrowing of choices for solving the problem	The narrowing of choices for a highly challenging problem evidencing sophisticated application and analysis	The narrowing of choices for a challenging problem evidencing effective application and analysis	The narrowing of choices for a common problem evidencing effective application	Adequate narrowing of choices for a common problem	Partially effective narrowing of choices for a common problem	Ineffective or no narrowing of choices
4. The application of principles (learned from similar problems or real world knowledge) to the problem	A sophisticated application and synthesis of numerous relevant principles to a very challenging problem	An effective application of numerous relevant principles to a challenging problem evidencing some synthesis	An effective application of at least one principle to a common problem	Adequate application of at least one principle to a common problem	Flawed application of at least one principle to a common problem	An inaccurate or no application of any principle to the problem
5. Use of strategies to achieve outcomes	Sophisticated application and synthesis of advanced strategies to achieve highly challenging outcomes	An effective application and synthesis of appropriate strategies to achieve challenging outcomes	An effective application of appropriate strategies to achieve outcomes	Adequate use of common strategies to achieve outcomes	Flawed use of strategies to achieve outcomes	An inaccurate or no use of strategies to achieve outcomes
6. Evaluation of the solution	Very sophisticated evaluation of the solution for a highly challenging problem	Effective evaluation of the solution for a challenging problem	Effective evaluation of the solution for a common problem	Adequate evaluation of the solution for a common problem	Partial evaluation of the solution for a problem	Ineffective or no evaluation of the solution for a problem