OPTE PK-8
Practice Test Questions

#1

During the concrete operational stage of cognitive development as described by Piaget, students benefits from frequent opportunities to manipulate and test objects primarily because students at this stage:

A. Understand concepts more fully when learning tasks including physical activity

B. Require scaffolding in the use of visualization as a learning strategy

C. Construct knowledge most effectively through a process of trial and error

D. Possess a system of thinking that is still tied to physical reality

#1 Answer

Correct Answer D

Rationale: As described by Piaget, the concrete operational stage marks a major turning point in cognitive development as children's thinking becomes more organized, logical, and flexible and more closely resembles the reasoning of adults. An important limitation of concrete operational thinking is that this organization, logic, and flexibility in thinking can occur only when children are dealing with concrete information they can perceive directly, not when working with abstract ideas that are not apparent in the real world.

Further Information:
http://www.simplypsychology.org/piaget.html

#2

Which of the following cognitive advances typically occurs between the ages of six and nine?

A. Making the transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn"

B. Replacing magical beliefs with plausible explanation

C. Identifying cause and effect relationships in familiar situations

D. Distinguishing the difference between estimating and guessing.

#2 Answer

Competency 1

Correct Answer: A

Rationale: During middle childhood, the brain's processing speed increases dramatically. This increase in processing speed along with more efficient decoding skills, children typically achieve by middle childhood, releases working memory for the higher-level mental activity involved in comprehending the meaning of a text.

#3

Elementary school teachers can best support students in handling difficult situations by engaging them regularly in activities designed to promote which of the following abilities?

    A. Creative thinking

    B. Problem-centered coping

    C. Analogical thinking

    D. Perspective taking

#3 Answer

Competency 1
Correct Answer: D

Rationale: Prospective taking is the ability to view a situation from another person's point of view and consider his or her thoughts and feelings. Peer interactions profit from perspective taking by enabling students to anticipate and respond to others' need more effectively, which in turn supports the development of mature social behavior.

#4

Which of the following skills is most important to emphasize *first* in helping kindergarten students develop emotional intelligence?

A. Using "I" messages when communicating feelings
B. Recognizing and labeling feelings in themselves and others
C. Expressing empathy for others' negative feelings
D. Identifying creative outlets for expressing their feelings

#4 Answer

Competency 0001
Correct Answer B

Rationale: The hierarchal set of skills associated with emotional intelligence includes perceiving emotions accurately, expressing emotions appropriately, understanding the causes and consequences of emotions, and managing one's own emotions to facilitate thinking and social interaction. Helping students recognize and label emotions in themselves and others supports their ability to perceive emotions accurately.

#5

Which of the following situations most clearly illustrates how a student's development in one domain (e.g., cognitive, linguistic, physical, social, emotional) can affect development and/or performance in another domain?

A. A student with severe physical disabilities exhibits strong verbal and conceptual skills in academic work
B. A student who is a talented athlete is also on of the highest achievers in the school in math and science
C. A student with low self-esteem refuses to attempt no or challenging learning tasks because he is sure he will fail
D. A student who is bilingual shows similar skills and confidence in both languages in which he is proficient

#5 Answer

Competency 1
Correct Answer C

A child's development in each domain (i.e. physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, affective, and moral domains) tends to progress through a predictable sequence of steps and stages. At the same time, developmental issues and process taking place in any one domain can have a significant influence on development that occurs in other domains. For example, low self-esteem, a problem related to affective development, can influence individuals cognitive development and performance of it manifest itself in a way that keeps the individual from engaging in cognitively challenging tasks because of a constant fear of failure.

#6 Answer

Rationale: Formative assessments are used to evaluate an ongoing instructional program, such as a teacher's lesson, for the purpose of improving instruction and learning outcomes. Using formative assessments to monitor students' progress allows teachers to make changes to the instructional program while it is still modifiable. Teachers can use the results of formative assessments to select alternate instructional strategies that may be more effective in promoting student learning.

#6

A teacher uses formative assessments during instruction to gather information about student learning. In the context of this approach, the teacher's decisions should be guided *primarily* by which of the following questions?

A. How should I adjust my instruction to address students' demonstrated needs?
B. Should I plan to revisit the content with students at a later date?
C. What types of homework assignments will best help students master the content??
D. Are students engaged with the selected instructional materials?

#7

Which of the following statements describes a significant limitation in the application of behavioral learning theory?

A. Processes such as students grasp of concepts and problem-solving strategies are difficult to observe directly.

B. Students' background experience with regard to any given topic are likely to vary greatly.

C. The amount of content that can be taught must be reduced to facilitate all students' skill development.

D. Tangible reinforcers can distract students from processing information into long-term memory.

#7 Answer

Answer A

Competency 1

Rationale: Behavioral learning theory is based on the principle that learning is demonstrated by an observable and relatively permanent change in behavior as the result of condition. Internal cognitive processes such as conceptual understanding and problem-solving strategies are not observable and therefore not demonstrate of learning in a strictly behavioral sense.

#8

Students in an elementary school classroom have varied learning preferences. In this situation, the teacher can best promote learning for all students by emphasizing which of the following approaches?

A. Implementing activities that address multiple learning modalities as a regular part of instruction
B. Surveying students regularly to monitor changes in their learning preferences
C. Gathering feedback from students about their preferred learning activities at the end of each unit
D. Designing learning center activities that address a different modality each week.

#8 Answer

Rationale: Some students learn best through visual means, others through listening , and others through hands-on and kinesthetic activities. When activities in the classroom address multiple modalities, content becomes more accessible for all students because they are able to choose a pathway to learning that is responsive to their personal learning preferences.

#9

A high school student with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is likely to experience the most difficulty in which of the following areas?

A. Transferring learning from one context to another
B. Interpreting visual and auditory information
C. Working persistently toward an established goal
D. Combining simple skills to accomplish a more complex task

#9 Answer

Correct Answer c
Competency 2

Rationale: Frequently observed characteristics of students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) include difficulty engaging in tasks that require sustained attention and mental effort, failure to follow through on instructions and schoolwork, difficulty organizing tasks of activities, and a tendency to be easily distracted by extraneous stimuli. These characteristics would interfere most with the ability to work persistently toward an established goal which could be particularly difficult for a student with ADHD.

#10

An elementary school teacher's class includes students from widely diverse backgrounds. The teacher wants to avoid misunderstandings in interactions with students to the greatest extent possible. To help achieve this goal, the teacher should keep which of the following concepts foremost in mind.

A. Student learning is best promoted by adopting a standard and consistent communication style.

B. Communication norms that students have learned at home may be different than communication norms at school

C. Students' communication patterns tend to vary according to their level of emotional development.

D. Communication methods used should be aligned to the needs of students who are in the majority of the class.

#10 Answer

Rationale: Norms are a standard or pattern of social behavior that is accepted by or expected of a group. In US schools, communication norms guide class discussions, question and answer sessions, small group interactions , and class presentations. Communication norms in students homes are generally culture specific and can differ with regard to appropriate ways to participate in discussions and responding to teacher questions. For example, in some cultures, participation in discussions is more spontaneous and may include interjections that would be considered rude and inappropriate according to school communication norms. Teacher who do not have knowledge, sensitivity, and appreciation of diversity in communication styles may perceive differences as problems and respond negatively, which can directly lead to misunderstandings.

#11

Which of the following student assignments is likely to be most effective in helping a middle school teacher learn about the values and believes of students' diverse cultures?

A. Providing various materials for students to use to construct a collage about their family.

B. Having students interview an adult family member about his or her life as a child and stories he or she remembers from childhood

C. Asking students to fill out a questionnaire about their daily routines and favorite recreational activities

D. Designing a writing prompt in which students describe the person in their lives whom they most admire and want to be like

#11 Answer

Competency 0002

Correct Answer B

Rationale: Family members ' stories about growing up can provide insight into a cultures traditions and values. Many cultures' histories are oral and not necessarily commemorated through documents or photographs. These family stories can reveal information about the routines, activities, dress, and foods of a culture. Of the choices, this approach provides the richest information about the values and beliefs of students' cultures.

#12

A teacher is planning a geography lesson to introduce students to the concept that the resources available in a region influence the size and distribution of the region's population. The teacher is likely to be most successful in promoting student understanding of the targeted concept by implementing a lesson that:

A. Prompts students to explore the specific cognitive skills they will be using in learning the concept.
B. Relates the concept to familiar situation or to concepts the students have previously learned
C. Provides concrete reinforcement for students demonstrates significance effort to learn the concept.
D. Allows students to take the lead in determining procedures to be used to learn the concept

#12 Answer

Competency 0002

Correct Answer B

Rationale: The social studies curriculum includes conceptual content that some students at this level are likely to find difficult to grasp. Various instructional strategies have been shown to be particularly effective in helping students comprehend abstract concepts such as the one described in the question. One such strategy involves making the concept more concrete and "real;" for students by showing them how it is similar to everyday situations with which they are already familiar. Another strategy teachers can use is to help students see how the new, unfamiliar concept relates to content and concepts that they have already learned.

#13

Students in a social studies class are about to begin a unit on state geography. The students have wide range of prior knowledge with regard to this topic, so the teacher decides to begin the unit by inviting a state park ranger to speak to the class about state geography and show them examples of native rocks and minerals, plants, and soil samples. Which of the following outcomes is the most important benefit for student learning of the teacher's approach?

A. Facilitating the teacher's ability to differentiate instruction according to students' varied skill levels
B. Motivating students to pursue additional information about the topic independently
C. Providing students with a common body of information to serve as an anchor for upcoming instruction
D. Enabling the teacher to informally assess students' interest in the unit topic

#13 Answer

Competency 0002

Correct Answer C

Rationale: The teacher's approach provides all student with the same initial information about the unit topic. The teacher can then use this information as a foundation for introducing new concepts and skills. This approach helps level the field with regard to students' background knowledge and provides them with a link for new learning.

#14

Which of the following statements best describes current thinking about second language learning without instruction during childhood?

A. Children possess an innate ability to learn a second language that adults do not possess
B. Second language competence decreases dramatically as children enter adolescence
C. Childhood is a sensitive period of development when children are particularly responsive to second language learning.
D. Neural pathways in the brains language centers are forming during childhood, facilitation second language learning.

#14 Answer

Competency 0002
Correct Answer C

Rationale: Research suggest that language is most easily acquired during the childhood period of brain lateralization. Furthermore, measures of brain activity indicate the second-language learning is less lateralized in older learners than in younger learners. A continuous age-related decrease in second-language competence occurs as individuals grow into adolescence and adulthood.

#15

An eighth grade student with cerebral palsy uses a customized wheelchair to help normalize his posture and movements. The teacher wants to ensure that the student is appropriately positing to participate in different types of class activities. Which of the following actions would be most useful for the teacher to take *first* in this effort?

A. Discussing with the students physical and occupational therapists how to position him for planned activities
B. Speaking with the student directly about what he thinks will be the best position for specific activities
C. Conducting online research to gather information about positioning techniques to use with the student
D. Requesting that the student be provided a paraprofessional to oversee his positioning during class

#15 Answer

Competency 0002

Correct Answer A

Rationale: Different forms of cerebral palsy require different positioning and support strategies to facilitate a student's participation in class activities. Physical and occupational therapists would most likely be part of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Theses individuals possess the expertise needed to determine appropriate positioning for different types of activities and would therefore be the most logical and helpful place for the teacher to begin addressing these issues in the classroom.

#16

A middle school teacher holds regular class meetings with students. The meetings follow the agenda shown below.

- Express compliments and appreciation
- Follow up on solutions to earlier issues.
- Discuss new issues and consider possible solutions.
- Plan for upcoming class activities.

The approach is likely to be most effective in achieving which of the following goals?

A. Providing a classroom environment that is responsive to students' individual needs and preferences

B. Encouraging students to think objectively about classroom problems and concerns

C. Promoting in students a sense of belonging to a caring and cooperative classroom community

D. Reinforcing for students the value of adhering to classroom norms for individual and group behavior.

#16 Answer

Competency 0003

Correct Answer C

Rationale: Holding regular class meetings that follow the agenda shown would be expected to have a strong positive influence on classroom climate by emphasizing collaboration and supportive interactions, providing regular opportunities for public recognition of student accomplishments, and giving all students a voice in dealing with issues affecting everyone. In this way, the teacher's use of the meetings is most likely to promote students' sense of belonging to a caring and cooperative classroom community.

#17

Which of the following instructional practices is most likely to communicate high expectations for student learning?

A. Identifying at least one major assignment during each grading period that will not be graded
B. Developing a routine for calling on each student in class every day
C. Returning students' work that is not up to standards with specific suggestions for improvement
D. Tailoring students' goals according to their current level of achievement

#17 Answer

Competency 0003
Correct Answer C

Rationale: in every interaction with students, teachers are communicating expectations. When teachers refuse to accept substandard work from students, they are communicating to students that they are expected to meet the stated standards for an assignment regardless of their achievement level. Further, in providing specific suggestions for improvement, teachers are communicating that they believe all students are capable of achieving the stated standards and they are willing to provide students with the support they need to do so.

#18

A student most likely to demonstrate a high level of motivation for and engagement in a learning task under which of the following conditions?

A. The task requires minimal effort by the student for successful completion

B. The student perceives the task to be interesting and useful

C. The task requires the student to apply learned concepts and skills

D. The student anticipates a reward upon successful completion of the task

#18 Answer

Competency 0003
Correct Answer B

Rationale: Fully engaged learning requires a desire, or motivation, to perform the task. One of the essential components in most motivational models is task value. Task value is influenced by several factors, including interest and utility value. Tasks that are perceived as interesting are more likely to induce a student's willing participation. When a task has utility value, a student recognizes the usefulness of the task in meeting future goals. Task value helps address the central motivation question for students:

'"Why am I doing this?"

#19

A fourth grade teacher has been having a consistent problem with students talking during independent work time. The teacher has tried giving students more work to do and implementing stricter consequences for talking, but these efforts have been unsuccessful in correcting the problem. Which of the following methods is likely to be the teachers best *next* step in addressing this issue?

A. Calling a parent/guardian meeting to discuss students' excessive talking to seek their assistance in solving the problem.
B. Requesting that the school principal visit the classroom to issue a warning to students about their excessive talking
C. Using a class meeting to engage students in discussing the problem of excessive talking and generating possible solutions
D. Putting as much distance as possible between students' desks to make it more difficult for them to engage in excessive talking

#19 Answer

Competency 0003

Correct Answer C

Rationale: Class meetings are an effective method of addressing issues that concern the entire class. Involving students in a discussion of the problem and possible solutions serves two purposes: it will prompt students to take ownership of the problem, and they will have a greater investment in adhering to solutions they helped design.

#20

Before introducing the first small group activity of the school year, a third grade teacher engages students in a class discussion about working in groups. The teacher asks students to help create a list of guidelines for small group activities, such as "everyone get a turn and speak" and "each person does his or her part of the assignment." Once the class and the teacher agree on appropriate guidelines, the teacher post the guidelines prominently in the classroom. The most important benefit of the teacher's approach is that students will:

A. Be motivated to devote their full attention to learning
B. Spend less time socializing during group tasks
C. Be invested in working cooperatively and productively
D. Resolve disagreements within the group individually

#20 Answer

Competency 0003
Correct Answer C

Rationale: seeking input from students regarding elements of the classroom environment communicates to students that the teacher considers their views important. When students have an opportunity to take ownership, even partial ownership, for aspects of the classroom environment such as guidelines for small group work, they have buy in to the guidelines. This buy in, in turn, promotes students' sense of responsibility for the effective functioning of the group, its processes, and products.

#21

Which of the following statements best describes the role that classroom routines play in creating a productive learning environment?

A. They help ensure that students demonstrate appropriate behavior during teacher-directed activities.
B. They enhance students' ability to complete assigned learning tasks in a timely manner.
C. They reduces miscommunication and negative interaction between students during small-group activities.
D. The provide structure and predictability that allows students to focus their attention on learning.

#21 Answer

Competency 0003

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Routines help students gain a sense of security and control in the learning environment by ensuring that they know exactly what is expected of them during daily transition times and other common classroom situations. By providing students with structure, predictability, and a clear understanding of what they are supposed to do and how they are supposed to do ; routines reduce the potential for student confusion, increase students' comfort and sense of order, and free students to focus their energy and attention of productive learning tasks.

22

A team of fifth grade teachers has established a goal of making greater use of online environments such as virtual museums and laboratories and real time observations of natural events. This approach can be expected to benefit students' learning primarily by:

A. Facilitating students' access to a wide range of learning experiences
B. Fostering in students a generally positive attitude toward learning
C. Helping students view learning activities as relevant to their personal experiences.
D. Enabling students to develop essential skills for lifelong learning

22 Answer

Competency 0003

Correct Answer A

Rationale: The online environments described in the question enable students to participate "virtually in activates that might otherwise be too expensive, unsafe (i.e. certain laboratory experiments), or not feasible to accomplish. Participation is such activities enriches the learning environment by allowing students access to a wide range of learning experiences and expanding their conceptual understanding.

#23

Science learning at the elementary school level focuses primarily on which of the following processes?

A. Using inquiry methods to develop explanations of natural phenomena
B. Applying various problem-solving models to hypothetical situations
C. Using collaboration to identify innovative solutions to problems
D. Applying principles of logic to describe physical phenomena

#23 Answer

Competency 0004
Correct Answer A

Rationale: Inquiry is the basic building block for science education and the ability to apply inquiry methods is a primary goal of elementary school science classes. Developmentally appropriate tasks help students learn skills such as observing qualities and measuring quantities, sorting and classifying, and experiment. At this level, these skills are developed in the context of tasks that encourage concrete exploration, questioning, and making discoveries as well as testing discoveries to gain new understandings.

#24

A team of middle school teachers is reviewing the school's new science curriculum to determine the content and skills that should be taught in each grade level. Which of the following curriculum components would provide the teachers with the most useful information in this area?

A. Scope and sequence
B. Assessment and evaluation
C. Rational and goals
D. Strategies and interventions

#24 Answer

Competency 0004

Correct Answer A

Rationale: A scope and sequence is a comprehensive framework that outlines the subject-area concepts, skills, and essential ideas to be taught in a grade level. A scope and sequence may also include this information for a span of grade levels., showing where particular concepts are addressed in the continuum of content learning for the subject area.

#26

Which of the following strategies is most important in providing student-centered instruction that is tailored to students' individual strengths and needs?

A. Engaging students in an ongoing cycle of goal setting and reflection
B. Adopting a flexible approach in applying evaluate criteria to students' work
C. Allowing students to define their own learning objectives and evaluative criteria
D. Relying primarily on information from peer assessments when assigning students' grades

#25

A kindergarten teacher begins a science lesson on buoyancy by asking students, "What makes things float or sink?" Most students respond by saying, "Light things float and heavy things sink." The teacher is aware that this is a common misconception among students at this age level. Which of the following activities would be most effecting in beginning to address the students' misconception?

A.   Students watch a video about shipbuilding as a class and then work in small groups to generate ideas about what makes things float or sink.
B.   Students work independently to create a structure that will float, using a selection of materials such as plastic straws, paper scraps, wooden blocks, and paper clips. Each student will test his or her structure for the class.
C.   Students examine several objects that float, each made of a different material (e.g., a plastic duck, a wooden boat) and then identify an object in the classroom that they believe will float.
D.   Students work in pairs to make predictions about whether objects of different shapes, sizes, and materials will float or sink. The students test their predictions and then participate in a class discussion to share their thoughts about the experiment.

25 Answer

Competency 0004

Correct Answer D

Rationale: The activity described will be effective in addressing students' misconceptions about buoyancy because it is concrete and meaningful and helps students collect evidence that will promote conceptual understanding. Providing students with different objects with which to experiment is a strategy for representing examples and non-examples of buoyancy. A class discussion of students' predictions and outcomes will help them articulate their thinking, gain new insights, and solidify an accurate understanding of buoyancy.

#26 Answer

Competency 0004

Correct Answer A

Rationale: Student involvement in a cycle of goals setting and reflection places students in the center of the learning process. This process allows both the teacher and the student to identify the student's areas of strength and need. Instruction can then be individualized to build on students' strength s while addressing their needs.

#27

A seventh grade social studies class is beginning a series of lessons on the US Bill of Rights. As an introduction, the teacher posts five blank charts around the room and divides the class into five groups. Each group of students works on one of the charts. The teacher explains that the groups will have five minutes to write on the charts everything they know about the Bill of Rights, then the groups will compare notes and discuss the information as a class. This approach to introducing a new instructional topic can be expected to benefit students' learning primarily by

A. Providing students with a social context in which to construct knowledge about the topic
B. Reinforcing to students the expectation for full engagement with the topic
C. Stimulating students' prior knowledge of the topic to facilitate integration of new information
D. Helping students make connections between concepts related to the topic

#27 Answer

Rationale: Research shows that students learn more effectively when they know something about a topic or concept. Prior knowledge is the proper entry point for instruction, which should build on what is already known, and is a major factor in students' ability to make sense of learning experiences. The approach described is an effective method for activating students' prior knowledge about the US Bill of Rights. Working in small groups provides the students with an opportunity to interact with others about the topic, which further stimulates prior knowledge. In the same manner, having groups compare notes and discuss as a class continues to stimulate prior knowledge by introducing more ideas about the topic that students may poses but had not thought of during the small group portion of the activity.

#28

Fifth grade teachers are designing a new interdisciplinary unit. Which of the following themes would be most appropriate for integrating concepts across multiple content areas at this grade level?

A. Food and culture
B. Who is Patrick Henry
C. How Pencils and Pens are Made
D. The Story of Our State Flag

#28 Answer

Competency 0004

Correct Answer A

Rationale: Effective interdisciplinary instruction broadens students' understanding of their world and guides students to examine a theme through different lenses. The theme of Food and Culture meets these criteria. Food has been a common factor in socialization and community building for thousands of years. Pairing food and culture provides students with opportunities to explore the theme as it appears to gardening, cooking, nutrition, cultural practices and traditions, and enables students to examine national and global issues such as hunger and the environment.

#29

Students in a kindergarten class are beginning a unit on the senses, and the teacher wants to implement a project-based learning experience related to this topic. Which of the following guiding questions related to the unit topic would be most suitable for this purpose?

A. How do we use our senses to discover our world?
B. Which sense do you think is most important?
C. What parts of our bodies do our sense use?
D. Can we function without one of our senses?

#29 Answer

Competency 0004

Correct Answer A

Rationale: In project-based learning, students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. "How do we uses our senses to discover our world?" is an effective project-based learning question because it has many possible answers, personalized learning for students, and leads students in gaining insights into the topic.

#30

A first grade teacher has lead students through a number of activities in which they practiced locating information sources on a specific topic. The teacher would like to take students a step further by helping them evaluate the information they found. The teacher can best promote this outcome by helping students develop the habit of considering which of the following questions first?

A. Is the information easy for me to read?
B. Does this information represent a fact or an opinion?
C. Is this information provided by an expert?
D. Does this information answer the questions I have?

#30 Answer

Competency 0004

Correct Answer D

Rationale: There are several factors to consider when evaluating information, including accuracy, currency, and authority. Before considering these factors, the student must first determine whether the information is useful for his or her purpose. It is most developmentally appropriate to guide first grade students in making this determination by framing the valuation in a specific question posed in easy to understand language.

#31

Students in a third grade class have been studying natural resources. During a recent problem solving activity, the students had an idea for a project to help raise school wide awareness about the need to conserve resources. The teacher had students work in small groups to create a presentation to gain the principal's approval to implement their project. The teacher's approach is likely to be most effective in achieving which of the following instructional goals?

A. Promoting the development of students' ability to communicate information accurately
B. Deepening students' conceptual understanding of content
C. Providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful communication in authentic contexts
D. Helping individual students recognize their leadership potential

#31 Answer

Competency 0004

Correct Answer C

Rationale: Meaningful communication should be purposeful and relevant to students' lives. For communication to be meaningful, it must also involve student choice and active participation. In the scenario described, the project originated from the students and has the clear purpose of raising awareness about the need of conservation of resources. Having students work in small groups to present their project to the principal (the audience) promotes active participation and application of learned communication skills. Creating and giving a presentation such as this simulates and helps prepare students for college and career opportunities.

#32

Middle school teachers are planning an interdisciplinary unit about freshwater ecosystems. The teachers want to ensure that all students' learning needs are addressed in this unit and that students benefit fully from instruction. Which of the following strategies would be most effective in helping the teachers achieve this goal?

A. Developing an equal number of learning activities for each unit objective
B. Gathering periodic feedback from students about learning activities during the unit
C. Including in the unit multiple formative assessments of student progress and learning
D. Allowing students to choose which classmates to work with on small-group learning tasks

#32 Answer

Competency 0005

Correct Answer C

Rationale: Formative assessment is a measure of student's learning progress that takes place during the course of instruction. The data from formative assessments enable the teacher to adjust instructional strategies and other elements of a lesson or unit to address specific student learning needs, provide additional reinforcement of key concepts, and improve overall instructional effectiveness.

#33

At the conclusion of a lesson on electric circuits, a fourth grade teacher plans to give students diagrams of electric circuits and have them label each part. Several students in the class are English language learners (ELL) who have limited spelling skills in English. Which of the following strategies will best support the success of the ELLs during this activity?

A. Giving students as much time as they need to complete the task
B. Providing students with words banks containing key vocabulary from the lesson
C. Allowing students to use dictionaries to look up vocabulary
D. Asking students to check each other's work before submitting it for a grade

#33 Answer

Competency 0005

Correct Answer B

Rationale: Academic language is particularly challenging for English language learners. Providing word banks to students in this situation is an appropriate and effective adaptation of the assessment because it helps ensure that measurement of students' content knowledge, not their language abilities.

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#35

Fifth grade teachers use tools such as quizzes, student self-assessments, informal observations, and participation charts as essential elements in their assessment plan. The most important benefit of this approach is that it:

A. Ensures that the teachers assign grades that are reflective of students' actual abilities
B. Communicates to students the teachers' high expectations for their learning
C. Enhances the teachers' ability to interpret a broad range of student performance data
D. Provides the teachers with a broad base of evidence for evaluating student learning.

#35 Answer

Competency 0005

Correct Answer D

Rationale: A comprehensive approach to assessment that incorporates different assessment tools allows teachers to gather both qualitative and quantitative data about student learning from a variety of sources. Teachers will be able to make more informed inferences about students' learning and development when they have ample and varied evidence.

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#37

A sixth grade language arts teacher focuses on the use of praise when providing students with feedback. The teacher uses standard comments such as "Good job," "Nice work," and "Great." Which of the following statements describes the most significant problem with the teacher's approach to providing feedback?

A. Students may make inaccurate inferences from the teacher's praise regarding their abilities
B. The teacher's praise requires only limited interaction with students
C. Students may come to perceive the teacher's praise as unrelated to their actual performance
D. The teacher's praise is not reinforced with a concrete reward for students

#37 Answer

Competency 0005

Correct Answer C

Rationale: Praise that effectively promotes student learning directs students to elements of their work in which they show growth and strength and specific areas in which they need to improve. This specificity supports students in setting goals for improvement and encourages continued progress and growth. The teacher's praise in this situation is impersonal and does not provide students with informative feedback. Students may therefore come to perceive that this praise is not related to their actual performance.

#38

A student incorrectly answers three of sic items on a daily math quiz. Which of the following examples of teacher feedback would best promote student improvement on the next quiz covering similar material?

A. "I see the problem. You multiplied when you should have divided at this step right here. I think we need to review the steps for solving this type of equation."
B. "I feel sure you can do better than this, so I want you to redo the incorrect problems at home tonight. I expect to see at least four problems correct on tomorrow's quiz."
C. "You earn 15 minutes of free time by correctly answering three problems, but you could earn 30 minutes of free time if you get them all correct. Keep trying."
D. "I'd like you to practice solving this type of equation by adding the problems you got wrong to your homework assignment. I'm sure you'll do better on tomorrow's quiz."

#38 Answer

Correct Answer A

Rationale: Research shows that students are most likely to learn from their mistakes when teachers provided feedback that tells them exactly what they have done wrongs so that they can learning more appropriate strategies. Without such feedback, students are far more likely to make the same mistakes repeatedly. Only response A provides the student with specific feedback on a particular error made or faulty strategy used, and offers the student assistance in determining how to avoid making the same error in the future.

#39

Students in a first grade class have been studying shapes. Each student has made a booklet entitled "Shapes in Nature" in which each page has a cutout of a shaped and a photograph the student has take of something in nature that incorporates that shape. The teacher is meeting with students individually to discuss their booklets. Which of the following comments by the teacher during these meetings would best promote students' self-assessment skills?

A. You are getting better at cutting with scissors, aren't you?
B. Choose a picture from your booklet and describe it for me.
C. Can you turn the page in your booklet that shows a triangle.?
D. Tell me what you think is the best part of your booklet and why.

#39 Answer

Competency 0005

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Asking students to explain the best part of their booklet and why this particular feature is their favorite encourages them to carefully consider and reflect on their work. Reflection is an important element in the process of self-assessment.

#40

An English language arts teacher wants to adapt an assessment for a student with a learning disability who receives special education services. Which of the following actions would be the most appropriate first steps for the teacher to take?

A. Determining an alternate location and time for the student to take the assessment
B. Checking the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) for information about assessment methods to use with the student
C. Talking with the student about individual preferences regarding assessment
D. Consulting with the student's other teachers about assessment methods they have used with the student

#40 Answer

Competency 0005

Correct Answer B

Rationale: Each student who receives special education services has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed for him or her that outlines specific steps and strategies that are to be used to address the student's identified needs. A student's IEP often specifies the adaptations that teachers should use with the student when administering classroom tests. Therefore, in the situation described, the teacher's first step in determining how to adapt an assessment for a student with a learning disability should be to refer to the student's IEP.

#41

A fourth grade classroom is equipped with an audience response system with which students respond to questions by clicking a personal remote control. Student's responses are displayed immediately on a presentation computer. This type response system can be used most effectively for which of the following purposes?

A. Monitoring students' understanding of key concepts
B. Diagnosing specific student learning goals
C. Placing students in instructional groups
D. Accommodating individual student learning preferences.

#41 Answer

Correct Answer A

Rationale: The interactive nature of audience response systems that utilize personal remote controls helps ensure that all students are engaged in instruction . An increased level of engagement along with immediate feedback from students' responses enables the teacher to assess more quickly all students' grasp of concepts and adjust instruction accordingly- a primary reason for monitoring student understanding.

#42

An elementary school teacher can best provide relevant and responsive instruction by taking which of the following actions before beginning the planning process

A. Introducing students to a variety of content-area resources
B. Observing informally students' interactions with their peers
C. Reviewing students' grades and samples of their previous work
D. Examining carefully students' characteristics and experiences

#42 Answer

Competency 0006
Correct Answer D

Rationale: Relevant and responsive instruction is tailored to students' individual needs. In a careful examination of students' characteristics and experiences, a teacher can begin to gain insights into areas in which students may need additional support, determine examples and analogies that are likely to be familiar to students, and detect student strengths that can be used to facilitate learning.

#43

An English language arts teacher is planning a lesson to introduce students to the short story genre. In an appropriately sequenced lesson, the teacher should begin with which of the following activities?

A. Providing students with a graphic organizer and helping them fill in information from selected short stories

B. Having students work in pairs to rewrite the endings of several short stories

C. Reading students several short stories aloud and pointing out the key features that define a short story

D. Assigning students to work in small groups to answer comprehension questions about selected short stories

#43 Answer

Competency 0006

Correct Answer C

Rationale: When teaching any new concept or idea, on particularly effective strategy is to begin by providing students with examples and then discussing the attributes of the examples. This helps students establish the new category- in this case the short story genre- in their own minds. The best initial activity for the teacher to choose would be to read to students several short stories aloud and point out the key features they include that make them short stories because this activity would help students understand what distinguishes the short story genre form other types of literature.

#44

The seventh grade teachers in a school are planning their first cross-curricular unit. The teachers have reviewed relevant content standards and identified *interdependence* as the unifying theme for the unit. Which of the following steps would be most appropriate and effective for the teachers to take *next* in the planning process?

A. Preparing an annotated list of instructional resources related to the them of the unit that individual teachers can use to plan lessons

B. Assigning each teacher a specific responsibility for planning activates and assignment that support the theme of the unit

C. Creating a standard format for written lesson plans that reflects the targeted standards as well as the theme of the unit

D. Developing a planning web on which to note connections among specific ideas in each content areas and the theme of the unit

#44 Answer

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Interdisciplinary, or cross-curricular, units break down the usual barriers between academic disciplines and focus instead on integrating views and ideas from a variety of disciplines to explore broad themes or to answer important questions. Research indicates that using this approach to instruction offers students more relevant, less fragments, and more stimulation learning experiences. Creating a graphic organizer, such as a planning web, that can be used to list content or ideas in each discipline that are connected to the selected theme provides a way to define the specific ideas in each discipline that will be addressed in the unit and the ways they related to one another and the unit's central theme.

#45

A sixth grade English language arts class includes three students with specific learning difficulties that affect their reading comprehension. The teacher can best begin to differentiate instruction for these students in a lesson that includes written material by implementing which of the following strategies?

A. Allowing the students as much time as they need to complete the same learning tasks as their peers
B. Providing the students with shorter texts covering the same content that are written for younger students
C. Developing a different set of criteria for evaluating the students'' performance of assigned learning tasks
D. Using highlighting, underlining, or color coding of written texts to emphasize essential words and phrases

#45 Answer

Competency 0006

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Students with reading comprehension difficulties may be able to decode the text but generally have trouble making sense of what they have read. By using strategies that emphasize essential words or phrases in written texts, the teacher can help the students focus on the structure of the text and comprehend important content and concepts. This type of support is an effective method for enhancing the students' ability to construct meaning from the text.

#46

A number of students in a sixth grade language arts class read well below grade level. The class will be studying three literature selections during the course of the semester. In this situation, the teacher can best apply the principles of differentiated instruction by taking which of the following actions?

A. Addressing different concepts and skills with students who find the literature selections too challenging
B. Providing students with access to digital versions of the literature selections with text-to-speech capability
C. Partnering students who read below grade level with proficient readers for literature activities
D. Adopting an open-ended approach to literature assignments regarding due dates

#46 Answer

Competency 0006

Correct Answer B

Rationale: An important principle of differentiated instruction is to provide instruction and materials that are responsive to students' individual learning needs. A large number of digital products have text-to-speech capability, which provides struggling readers with audio of the text. This audio support will make the text more accessible to the students who are reading below grade level.

#47

Students in an eighth grade English language arts class recently completed a literature unit focusing on identifying literary themes. The results of the end of unit assessment indicate that, although most students passed the assessment, the class as whole appears to have a tenuous grasp of the concept. The most appropriate step for the teacher to take in response to this situation is to:

A. Create a weekly homework packets on unit concepts to give students additional opportunities to practice the concepts independently

B. Examine instructional plans to identify areas where adjustments can be made to provide students with additional reinforcement and guided practice with unit concepts.

C. Move forward with planned instruction but include items related to this unit's concepts on upcoming end of unit assessments

D. Administer a second assessment of unit concepts to ensure that initial assessment results are a valid measure of students' understanding

#47 Answer

Competency 0006

Correct Answer B

Rationale: When students have not fully grasped a concept, they require support in the form of additional instruction, reinforcement, and/or guided practice with the concept. Having students practice the concept they have not fully grasped on their own through homework assignments does not provide this direct support. Additional assessment may yield information about aspects of the concept where students need the most support, but in and of itself does little to promote students' grasp of concepts.

#48

In which of the following situations would it be most appropriate and helpful for the classroom teacher to collaborate with the school library media specialist?

A. A third grade teacher is planning an instructional unit with a research component that will require students to gather information from multiple sources
B. Students in a fourth grade class are having difficulty understanding how to select an effective graphic organizer for different types of texts.
C. A fifth grade teacher is preparing for a meeting with students' parents/guardians to discuss grade level reading standards and curriculum
D. Students in a sixth grade class are designing a survey to collect information from their peers about their preferences in music and movies.

#48 Answer

Competency 0006

Correct Answer A

Rationale: Research skills are a key element of information literacy which is the library media specialist's area of expertise. When not guided in the information-gathering process, students at this age tend to approach research tasks in a haphazard manner. The library media specialist brings to the collaboration a thorough understanding of information skills and methods. Along with the teacher's knowledge of the strengths, needs, attitudes, and interests of the student sand of the content, they can promote students' learning and knowledge of how to access and use information form a wide variety of sources and formats.

#49

Which of the following questions is most important for a teacher to consider when selecting resources to support classroom instruction?

A. Are the materials durable and easy to use?
B. Do the materials make explicit connections with other disciplines?
C. Are the materials free of gender and cultural bias?
D. Is a high-quality user's guide available for the materials?

#49 Answer

Competency 0006

Correct Answer C

Rationale: Teachers need to consider many factors when selecting resources to support classroom instruction. In view of the diversity that exists in U.S. society and in most U.S. classrooms, one important consideration involves ensuring that selected materials adequately represent and/or address the needs and interests of make and female students, as well as students with diverse cultural backgrounds. Selecting inclusive materials increases the likelihood that all students will be able to related to instructional content and also supports the efforts of educators to promote students' appreciation of and respect for the diversity around them.

#50

A new mathematics teacher has a goal of planning learner-centered instruction for a geometry unit on solid shapes. Which of the following planned introductions to the unit best represents a learner-centered approach?

A. The teacher posts a list of the solid shapes students will be studying. Students then use information from their textbooks to describe and make a drawing of each shape in their mathematics journals for future reference.
B. The teacher shows students a block in each of the solid shapes that will be taught. Students then work as a large group to identify as wide a variety of familiar object as they can that illustrate or contain each shape.
C. The teacher presents foundational information about solid shapes while students take notes. Students then have an opportunity to ask questions to clarify their understanding of the information.
D. The teacher displays a diagram of each of the solid shapes students will be studying. Students then work in small groups to examine blocks of the shapes and write down their observations about each shape to share with the class.

#50 Answer

Competency 0007

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Learner-centered instruction is characterized by active student participation, student-to-student interaction, and the process of discovery. Having students work in small groups promotes interaction. When students are examining the blocks of shapes, they are actively engaged in the learning process and in discovering the properties of each shape.

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#52

Which of the following assignments would be most effective in promoting third graders' higher-order thinking?

A. Locating a list of cities that have hosted the Olympic Games
B. Using the information in a bar graph to answer words problems
C. Measuring the daily growth of a bean plant
D. Answering a survey about favorite foods

#52 Answer

Competency 0007

Correct Answer B

Rationale: Higher-order thinking includes cognitive tasks such as analysis and interpretation. Using information in a graphic to answer a written question requires students to examine the graphs, analyze the information, and draw conclusions that are based on that analysis.

#53

Students in a sixth grade language arts class have finished reading John Steinbeck's Travels with Charley: In Search of America, a memoir of his journey across the United States with his dog. The teacher wants to encourage students' higher-order thinking about the text. Which of the following questions would be most effective for this purpose?

A. Why do you think Steinbeck decides to take Charley instead of a human on this journey?
B. What reasons does Steinbeck give for embarking on his journey?
C. If you followed Steinbeck's route today, what do you think you would see along the way?
D. What is the nature of the relationship between Steinbeck and Charley?

#53 Answer

Competency 0007
Correct Answer C

Rationale: Asking students to think about what they would see along Steinbeck's travel route today prompts them to analyze known information from the text along with information about changes that have occurred since the book's time period. Students must then use reasoning to make an educational prediction. Analysis and synthesis are key higher-order thinking skills.

#54

Which of the following approaches represents the most effective way to differentiate instruction for a class of fifth grade students who perform at a wide range of skill levels?

A. Revising academic standards to accommodate students' individual skills

B. Acquiring the textbooks used at lower or higher grade levels as appropriate for students' needs

C. Implementing small-group activities in which each group includes students at various skill levels

D. Designing multi-level assignments for students that address the essential concepts being taught

#54 Answer

Correct Answer D

Rationale: The approach described blends assessment and instruction. Through pre-assessment, teachers determine what students know and design learning experiences that align to the readiness levels and learning needs of students. Multi-level assignments allow all students to focus on essential concepts while being challenged at their particular skill levels.

#55

A sixth grade teacher often uses a card system with students during instruction in which each student has a red card, a yellow card, and a green card. At various points during the lesson, the teacher checks for student understanding by having students raise one of their cards. Raising a green card indicates "I understand," a yellow card indicates "I'm not sure," and a red card indicates "I don't understand." the primary benefit of this practice is that it enables the teacher to:

A. Make immediate adjustments to instruction based on students' responses
B. Maintain students' active engagement throughout a lesson
C. Predict students' performance on upcoming class assignments and homework
D. Form instructional groups according to students' specific skill needs

#55 Answer

Competency 0007

Correct Answer A

Rationale: The system described in the scenario helps the teacher monitor students' understanding of instruction. For example, if most or all students hold up a green card at a key point of instruction, the teacher can feel confident about proceeding with the lesson as planned. However, if a number of students hold up yellow or red cards, the teacher can provide additional examples of a concept or present the information using a different approach. The use of the card system facilitates the teacher's ability to make these adjustments at the actual point of need.

#56

Which of the following questioning techniques would be most effective in maintaining students' attention during large-group instruction?

A. Call on a student who volunteers to answer, ask the student a question, and then have the class confirm the accuracy of the students' response.
B. Address question to the entire class give students time to think, and then call randomly on individual students to answer
C. Allow students to provide answers to questions at will without waiting for the teacher to call on them
D. Follow a predictable pattern when calling on individual students to answer questions

#56 Answer

Competency 0007
Correct Answer B

Rationale: The questioning technique a teacher uses can have significant influence on students' motivation to maintain attention. If a teacher has only those who volunteer respond to questions, or if the teacher uses a predictable pattern in calling on students (e.g. by seating order), then students will quickly realize that they are unlikely to suffer any immediate consequences for failing to pay attention. On the other hand, calling on students randomly helps maintain all students' attention because students cannot know when they will be required to provide an answer and they are aware that the teacher can call on them at any time.

#57

Which of the following scenarios describes the most appropriate role for the teacher during a class period in which students are engaged in a cooperative learning activity?

A. Helping the students in each group assess how well their group is functioning and suggesting strategies for improvement

B. Evaluating the ability of each student in the class to organize, synthesize, and communicate information to his or her group

C. Giving the students in each group a summary from time to time of what they have accomplished so far and what they still need to accomplish

D. Monitoring the performance of each group and providing clarification, encouragement, and redirection as needed

#57 Answer

Competency 0007

Correct Answer D

Rationale: In cooperative learning, students work with a small group of peers to accomplish a shared goal, which is reached through interdependence among all group members, The teacher plays a crucial role in planning successful cooperative learning activities. However, when students are engaged in the activities, the teacher should become primarily a coach, a facilitator, or a spectator who monitors students progress and provides assistance as needed so that students can take the lead in planning and implementing their won work, learn from their peers, and gain maximum benefit from the cooperative learning experience.

#58

Throughout the school year, students in an eighth grade science class conduct internet research on a wide range of topics. The teacher wants to facilitate students' ability to determine the credibility of the information they find. Which of the following strategies would best support students in this area?

A. Encouraging students to explore each of the links provided by a Web site before using information from the site

B. Preselecting several reputable Web sites for students to use in information searches

C. Requiring students to use a general reference sources, such as an encyclopedia, to verify online information

D. Helping students develop a checklist of criteria to use when evaluation online information sources

#58 Answer

Competency 0007

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Helping students develop a checklist of criteria would require discussion of the characteristics of Internet sites that are likely to provide credible information. For example, one criterion on the checklist might be the internet domain (e.g. .com, .org) of a site. The teacher and students would then need to discuss which domains would most likely provide factual information as opposed to specific point of view. This approach provides students with a tool they can use for any research task involving internet sources.

#59

A teacher wants to support the school's vision for improved student learning. Which of the following activities is the teacher's best course of action for achieving this goal?

A. Pursuing advanced coursework on topics such as organizational management, community relations, and leadership
B. Attending public meetings of the school board to learn about the district's overarching priorities and long-range plans
C. Collaborating with grade-level team members to ensure continued alignment of curricula with current academic standards
D. Participating actively on a school action team charged with implementing reforms in curriculum, instruction, and/or assessment

#59 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Action teams are formed to address school wide goals. The teams lead the effort to collect relevant data, analyze the data, develop hypotheses regarding the root of identified problems or need, plan and implement strategies to address the problem or need, and evaluate outcomes. Active participation on action teams enables the teacher to contribute to the schools progress in achieving its goals and vision. Action teams that focus on curriculum, instruction, and/or assessment are areas most relevant to the teachers daily practice.

#60

A middle school principle has asked a team of teachers to collaborate on the development of a new after-school enrichment program. Which of the following strategies by the teachers would best enhance the quality of this collaboration?

A. Developing standard evaluative criteria for the team to apply throughout the decision-making process
B. Choosing a team member whose primary responsibility will be facilitating discussions and mediating conflict
C. Defining a clear and common goal for the team and acknowledging the value of all team members' contributions
D. Requesting that the principal lead the team's first few meetings in order to set an appropriate tone

#60 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct C

Rationale: Effective collaboration is focused on a shared purpose or goal that encourages buy-in by all participants. The teachers' collaborative efforts will begin on sound footing if they decide together on the expected outcomes of the enrichment program. Individual teachers on the team will be more likely to participate actively and help build consensus if they know that their contributions are valued by the team.

#61

A new teacher has a goal of maintaining effective communication with parents/guardians about their children learning. Which of the following is an important *first* step in achieving this goal?

A. Adopting a standard format for school-home communications

B. Arranging a visit to each student's home to meet family members

C. Determining each family's preferred mode of communication and times of availability

D. Creating a conference schedule to send home with each student early in the school year

#61 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer C

Rationale: Teachers today should expect the parents/guardians of any class of student to have variety of preferences and needs in regard to the times they are available to be contacted and the type(s) of communication (e.g. e-mail, telephone, notes) they wish to use. Therefor, if a teacher wishes to maintain effective communication with parents/guardians about their children's learning, an important first step would be to determine each family's preferred mode of communication and times of availability.

#62

One goal for a school is to establish partnerships with local businesses to enhance student learning. Several local businesses have agreed to participate in this initiative. The teachers would like to identify how each of the businesses can best become actively involved in students' learning. Which of the following steps should teachers take *first* in this effort?

A. Arranging for representatives from each of the businesses to visit the school and observe instruction in several classrooms

B. Meeting with representatives from each of the businesses to examine the curriculum and discuss specific ways they may be able to support its implementation

C. Requesting that each of the businesses submit to the school a list of the resources and services they are prepared to offer

D. Scheduling field trips for students to some of the businesses that have offered help so that the students can meet employees and learn about

#62 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer B

Rationale: To be successful in enhancing student learning, the business representatives will need to become somewhat familiar with the middle school curriculum. Taking time to meet with the business representatives for this purpose will help ensure that the resources and support the businesses provide are linked to student learning outcomes. This meeting will establish a foundation for fostering the sense of partnership with the businesses that the school striving to achieve.

#63

Which of the following capabilities is the most important benefit for teachers who use social networking technology to build professional learning communities?

A. Provision of a platform for teachers' work and demonstrations of practice for analysis and feedback
B. Encryption of students assessment data and other confidential information
C. Promotion of teachers' comfort with and proficiency in using technology to improve practice
D. Moderation of comments and participation by an objective third party

#63 Answer

Correct Answer A

Rationale: Social networking sites provide a shared and easily accessible space for a group of individuals with common interests or goals.. Membership in the group can be limited according to the group's preferences. These sites also allow for posting of lesson plans and, with appropriate permissions, videos of classroom instruction. The use of social networking allows colleagues to view information for analysis or discussion with anytime access and flexible scheduling for chats.

#64

Several teachers across the state will be collaborating on the development of a program for school districts that will bring enrichment opportunities to undeserved populations of students. The majority of the teachers' collaboration will take place online. The teachers can best promote the success of the virtual collaboration by making which of the following activities their most important priority?

A. Establishing procedures for quality assurance of the final product
B. Engaging in consistent and plentiful communication
C. Taking turns planning and leading discussions
D. Monitoring group processes on a regular basis

#64 Answer

Rationale: A collaborative effort involves individuals working together to achieve a common goal. Long-distance collaboration can be challenging. To meet this challenge and ensure that the group maintains its focus on identified goals, participants should be in communication with one another on a frequent and regular basis. This practice encourages active engagement in the collaborative effort by all participants. Consistency of communication (e.g. status updates, action reports) is one way to help ensure that important information is not overlooked.

#65

A science teacher who has been teaching for five years is considering enrolling in a course at a local university for professional development. The teacher's course selection should be guided primarily by which of the following questions?

A. Which course will help develop my general pedagogical knowledge?
B. Which course will address my greatest area of need as a science teacher?
C. Which course will help me earn an advanced teaching degree?
D. Which course will provide an overview of recent discoveries in the field of science?

#65 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer B

Rationale: One important goal of professional development is to help teachers develop their knowledge and skills in ways that will enable them to provide students with high-quality instruction. Coursework that is linked directly to the teacher's specific needs will be most effective in achieving this outcome.

#66

A teacher is reviewing entries he recorded in his teaching journal during a recently completed instructional unit. In reflecting on the journal entries, the teacher should be most concerned about improving his performance in relation to which of the following issues?

A. Some students spent more time on enrichment tasks than their peers because they completed their assigned classwork very quickly.
B. Two of the planned learning activities had to be modified significantly to address the needs of English language learners in the class.
C. Some lessons took longer than planned because class discussions occasionally revealed student misconceptions that needed to be addressed.
D. Two students with learning disabilities were unable to participate meaningfully during some of the small-group activities

#66 Answer

Competency 0008
Correct Answer D

Rationale: One of the teacher's obligation is to ensure that all students participate to the greatest extent possible in learning activities. For students with special learning needs, this obligation includes modifying or adapting instruction to provide the students with access to the general curriculum. If students are unable to participate in a meaningful way during some learning activities, the teacher should take immediate steps to correct the situation by consulting with appropriate staff and/or redesigning learning activities in future instruction.

#67

A first grade teacher is developing goals for an individual professional growth plan. In this process, the teacher should take which of the following steps *first*?

A. Identifying workshops and other opportunities offered by the school district
B. Surveying students' parents/guardians to gather feedback on his or her instructional skills
C. Asking several experienced colleagues for permission to use their plans as models
D. Reviewing teacher evaluation feedback and student assessment data to identify areas of need

#67 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Professional growth plans are focused on improving student learning as well as teaching practices and should be based on identified needs. The goals should strive to have a positive impact on student learning and achievement based on needs as indicated by student assessment data and teacher performance evaluation results. These data sources provide input representing a starting point for the development of relevant and appropriate professional goals.

#68

Students' overall scores on state mathematics assessments have declined each year for the last three years. A highly qualified fifth-grade teacher has been asked by the principal to lead colleagues in professional learning activities to help address this decline. As a leader of this professional learning effort, the fifth grade teacher should ensure that colleagues:

A. Observe instruction in one another's classrooms to establish a frame of reference for evaluating potential strategies for use in instruction
B. Cite specific research in their lesson plans that supports the use of new instructional approaches and student activities
C. Ask grade level team members to review planned lessons that include new techniques or strategies before implementation
D. Participate actively in identifying goals for improved student outcomes and analyzing data related to the goals for improvement

#68 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer D

Rationale: Efforts to improve student achievement are most effective when participants have a choice in defining goals for improve. Participation in this process helps ensure teachers' engagement in the improvement efforts and promotes their growth as processionals by prompting them to seek research-based strategies for addressing the defined goals. Analysis of data related to the defined goals helps ensure that teacher make informed decisions about how to address student learning needs. It is the fifth grade teacher's roll to facilitate theses processes and seek resources (e.g., workshops, research) that will support colleagues. In their efforts.

#69

Which of the following scenarios is the best example of a teacher acting in a leadership role at a local level?

A. A social students teacher creates "This Day in History" podcasts for students spotlighting important historical events and individuals of the date.
B. A mathematics teacher shares information with the school board on how high-stakes assessments impact teaching practices and student learning.
C. An English language arts teacher regularly responds to online blogs that discuss trends in media coverage of important news events.
D. A fine arts teacher attends a district meeting for fine arts teacher when the colleague who was slated to go to the meeting is unable to attend.

#69 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer B

Rationale: The actions of the mathematics teacher demonstrates the teacher's understanding of how educational policy is made at the local, state, and national level. The mathematics teacher recognizes that teachers can serve as individuals of influence by using knowledge to speak on behalf of a particular viewpoint surrounding important educational issues. Only the correct response illustrates a teacher communicating with policy and decision makers, which is a key aspect of any leadership role.

#70

Which of the following statements describes the most important reason for a teacher to reflect on and examine his or her worldview?

A. Disparities in a teacher's and students' worldviews determine the extent to which the teacher can provide students with appropriate instruction
B. A teacher's worldview serves as a filter through which the teacher views students' needs, motivations, and abilities.
C. Differences between a teacher's and student's worldviews are the primary barrier to students' ability to achieve at the highest levels
D. An understanding of his or her worldview promotes a teacher's recognition of students' values and beliefs.

#70 Answer

Rationale: A worldview is a comprehensive system of beliefs held by an individual- a framework of ideas and attitudes about the world, oneself, and life. The beliefs, values, and behaviors of a culture stem directly from its worldview. Teachers who are interacting with students from cultures different from their own can be unaware that they possess an embedded view of "how things are" that shapes their educational practice and proved a basis for assumption about learners, learning, teachers, and teaching. Teachers' reflection on and examination of their worldviews is a way to check for assumption that could otherwise inhibit their ability to truly understand and engage students.

#71

Teachers who have a goal of providing equitable instruction to diverse groups of students should begin by considering which of the following questions?

A. Do I allow differences in culture, language, and behavior to shape my perceptions about students' motivation and ability to learn?
B. How frequently do I interact with individual students to make sure that I am meeting their learning needs?
C. Am I consistent in providing an equal amount of time to each student, regardless of culture, language, and behavior?
D. Have I clearly communicated my belief that my students are capable of mastering the targeted concepts and skills.

#71 Answer

Competency 0008
Correct Answer A

Rationale: Preconceived ideas about the motivation and ability of student to learn that are based on students' languages, cultures, and behaviors present a significant barrier to providing equitable instruction. For example, these preconceived ideas may lead a teacher to have lowered expectations for some groups of students. To provide equitable instruction to diverse groups of students, a teacher must view students as individuals who have unique assets and needs and provide instruction that is responsive to those assets and needs. Therefore the most important first step for a teacher of diverse groups of students is to reflect on potential personal biases or misconceptions about students.

#72

A student with multiple disabilities will be enrolling in a middle school. In regard to educating this student, school staff should be aware of their legal responsibility to:

A. Deliver instruction and services to the student in the least restrictive environment appropriate for meeting his or her needs.

B. Incorporate into the student's school day ongoing opportunities to interact with similarly disabled peers or adults.

C. Revise the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) each grading period in response to his or her classroom performance.

D. Provide the student with instruction that enables him or her to perform at grade level in the basic skill areas of reading and mathematics.

#72 Answer

Correct Answer A

Rationale: the individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) is a federal law that governs how states must address the educational needs of children with disabilities. Its purpose is to ensure that children with disabilities are provided with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that prepares them for further education, employment, and independent living. One of the primary principles governing the education of students with disabilities is that of *least restrictive environment*. This means that any student who has a disability should have an opportunity to receive instruction with no disable peers to the greatest extent possible and appropriate given the student's particular needs.

#73

A teacher observes that a student has a number of fresh bruises on the arms and what appears to be an older bruise on the neck. The physical evidence and observations of the student's behavior lead the teacher to believe the student may be experiencing physical violence in the home. In this situation, the teacher is required by law to:

A. Place a report documenting the bruises and other observations in the student's school records
B. Question the student directly about the cause of the bruises
C. Ensure that they student's bruises are reported to appropriate authorities as evidence of possible physical abuse
D. Have the school nurse examine the student for other bruises or injuries

#73 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer C

Rationale: In 1974 Congress enacted the first Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which set guidelines for reporting, investigating, and treating child maltreatment. CAPTA requires states to enact mandatory reporting laws and procedures in cases of suspected child abuse and maltreatment so that a designated law enforcement authority or child protection agency can take action to protect children from further abuse. A;; states consider teachers to be "mandatory reporters" who must report cases of suspected child abuse. A reasonable suspicion of abuse is enough to require a teacher to report.

#74

Students in a sixth grade science class will be creating multimedia presentations on a self-selected topic. The students are encouraged to include text, graphics, photographs, and video clips in their presentations. In this situation, it would be most important for the science teacher to emphasize which of the following guideline for the presentations?

A. Copyrighted material used in the presentation must be pre-approved by the teacher.
B. Sources of information in any format must be appropriately credited in the presentation.
C. Each visual element in the presentation should include a title or caption as appropriate.
D. The creative use of visual elements will enhance the effectiveness of the presentation

#74 Answer

Competency 0008

Correct Answer B

Rationale: It is easy for students to equate access to materials (e.g., through the internet) with the concept of freedom of use. Providing appropriate citations for visual elements reinforces to students the concept that graphics, photographs, and videos are intellectual property owned by the individuals who created them.

Score Point	Score Point Description
4	**The "4" response reflects a thorough understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, as described in the subarea of the OPTE test framework relevant to the constructed-response module.** The response completely fulfills the purpose of the assignment by responding fully to the given task. The response provides a highly appropriate application of professional knowledge that is relevant to the subarea of the OPTE test framework being assessed. The response demonstrates an accurate understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, and is very effective in meeting the aims or goals stated in the performance assignment. Information presented within the response is well elaborated through the use of high-quality examples and strong supporting evidence.
3	**The "3" response reflects a general understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, as described in the subarea of the OPTE test framework relevant to the constructed-response module.** The response fulfills the purpose of the assignment by responding generally to the given task. The response provides an appropriate application of professional knowledge that is relevant to the subarea of the OPTE test framework being assessed. The response demonstrates a generally accurate understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, and is effective in meeting the aims or goals stated in the performance assignment. Information presented within the response is elaborated through the use of some effective examples and supporting evidence.
2	**The "2" response reflects a partial understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, as described in the subarea of the OPTE test framework relevant to the constructed-response module.** The response partially fulfills the purpose of the assignment by attempting to respond to the given task. The response provides a partially appropriate application of professional knowledge, with some relevance to the subarea of the OPTE test framework being assessed. The response may contain some significant inaccuracies in its understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, and is not generally effective in meeting the aims or goals stated in the performance assignment. Information presented within the response is not well elaborated, containing few effective examples and minimal supporting evidence.
1	**The "1" response reflects little or no understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, as described in the subarea of the OPTE test framework relevant to the constructed-response module.** The response does not fulfill the purpose of the assignment. The response provides an inappropriate and/or irrelevant application of professional knowledge in terms of the subarea of the OPTE test framework being assessed. The response demonstrates a largely inaccurate understanding of current professional knowledge and practices, and is ineffective in meeting the aims or goals stated in the performance assignment. The response contains very little effective elaboration, with few, if any, effective examples and little, if any, supporting evidence.
U	The response is unscorable because it is illegible, not written to the assigned topic, written in a language other than English, or of insufficient length to score.
B	The written response form is blank.

Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination
Performance Characteristics

Purpose	The extent to which the candidate fulfills the purpose of the specific constructed-response module by responding to all elements of the specific performance assignment in an appropriate manner.
Appropriate Application of Professional Knowledge	The extent to which the candidate provides an appropriate application of current professional knowledge and practices, as defined in the subarea of the OPTE test framework relevant to the specific performance assignment.
Accurate and Effective Application of Professional Knowledge	The extent to which the candidate presents an accurate and effective application of current professional knowledge and practices that is focused in the appropriate subarea of the OPTE test framework and addresses the educational issue, learning goal, or professional situation presented in the specific performance assignment.
Elaboration of Professional Knowledge	The extent to which the candidate offers elaboration upon statements, assertions, positions, professional opinions, etc., through the use of supporting details, examples, and descriptions relevant to the specific performance assignment and appropriate subarea of the OPTE test framework.

Use the information below to complete the task that follows.

> **Learning Environment Goal:**
>
> **Help students feel valued and learn to value others.**

Identify a grade level and subject area for which you are prepared to teach, and write a response of approximately 150-300 words in which you:

- identify one factor to consider when addressing the goal of helping students feel valued and learning to value others;
- describe one strategy related to the identified factor that you would implement to achieve this goal; and
- explain why the strategy you described would be effective in achieving this goal.

Use the information below to complete the task that follows.

Mr. Navarro is a fourth-grade teacher whose class includes 25 students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The class includes five English language learners (ELLs) who demonstrate relative strength in oral language and listening comprehension but have difficulty reading English, two students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and two students who have been identified as gifted. Mr. Navarro regularly incorporates cooperative learning activities into instruction and his students have learned to work productively in these activities.

Mr. Navarro is planning a lesson in which students will read a section in their science textbook and a magazine article about the advantages and disadvantages of fossil fuels in preparation for a class discussion. As part of his planning process, Mr. Navarro is reviewing his students' performance on key areas of a reading assessment administered at the end of the previous year and considering strategies for differentiating instruction to meet students' learning needs.

Excerpt from Assessment Summary – Grade 3 Reading Skills (number of students)				
Skill	**Unsatisfactory**	**Limited Knowledge**	**Proficient**	**Advanced**
Words in Context	5	4	12	4
Affixes, Roots, and Stems	5	6	8	6
Use Resource Materials	4	6	11	4
Literal Understanding	3	4	11	7
Inferences and Interpretation	6	6	9	4
Summary and Generalization	4	6	10	5
Analysis and Evaluation	7	8	7	3
Accessing Information	5	7	13	0
Passage Comprehension	6	6	8	5
Reading Range (Grade Level)	2.2 – 7.5			

Citing evidence from the information provided, write a response of approximately 150–300 words in which you:

- identify one specific learning need with regard to the planned lesson for students in Mr. Navarro's class;
- describe one strategy for differentiating instruction to address the identified need; and
- explain why the strategy you described would be effective in addressing the identified need.

Results from Family Survey
(current year)

How much do you agree that …	% Strongly Agree or Agree
My child's teachers use a variety of communication strategies to share information with me.	53%
My child's teachers keep me informed about my child's learning progress.	75%
The school effectively communicates information to families about the school's goals for improvement.	62%
The school provides a variety of avenues for me to obtain information about the school's curriculum.	56%
I am able to attend conferences with my child's teachers on a regular basis.	58%
Conferences with my child's teachers focus on how to support my child's learning.	56%
Extended family members are welcome at conferences and classroom and school events.	85%
The school has established procedures for requesting meetings and/or information.	80%
The school makes effective use of technology to communicate with families (e.g., email, text messages).	44%
The school makes effective use of technology to communicate with families (e.g., email, text messages).	44%
The school informs families about important school issues and actively seeks their feedback and suggestions.	60%

Citing evidence from the information provided, write a response of approximately 150–300 words in which you:

- identify one important issue revealed by the survey;
- describe one action you would take to engage members of the school community in addressing the identified issue; and
- explain why the action you described would be effective in addressing the identified issue.

Sample Strong Response

Wichita Road Elementary School recently conducted a family survey and results indicate that only 44% of those responding believe that the school is making effective use of technology in school-home communication. Wichita Road Elementary is currently implementing an initiative to facilitate greater communication between school and home. The effective use of technology as part of this effort will provide an additional avenue for reaching families and accommodating work schedules and other family obligations.

One action to take to engage members of the school community in addressing this issue is to solicit information from families regarding their communication preferences and the extent to which they use technology (e.g., email accounts, smart phones). It will be important for teachers to work together as a faculty and as grade-level teams to examine current communication practices in light of families' preferences and use of technology. This process will help teachers focus their efforts on identifying technology-based communication strategies that should be implemented, as well as strategies that may need to be discarded as ineffective. For example, if a large number of families prefer email updates on students' progress or text messages about changes in school or classroom schedules, teachers could work with school administrators and families to implement guidelines for the appropriate use of such communications and what information to provide. Families can also provide feedback about information that would be most useful to include on the school's Web site and classroom Web pages.

To maintain continued engagement by school families in addressing the issue of using technology in school-home communication, it will be important to encourage family representation on action teams charged with implementing technology-based communication strategies. Family representatives could be charged with helping inform all school families about new technology-based strategies (e.g., links to assignments and project due dates on classroom Web pages, automated text message reminders of test dates) and gather feedback for the team on the perceived effectiveness of the strategies.

This action would address the issue of making effective use of technology in school-home communication by engaging school administrators, faculty, and staff with families in evaluating and refining current communication practices and implementing new, technology-based practices. The most important benefit of this action would be enhancing the responsiveness of school communication to families' needs and preferences to improve student learning.