



Understanding Rubric Level Progressions

Agricultural Education Version 01

Candidate Support Resource

SCALE

Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, & Equity

URLP_AGR_v01

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Overview

edTPA's portfolio is a collection of authentic artifacts and evidence from a candidate's actual teaching practice. *Understanding Rubric Level Progressions* (URLP) is a KEY resource that is designed to describe the meaning behind the rubrics. A close read of the following URLP sections will help program faculty and supervisors internalize the criteria and level distinctions for each rubric.

This document is intended as a resource for program faculty and supervisors who are supporting candidates with edTPA. Faculty and supervisors are strongly encouraged to share this document with candidates and use it to support their understanding of the rubrics, as well as their development as new professionals. The *Understanding Rubric Level Progressions* is intended to enhance, not replace, the support that candidates receive from programs in their preparation for edTPA.

In the next section, we provide definitions and guidelines for making scoring decisions. The remainder of the document presents the score-level distinctions and other information for each edTPA rubric, including:

1. Elaborated explanations for rubric Guiding Questions
2. Definitions of key terms used in rubrics
3. Primary sources of evidence for each rubric
4. Rubric-specific scoring decision rules
5. Examples that distinguish between levels for each rubric: Level 3, below 3 (Levels 1 and 2), and above 3 (Levels 4 and 5).

Scoring Decision Rules

When evidence falls across multiple levels of the rubric, scorers use the following criteria while making the scoring decision:

1. **Preponderance of Evidence:** When scoring each rubric, scorers must make score decisions based on the evidence provided by candidates and how it matches the rubric level criteria. A pattern of evidence supporting a particular score level has a heavier weight than isolated evidence in another score level.
2. **Multiple Criteria:** In cases where there are two criteria present across rubric levels, greater weight or consideration will be for the criterion named as "primary."
3. **Automatic 1:** Some rubrics have Automatic 1 criteria. These criteria outweigh all other criteria in the specific rubric, as they reflect essential practices related to particular guiding questions. NOTE: Not all criteria for Level 1 are Automatic 1s.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION LEARNING SEGMENT FOCUS

Candidate's instruction should support students to develop agriculture—related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem—solving strategies by doing one of the following:

- Conduct an agricultural investigation to make sense of one or more agricultural—related phenomena. (e.g., regional distributions of crops in the state; cattle breeding; a loan application for an agricultural business) OR
- Create an agricultural technology/design product to specifications. (e.g., a metal box, a flower arrangement)

Planning Rubric 1: Planning for Agricultural-Related Understandings

AG1: How do the candidate's plans build students' agricultural-related conceptual understandings, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how a candidate's plans build a learning segment of **three to five lessons** around a central focus. Candidates will explain how they plan to organize tasks, activities, and/or materials to align with the central focus and the standards/objectives. The planned learning segment must develop students' use of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies while completing an investigation or creating a product related to agricultural phenomena.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- *Aligned*—Standards, objectives, instructional strategies and learning tasks are "aligned" when they consistently address the same/similar learning outcomes for students.
- *Significant content inaccuracies*—Content flaws in commentary explanations, lesson plans, or instructional materials that will lead to student misunderstandings and the need for reteaching.

Agricultural Education Terms Central to the edTPA:

- *Agricultural investigation*—a systematic exploration, examination, inquiry, and/or research using agricultural education concepts applied to animal science, plant/soil science, horticulture, agri-business, agricultural mechanics, forestry, or natural/environmental science

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Context for Learning Information

Planning Commentary **Prompt 1**

Strategic review of Lesson Plans & Instructional Materials

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria PRINCIPLE	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ Pattern of significant content inaccuracies that are core to the central focus or a key learning objective for the learning segment ▪ A pattern of misalignment is demonstrated in relation to standards/objectives, learning tasks and materials across two or more lessons.

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- Plans for instruction are logically sequenced to facilitate students' learning.
- Plans are presented in a sequence in which **each lesson builds on the previous one(s)**.
- In addition, the sequencing of the plans supports students' learning of facts and procedures by connecting to concepts, relevant skills, OR problem-solving strategies as they are applied to an agricultural phenomenon or product during the learning segment. **These connections are explicitly written in the plans or commentary**, and how the connections are made is not left to the determination of the scorer. The explanation may only address a part of the phenomenon related to the investigation, and not the complete phenomenon.
- Be sure to pay attention to each component of the subject-specific emphasis (facts and procedures, concepts, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies).

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- Plans for instruction support student learning of facts and procedures but **with little or no** planned instruction to guide understanding of concepts, relevant skills, or problem-solving strategies as they are applied to an agricultural phenomenon or product.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At a Level 2,

- The candidate is providing some opportunities for students to learn facts and procedures in connection to concepts, relevant skills, OR problem-solving strategies as applied to an agricultural phenomenon or product, but such opportunities are at best **fleeting or vague** (e.g., students are asked to fill in a diagram of a cow with the names for the cuts of beef that are obtained specifically from the body parts or students are required to list the elements of floral design—texture, space, form, and line—but are not required to draw or explain the terms with regards to floral arrangements), so students are largely left to make sense of these on their own.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At a Level 1,

- The candidate is focused on teaching **memorization of facts** or following prescribed procedures for an "investigation" with no opportunities for students to problem-solve or apply concepts and design principles.

Automatic Score of 1 is given when:

- There is a pattern of **significant content inaccuracies** that will lead to student misunderstandings.
- Content flaws in the plans or instructional materials are significant and systematic, and interfere with student learning.
- **Standards, objectives, learning tasks, and materials are not aligned with each other**. There is a consistent pattern of misalignment across two or more lessons. If one standard or objective does not align within the learning segment, this level of misalignment is not significant enough for a Level 1.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above Level 3:

- Learning tasks are designed to support students to learn facts and procedures and **lead them** to make clear, **consistent** connections to concepts, relevant skills, **AND** problem-solving strategies as they are applied to an agricultural phenomenon or product by the end of the learning segment.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At a Level 4,

- In the commentary, the candidate supports students in learning facts and procedures while making clear **and consistent** connections to concepts, relevant skills, **AND** problem-solving strategies **in every lesson** as they are applied to an agricultural phenomenon or product. Be sure to pay attention to each component of the subject-specific emphasis (facts and procedures, concepts, relevant skills, **and** problem-solving strategies).
- The candidate uses this support to **deepen student understanding** of the central focus.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets Level 4 **AND**

- **Plans include activities and questions that will clearly support students in making these connections themselves.**
 - This would include **plans that pose strategic questions or examinations of designs that lead students to make the connections and/or plans where students develop the habit** of looking for connections between facts and procedures and concepts, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies during an investigation or creation of a product.

Planning Rubric 2: Planning to Support Varied Student Learning Needs

AG2: How does the candidate use knowledge of his/her students to target support for students to develop agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate plans to support students in relationship to students' characteristics. This includes using the candidate's understanding of students to develop, choose, or adapt instructional strategies, learning tasks, and materials.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- *Planned Supports* include instructional strategies, learning tasks and materials, and other resources deliberately designed to facilitate student learning of the central focus.

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Context for Learning Information (required supports, modifications, or accommodations)

Planning Commentary **Prompts 2 and 3**

Strategic review of lesson plans and instructional materials to clarify planned supports.

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Planned support according to requirements in IEP or 504 plans is completely missing. The automatic 1 is only related to the support for IEP or 504 plans, not for students with other learning needs.▪ If there are no students with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- Candidate explains how planned supports for students address the learning needs of the whole class while assisting them in achieving the learning objectives.
- Candidate addresses at least one of the requirements from IEPs and 504 plans as described in the Context for Learning Information.
 - Requirements must be explicitly addressed in the commentary and/or the Planning Task 1 artifacts. List of requirements and/or accommodations in the Context for Learning Information document is not sufficient by itself.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3: Candidate plans insufficient supports to develop students' learning relative to the learning objectives or the central focus. Evidenced by ONE or more of the following:

- Candidate does not plan supports for students.
- Planned supports are not closely tied to learning objectives or the central focus.
- Evidence does not reflect ANY instructional requirements in IEP or 504 plans.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- Plans address at least one of the instructional requirements set forth in IEPs and 504 plans. However, it is not clear that other planned supports will be helpful in supporting students to meet the learning objectives.
- The supports would work for almost any learning objective. Therefore, supports are not closely connected to the learning objectives or central focus (e.g., pair high and low students during partner work without a specific description of how that supports students with a specific need, check on students who are usually having trouble, without any specific indication of what the candidate might be checking for, such as observing student's use of a measuring tape on a specific piece of lumber).
- Supports are tied to learning objectives within each lesson, but there is no central focus.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- Evidence of intentional support for student needs as described by the candidate is absent.

Automatic Score of 1:

- If IEP/504 requirements are described in the Context for Learning Information or commentary but none are included in the planned support, then the rubric is scored as an Automatic Level 1, regardless of other evidence of support for the whole class or groups or individuals in the class. If the candidate describes one or more of the IEP or 504 plan requirements for any student in the lesson plans or commentary, then the score is determined by the Planned Support criterion. **(If there are no students with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.)**

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- Plans address specific student needs (beyond those required in IEP and 504 plans) by including scaffolding or structured supports that are explicitly selected or developed to help individual students and groups of students with similar needs to gain access to content and meet the learning objectives.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The candidate explains how the supports tied to the learning objectives are intended to meet specific needs of individuals or groups of students with similar needs, in addition to the whole class. Supports should be provided for more than one student—either more than one individual or for a specific group of students with similar needs (e.g., more instruction in a prerequisite skill).

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets Level 4
AND

- Identifies possible preconceptions, common errors, or misconceptions associated with the central focus, and describes specific strategies to identify and respond to them.
- If the plans and commentary attend to misconceptions or common misunderstandings without also satisfying Level 4 requirements, this is not sufficient evidence for Level 5.

Planning Rubric 3: Using Knowledge of Students to Inform Teaching and Learning

AG3: How does the candidate use knowledge of his/her students to justify instructional plans?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate justifies the ways in which learning tasks and materials make content meaningful to students, by drawing upon knowledge of individuals or groups, as well as research or theory.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- *Deficit thinking* is revealed when candidates explain low academic performance based primarily on students' cultural or linguistic backgrounds, the challenges they face outside of school or from lack of family support. When this leads to a pattern of low expectations, not taking responsibility for providing appropriate support, or not acknowledging any student strengths, this is a deficit view.

For the following terms from the rubric, see the handbook glossary:

- *prior academic learning*
- *assets* (personal, cultural, community assets)

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Planning Commentary **Prompts 2 and 3**

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Criterion 1 (primary): Justification of plans using knowledge of students—i.e., prior academic learning AND/OR assets (personal, cultural, community)▪ Criterion 2: Research and theory connections▪ Place greater weight or consideration on criterion 1 (justification of plans using knowledge of students).
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deficit view of students and their backgrounds

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- *Primary Criterion*: The candidate explains how the learning tasks are explicitly connected to the students' prior academic knowledge OR knowledge of students' assets (personal, cultural, community). Assets include students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds, interests, community or family resources and personal experiences.
- *Secondary Criterion*: The candidate refers to research or theory in relation to the plans to support student learning. The connections between the research/theory and the tasks are superficial/not clearly made. They are not well connected to a particular element of the instructional design.

- If evidence meets the primary criterion at Level 3, the rubric is scored at Level 3 **regardless of the evidence for the secondary criterion.**
- If evidence meets the primary criterion at Level 4, and candidate has NO connection to research/theory, the rubric is scored at Level 3.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- There is a limited amount of evidence that the candidate has considered his/her particular class in planning.

OR

- The candidate justifies the plans through a deficit view of students and their backgrounds.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- The candidate's justification of the learning tasks makes some connection with what they know about students' prior academic learning or assets (personal, cultural, community). These connections are not strong, but are instead vague or unelaborated, or involve a listing of what candidates know about their students in terms of prior knowledge or background without making a direct connection to how that is related to planning.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- There is no evidence that the candidate uses knowledge of students to plan.

Automatic Score of 1 is given when:

- Candidate's justification of learning tasks includes a pattern representing a deficit view of students and their backgrounds. (See the explanation of deficit thinking listed above under Key Concepts of Rubric.)

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- The candidate's justification not only uses knowledge of students – as both academic learners AND as individuals who bring in personal, cultural, or community assets – but also uses research or theory to inform planning.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The evidence includes specific examples from students' prior academic learning **AND** knowledge of students' assets (personal, cultural, community), and explains how the plans reflect this knowledge. The explanation needs to include **explicit connections** between the learning tasks and the examples provided.
- The candidate explains how research or theory informed the selection or design of at least one learning task or the way in which it was implemented. The connection between the research or theory and the learning task(s) must be explicit.
- Scoring decision rules: To score at Level 4, the candidate must meet the primary criterion at Level 4 and make at least a fleeting, relevant reference to research or theory (meet the secondary criterion at least at Level 3).

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets Level 4
AND

- Explains how principles of research or theory support or **set a foundation** for their planning decisions.
 - The justifications are explicit, well-articulated, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the research/theory principles that are clearly reflected in the plans.

Planning Rubric 4: Identifying and Supporting Language Demands

AG4: How does the candidate identify and support language demands associated with a key agricultural learning task?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question focuses on how the candidate describes the planned instructional supports that address the identified language demands for the learning task.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

Use the definitions below and the subject-specific Academic Language handout to further clarify concepts on Rubric 4.

- **language demands**—Specific ways that academic language (vocabulary, functions, discourse, syntax) is used by students to participate in learning tasks through reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking to demonstrate their disciplinary understanding.
- **language functions**—Purpose for which language is used. The content and language focus of the learning task, often represented by the active verbs within the learning outcomes. Common language functions in agricultural education include **describing** agricultural phenomena; **interpreting** investigative procedures, diagrams, figures, tables, graphs, and dense authoritative text; **predicting** from models and relationships between concepts; **classifying** based on common attributes; **summarizing** agricultural data from investigations; **justifying** conclusions; **evaluating** data; **explaining** phenomena and processes; **drawing conclusions** based on data; and so on.
- **vocabulary**—Words and phrases that are used within disciplines including: (1) words and phrases with subject-specific meanings that differ from meanings used in everyday life (e.g., table); (2) general academic vocabulary used across disciplines (e.g., compare, analyze, evaluate); and (3) subject-specific words defined for use in the discipline.
- **discourse**—How members of the discipline talk, write, and participate in knowledge construction, using the structures of written and oral language. Discipline-specific discourse has distinctive features or ways of structuring oral or written language (text structures) or representing knowledge visually that provide useful ways for the content to be communicated. In agricultural education, language structures include symbolic representations such as schematics and blueprints, graphic and tabular representations (which is shorthand language for complex sets of data), and narrative (e.g., analysis and conclusion sections on lab reports, research papers or articles).
- **syntax**—The rules for organizing words or symbols together into phrases, clauses, sentences or visual representations (e.g., graphs, blueprints, schematics). One of the main functions of syntax is to organize language in order to convey meaning.
- **language supports**—The scaffolds, representations, and pedagogical strategies teachers intentionally provide to help learners understand and use the concepts and language they need to learn within disciplines. The language supports planned within the lessons in edTPA should directly support learners to understand and use identified language demands (vocabulary and/or symbols, language function, and syntax or discourse) to deepen content understandings.

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Planning Commentary **Prompt 4a–d**

Strategic review of Lesson Plans

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	■ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	■ None

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- General supports are planned and described, though not in specific detail, for students' application of any two or more of the language demands (function, vocabulary and/or symbols, syntax, discourse).
 - Language supports must go beyond opportunities for students to practice using the identified language demands either individually or with other students within the learning segment. Examples of general language supports include describing and defining the function, modeling vocabulary, syntax or discourse, providing an example with little explanation, questions and answers about a language demand, whole group discussion of a language demand, providing pictures to illustrate vocabulary.
- The candidate may inaccurately categorize a language demand (e.g., identifies syntax as discourse), but does describe general supports for two of the language demands required of students within the learning task. For example:
 - "For discourse, I will model how to use formulas in an EXCEL file to estimate labor and materials costs, including volume discounts, prior to creating a small business plan. To support vocabulary, we will review the terms (income, expense, labor, materials) and solve several sample problems as a class." This example would be scored at a level 3 because there are supports for two language demands, vocabulary and syntax, even though the candidate categorizes using formulas (a form of syntax) as discourse.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- The candidate has a superficial view of academic language and provides supports that are misaligned with the demands or provides support for only one language demand (vocabulary and/or symbols, function, syntax, or discourse).

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- The primary focus of support is on only one of the language demands (vocabulary and/or symbols, function, syntax, or discourse) with little to no attention to any of the other language demands.

- Support may be general (e.g., discussing, defining or describing a language demand), or it may be targeted, (e.g., modeling a language demand while using an example with labels). Regardless, the support provided is limited to one language demand.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- There is a pattern of misalignment between the language demand(s) and the language supports identified. For example, the language function is listed as compare/contrast, but the language task is that the students will be labeling a diagram and explaining the function of the part labeled. The syntax is supported by a sentence frame: The (part) of the flower supports the plant by (explanation of function).

OR

- Language supports are completely missing.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- The supports specifically address the language function, vocabulary and/or symbols, and at least one other language demand (syntax and/or discourse) in the context of the chosen task.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The candidate identifies specific planned language supports and describes how supports address each of the following: vocabulary/symbols, the language function, and at least one other language demand (syntax, and/or discourse).
- Supports are focused (e.g., provide structures or scaffolding) to address specific language demands, such as sentence starters (syntax or function); modeling how to construct an argument, explanation, or paragraph using a think aloud (function, discourse); graphic organizers tailored to organizing text (discourse or function); identifying critical elements of a language function using an example; or more in-depth exploration of vocabulary development (vocabulary mapping that includes antonym, synonym, student definition and illustration).

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets all of Level 4 **AND**

- The candidate includes and explains how one or more of the language supports are either designed or differentiated to meet the needs of students with differing language needs.

Planning Rubric 5: Planning Assessments to Monitor and Support Student Learning

AG5: How are the formal and informal assessments selected or designed to monitor students' agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses the alignment of the assessments to the standards and objectives and the extent to which assessments provide multiple forms of evidence to monitor student progress throughout the learning segment. It also addresses required adaptations from IEPs or 504 plans. The array of assessments should provide evidence of students' understanding of agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- **assessment (formal and informal):** "[R]efer[s] to all those activities undertaken by teachers and by their students . . . that provide information to be used as feedback to modify teaching and learning activities."¹ Assessments provide evidence of students' prior knowledge, thinking, or learning in order to evaluate what students understand and how they are thinking. Informal assessments may include such things as student questions and responses during instruction and teacher observations of students as they work or perform. Formal assessments may include such things as quizzes, homework assignments, journals, projects, and performance tasks.

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Context for Learning Information (required supports, modifications, or accommodations for assessments)

Planning Commentary **Prompt 5**

Assessment Materials

Strategic review of Lesson Plans

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ None of the assessment adaptations required by IEPs or 504 plans are made. (If there are no students with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.)

¹ Black, P., & William, D. (1998). Inside the black box: Raising standards through classroom assessment. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 80(2), 139–148.

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- The planned assessments provide evidence of students' understanding of agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies at various points within the learning segment. The assessments must provide evidence of all three (conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies).
- Requirements from the IEP or 504 plan must be explicitly addressed in the commentary and/or the Planning Task 1 artifacts. List of requirements and/or accommodations in the Context for Learning Information document is not sufficient by itself.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- The planned assessments will yield insufficient evidence to monitor students' understanding of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, or problem-solving strategies (e.g., a single summative assessment).

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- Assessments will produce evidence of student learning, but evidence is limited. Examples of limited assessments include a single assessment OR assessments for only agriculture-related skills or concepts and not agricultural-related problem-solving strategies.
- Although assessments may provide some evidence of student learning, they do not monitor all areas of learning across the learning segment.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- The assessments only focus on memorization of facts or following procedures without providing evidence of agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, or problem-solving strategies.

Automatic Score of 1:

- If there is NO attention to ANY assessment-related IEP/504 plan requirements (e.g., more time; a scribe for written assignments) in either the commentary or the Planning Task 1 artifacts, the score of 1 is applied; otherwise the evidence for the other criteria will determine the score. **(If there are no students with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.)**

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- The array of assessments provides consistent evidence of students' understanding of agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, AND problem-solving strategies.
- Assessment evidence will allow the candidate to determine students' progress toward developing an understanding of agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, AND problem-solving strategies (e.g., planned targeted, formative assessments).

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- There are multiple forms of evidence, not just the same kind of evidence collected at different points in time or in different settings, to monitor student students' understanding of agricultural-related concepts, phenomena, and the application of relevant skills and problem-solving strategies during applications for the central focus. "Multiple forms of evidence" means that different types of evidence are used—e.g., written explanations, drawings or diagrams representing student understanding of a phenomenon, data-based laboratory reports with conclusions, applications of knowledge to novel situations—and not that there is only one type of evidence on homework, exit slips, and the final test.
- The array of assessments provides evidence to track student progress toward developing the agricultural-related conceptual understanding and, use of relevant skills and problem-solving strategies during investigations or the design process as defined by the standards and learning objectives.
- This evidence is collected for all three areas (agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills and problem-solving strategies) in every lesson OR the assessments correspond to a plan for the learning segment that builds understandings in one or more areas and uses that understanding to address other areas.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets Level 4
AND

- Describes how assessments are targeted and explicit in design to allow individuals or groups with specific needs to demonstrate their learning without oversimplifying the content.
- Strategic design of assessments goes beyond, for example, allowing extra time to complete an assignment or adding a challenge question.

Instruction Rubric 6: Learning Environment

AG6: How does the candidate demonstrate a positive learning environment that supports students' engagement in learning?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses the type of learning environment that the candidate establishes and the degree to which it fosters positive interactions between the candidate and students, and among students.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- *Respect*—A positive feeling of esteem or deference for a person and specific actions and conduct representative of that esteem. Respect can be a specific feeling of regard for the actual qualities of the one respected. It can also be conduct in accord with a specific ethic of respect. Rude conduct is usually considered to indicate a lack of respect, disrespect, whereas actions that honor somebody or something indicate respect. Note that respectful actions and conduct are culturally defined and may be context dependent. **Scorers are cautioned to avoid bias related to their own culturally constructed meanings of respect.**
- *Rapport*—a close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well.

For the following term from the rubric, see the edTPA Handbook glossary:

- *Learning environment*

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Video Clips

Instruction Commentary **Prompts 2 and 3**

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—**such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.**

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ None

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3: In the clips:

- The candidate's interactions with students are positive, demonstrate rapport (evidence of relationship between candidate and students and/or ease of interaction that goes back and forth based on relevance or engaged conversation), and students communicate easily with the candidate.
- There is evidence that the candidate facilitates a positive learning environment wherein students are willing to answer questions and work together without the candidate or other students criticizing their responses.
- There is evidence of mutual respect among students. Examples include attentive listening while other students speak, positive attention to another student's idea (even if disagreeing), working together with a partner or group to accomplish tasks.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3: The clips:

- Do not exhibit evidence of positive relationships and interactions between candidate and students.
- Reveal a focus on classroom management and maintaining student behavior and routines rather than engaging students in learning.
- Reveal an unsafe environment.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- Although clips reveal the candidate's positive interactions with students, there is an emphasis on candidate's rigid control of student behaviors, discussions, and other activities in ways that limit or do not support learning.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1, there are **three different ways** that evidence is scored:

1. The clips reveal evidence of candidate-student or student-student interactions that discourage student contributions, disparage the student(s), or take away from learning.
2. The classroom management is so weak that the candidate is not able to, or does not successfully, redirect students, or the students themselves find it difficult to engage in learning tasks because of disruptive behavior. *Note: Classroom management styles vary. Video clips that show classroom environments where students are productively engaged in the learning task should not be labeled as disruptive. Examples of this may include students engaging in discussion with peers, speaking without raising their hands, or being out of their seats.*
3. The clips reveal evidence that safety precautions for the use of hazardous materials or equipment are not taken or not enforced.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3: The clips:

- Reveal a positive learning environment that includes tasks/discussions that challenge student thinking and encourage positive student-student interaction.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The learning environment supports learning tasks that appropriately challenge students by promoting higher-order thinking or application to develop new learning. There must be evidence that the environment is challenging for students. Examples include: students cannot answer immediately, but need to think to respond; the candidate asks higher-order thinking questions; students are trying to apply their initial learning to another context.
- The learning environment encourages and supports mutual respect among students, e.g., candidate reminds students to discuss ideas respectfully with each other.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At level 5,

- The learning environment encourages students to express, debate, and evaluate differing perspectives about content with each other. Perspectives could be from curricular sources, students' ideas and/or lived experiences.

Instruction Rubric 7: Engaging Students in Learning

AG7: How does the candidate actively engage students in developing agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate provides video evidence of how they engage students in meaningful tasks and discussions to develop their understanding of agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

For the following terms from the rubric, see the edTPA Handbook glossary:

- *Engaging students in learning*
- *Assets* (personal, cultural, community)

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Video Clips

Instruction Commentary **Prompt 4**

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—**such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.**

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Criterion 1 (primary): Engagement in learning tasks▪ Criterion 2: Connections between students' academic learning AND/OR assets (personal, cultural, community) and new learning▪ Place greater weight or consideration on the criterion 1 (engagement in learning tasks).
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ None

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- *Primary criterion:* The clips show that the students are engaged in learning tasks that focus on agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies. Although these content understandings are evident in conversations, they are addressed at a cursory level. For example, the candidate has a student explain how they determined that the building was square using the 3-4-5 rule. The candidate relates this to how mathematics in general is used in real world situations, leaving the instruction at a cursory level.

- *Secondary criterion:* The clips show the candidate **making connections** to students' prior academic learning to help them develop the new content or relevant skills.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- Students are participating in tasks that do not involve agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, or problem solving.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- Students are participating in rote tasks that concentrate on the learning of facts or procedures with little or no opportunity to develop an understanding of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, or problem-solving strategies.
- The structure of the learning task or the way in which it is implemented constrains student development of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, and/or problem-solving strategies.
- In addition, the candidate may refer to students' learning from prior units, but the references are indirect or unclear and do not facilitate new learning.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- The learning tasks seen in the video clips have little relation to agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, or problem-solving strategies.
- In addition, the candidate is not using either students' prior academic learning or assets (personal, cultural, community) to build new learning.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- The learning tasks as seen in the clips are structured to engage students to develop and deepen their understandings of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies.
- Connections between students' prior academic learning and assets (personal, cultural, community) are made to support the new learning.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The learning tasks in the clips include structures or scaffolding that promote the learning of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, AND problem-solving strategies. Students must interact with the content in ways that are likely to either extend initial understandings or surface misunderstandings that the candidate can then address.
- In addition, the candidate draws upon not only prior academic learning, but also students' assets (personal, cultural, community) to develop new learning.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,

- The learning tasks in the clips are structured or scaffolded to support students to deepen and extend their understandings of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, AND problem-solving strategies.
- In addition, the candidate encourages students to connect and use their prior knowledge and assets (academic **AND** personal, cultural, community) to support new learning.

Instruction Rubric 8: Deepening Student Learning

AG8: How does the candidate elicit student responses to promote thinking and develop understandings of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how, in the video clips, the candidate brings forth and builds on student responses to guide learning; this can occur during whole class discussions, small group discussions, or consultations with individual students.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- *Significant content inaccuracies*—Content flaws within processes or examples used during the lesson will lead to student misunderstandings and the need for reteaching.

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Video Clips

Instruction Commentary **Prompt 5a**

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—**such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.**

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ Pattern of significant content inaccuracies that are core to the central focus or a key learning objective for the learning segment

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- The candidate prompts students to offer responses that require thinking related to agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, OR problem-solving strategies in relation to the phenomenon being investigated or the product being designed, e.g., by using "how" and "why" questions. Some instruction may be characterized by initial questions focusing on facts to lay a basis for later higher-order questions in the clips.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- In the clips, classroom interactions provide students with limited or no opportunities to think and learn.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- The candidate asks questions that elicit right/wrong or yes/no answers and do little to encourage students to think about the content being taught.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- There are few opportunities shown in the clips that students were able to express ideas.

Automatic Score of 1 is given when:

- There is a pattern of **significant content inaccuracies** that will lead to student misunderstandings.
- The candidate makes a significant error in content (e.g., introducing an inaccurate definition of a central concept before students work independently) that is core to the central focus or a key standard for the learning segment.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- In the clips, the candidate uses student ideas to develop students' agricultural thinking or asks students to evaluate their own abilities to apply agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, AND problem-solving strategies.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The candidate follows up on student responses to encourage the student or his/her peers to explore or build on the ideas expressed.
- The candidate uses this strategy to develop students' understanding of agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, AND problem-solving strategies.
- Examples of "building on student responses" includes referring to a previous student response in developing a point or an argument; calling on the student to elaborate on what s/he said; posing questions to guide a student discussion; soliciting student examples and asking another student to identify what they have in common; asking a student to summarize a lengthy discussion or rambling explanation; and asking another student to respond to a student comment or answer a question posed by a student to move instruction forward. For example, during a discussion after a lesson on concrete is taught, the TC may ask students to relate the information describing concrete's constituents to soil types. If a student offered "sand, silt, and clay" for types of soil, the TC could pose a question regarding which of the soil types naturally gets hard and lead the students to understand that concrete has many parts: clay, limestone (burnt Lime or CaO) and an aggregate.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets all of Level 4 **AND**

- There is evidence in the clips that the candidate structures and supports student-student conversations and interactions that provide opportunities for students to evaluate their ability to apply agricultural-related concepts, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies.

Instruction Rubric 9: Subject-Specific Pedagogy

AG9: How does the candidate use representations to support students' ability to understand agricultural-related concepts and procedures?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate uses representations (e.g., models—carnations set in colored water to represent nutrient absorption into plants; blueprints—barn, house, storage area building plans, pictures, a PowerPoint presentation of different breeds of horses including specific characteristics of each) during instruction to support student learning of agricultural-related concepts and procedures.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- N/A

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Video Clips

Instruction Commentary **Prompt 5b**

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—**such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.**

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ Representations are not appropriate or are used inappropriately for the content being taught.

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- In the clips, the candidate uses representations to support student learning of agricultural-related concepts and procedures.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- In the clips, the candidate is not using representations effectively to support student understanding of agricultural-related concepts and procedures.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- The candidate uses representations in limited or superficial ways that lead to minimal support toward learning agricultural-related concepts or procedures.

- The candidate attempts to use representations to facilitate understanding of concepts and procedures, but the connections between them are not strong enough or clear enough to be effective.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- The candidate is primarily focused on facts or procedures with minimal or no attention to promoting student thinking and supporting the understanding of agricultural-related concepts or procedures.

Automatic Score of 1 is given when:

- The representations are significantly inappropriate for the intended learning.
- The use of the representations will lead to significant student misunderstandings.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- In the clips, the candidate uses representations to deepen student understanding of agricultural-related concepts and procedures, to support the examination of applied concepts and procedures, or to generalize agricultural-related concepts and procedures.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- In the clips, the candidate uses representations in ways that deepen student understanding of agricultural-related concepts and procedures

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,

- In the clips, the candidate uses representations to support students as they compare and contrast applied agricultural-related concepts and procedures OR generalize them to other agricultural contexts.

Instruction Rubric 10: Analyzing Teaching Effectiveness

AG10: How does the candidate use evidence to evaluate and change teaching practice to meet students' varied learning needs?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate examines the teaching and learning in the video clips and proposes what s/he could have done differently to better support the needs of diverse students. The candidate justifies the changes based on student needs and references to research and/or theory.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- N/A

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Instruction Commentary **Prompt 6**

Video Clips (for evidence of student learning)

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Criterion 1 (primary): Proposed changes▪ Criterion 2: Connections to research/theory▪ Place greater weight or consideration on criterion 1 (proposed changes).
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ None

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- *Primary criterion:* The proposed changes address the central focus and the candidate explicitly connects those changes to the learning needs of the class as a whole.
 - Proposed changes noted by the candidate should be related to the lessons that are seen or referenced in the clip(s), but do not need to be exclusively from what is seen in the clip(s) alone. This means that since only portions of the lessons will be captured by the clip(s), candidates can suggest changes to any part of the same lesson(s) referenced in the clip(s), even if those portions of the lesson(s) are not depicted in the clip(s).
- *Secondary criterion:* The candidate refers to research or theory in relation to the plans to support student learning. The connections between the research/theory and the tasks are vague/not clearly made.
 - If evidence meets the primary criterion at Level 3, the rubric is scored at Level 3 **regardless of the evidence for the secondary criterion.**

- If evidence meets the primary criterion at Level 4, and candidate has NO connection to research/theory, the rubric is scored at Level 3.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- The changes proposed by the candidate are not directly related to student learning.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- The changes address improvements in teaching practice that mainly focus on how the candidate structures or organizes learning tasks, with a superficial connection to student learning. There is little detail on the changes in relation to either the central focus or the specific learning that is the focus of the video clips. Examples include asking additional higher-order questions without providing examples, improving directions, repeating instruction without making significant changes based on the evidence of student learning from the video clips, or including more group work without indicating how the group work will address specific learning needs.
- If a candidate's proposed changes have nothing to do with the central focus, this rubric cannot be scored beyond a Level 2.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- The changes are not supported by evidence of student learning from lessons seen or referenced in the clips.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- The proposed changes relate to the central focus and explicitly address individual and collective needs that were within the lessons seen in the video clips.
- The changes in teaching practice are supported by research and/or theory.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The changes clearly address the learning needs of individuals in addition to the learning needs of the whole class in the video clips by providing additional support and/or further challenge in relation to the central focus. Candidate should explain how proposed changes relate to each individual's needs.
- The candidate explains how research or theory is related to the changes proposed. Candidates may cite research or theory in their commentary, or refer to the ideas and principles from the research; either connection is acceptable, as long as they clearly connect the research/theory to the proposed changes.
- Scoring decision rules: To score at Level 4, the candidate must meet the primary criterion at Level 4 and make at least a fleeting, related reference to research or theory (meet the secondary criterion at least at Level 3).

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets Level 4 AND

- Explains how principles of research or theory **support or frame the proposed changes**. The justifications are explicit, well-articulated, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the research/theory principles that are clearly reflected in the explanation of the changes.

Assessment Rubric 11: Analysis of Student Learning

AG11: How does the candidate analyze evidence of agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, and problem-solving strategies?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses the candidate's analysis of student work to identify patterns of learning across the class.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- *Aligned*—The assessment, evaluation criteria, learning objectives and analysis are aligned with each other.
- *Evaluation criteria*—Evaluation criteria should indicate differences in level of performance, e.g., a rubric, a checklist of desired attributes, points assigned to different parts of the assessment. Summative grades are not evaluation criteria. Evaluation criteria must be relevant to the learning objectives, though they may also include attention to other desired features of the assessment response, e.g., neatness, spelling.

For the following term from the rubric, see the handbook glossary:

- *Patterns of learning*

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Assessment Commentary **Prompt 1**

Student work samples

Evaluation criteria

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ Significant misalignment between evaluation criteria, learning objectives, and/or analysis

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- The analysis is an accurate listing of what students did correctly and incorrectly.
- The analysis is aligned with the evaluation criteria and/or assessed learning objectives.
- Some general differences in learning across the class are identified.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- The analysis is superficial (e.g., primarily irrelevant global statements) or focuses only on right or wrong answers.
- The analysis is contradicted by the work sample evidence.
- The analysis is based on an inconsistent alignment with evaluation criteria and/or standards/objectives.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: There are **two different ways** that evidence is scored at Level 2:

1. Although aligned with the summary, the analysis presents an incomplete picture of student learning by only addressing either successes or errors.
2. The analysis is supported by evidence from only one source—either the whole class summary OR the 3 work samples from the focus students.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: There are **two different ways** that evidence is scored at Level 1:

1. The analysis is superficial because it ignores important evidence from the work samples, focusing on trivial aspects.
2. The conclusions in the analysis are not supported by the work samples or the summary of learning.

Automatic Score of 1 is given when:

- There is a significant lack of alignment between evaluation criteria, learning objectives, and/or analysis. A lack of alignment can be caused by a lack of relevant evaluation criteria to assess student performance on the learning objectives.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3: The analysis:

- Identifies patterns of learning (quantitative and qualitative) that summarize what students know, are able to do, and still need to learn.
- Describes patterns for the whole class, groups, or individuals.
- Is supported with evidence from the work samples and is consistent with the summary.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The analysis describes consistencies in performance (patterns) across the class in terms of what students know and are able to do and where they need to improve.
- The analysis goes beyond a listing of students' successes and errors, to an explanation of student understanding in relation to their performance on the identified assessment. An exhaustive list of what students did right and wrong, or the % of students with correct or incorrect responses, should be scored at Level 3, as that does not constitute a pattern of student learning. A pattern of student learning goes beyond these quantitative differences to identify specific content understandings or misunderstandings, or partial understandings that are contributing to the quantitative differences.

- Specific examples from work samples are used to demonstrate the whole class patterns. An example is, "Most students were successful in identifying the parts of a plant but far fewer could explain the function of each part. Student A was able to identify the parts and explain the function of each part. Student B could identify most parts of the plant but could not explain the functions."

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,

- The candidate uses specific evidence from work samples to demonstrate qualitative patterns of understanding. The analysis uses these qualitative patterns to interpret the range of similar correct or incorrect responses from individuals or groups (e.g., quantitative patterns), and to determine elements of what students learned and what would be most productive to work on. The qualitative patterns may include struggles, partial understandings, and/or attempts at solutions. An example would be "Most students could use correct procedures to solve the equations and could select the correct type of plants for which the proportion of N-P-K were appropriate, as illustrated by Students A and B. But most students were like Student B, who could not set up the equations on about half of the fertilizer proportion problems, while Student A's work sample represented the few students who could. Even though Student A made a multiplication error on Problem 8, the procedure was correct. While Student B found the correct solution to problems 1–5, which were abstract proportion problem intended to "warm up" the students for the calculations of amounts of N-P-K in fertilizers for different plants, he was unable to construct the correct equation for any of the fertilizer word problems (problems 6–10.) This suggests that most of my students understood the procedures and how to use them, but most had difficulty with conceptual understanding sufficient to recognize the part and the whole when they appeared in a real-world context. They appeared to be really confused, because like Student B, there was no consistent error across the word problems, but the information in the problem appeared to be almost randomly matched to the variables. In Problem 6, Student B assigns the unknown (which should be the total amount of fertilizer) is assigned to the numerator and the amounts of N, P, and K to the denominator. In Problem 7, he reverses the numerator and denominator for calculating the amount of Nitrogen, and in Problem 8, the irrelevant information is used for the total amount of fertilizer."

Assessment Rubric 12: Providing Feedback to Guide Learning

AG12: What type of feedback does the candidate provide to focus students?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses the evidence of feedback provided to the focus students. Feedback may be written on the three student work samples or provided in a video/audio format. The feedback should identify what students are doing well and what needs to improve in relation to the learning objectives.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- *Significant content inaccuracies*—Content flaws in the feedback are significant and systematic, and interfere with student learning
- *Developmentally inappropriate feedback*—Feedback addressing concepts, skills, or procedures well above or below the content assessed (without clearly identified need) OR feedback that is not appropriate for the developmental level of the student (e.g., lengthy written explanations for English learners or feedback to a student with an explanation that references a concept later in the curriculum).

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Assessment Commentary **Prompt 2a–b**

Evidence of feedback (written, audio/video)

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ One or more content errors in the feedback that will mislead student(s) in significant ways ▪ No evidence of feedback for one or more focus students
▶ Preponderance of Evidence	▪ You must apply the preponderance of evidence rule when the focus students receive varying types of feedback. For example, when the candidate provides feedback on both strengths and needs for 2 out of the 3 focus students, this example would be scored at a Level 4 according to the preponderance of evidence rule.

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- The feedback identifies specific strengths OR needs for improvement. At Level 3, the candidate MUST provide the focus students with qualitative feedback about their performance that is aligned with the learning objectives. Specific feedback includes such things as pointing to successful use of a strategy, naming a type of problem successfully solved, pointing to and naming errors, suggesting information that would help solve the problem successfully. Checkmarks, points deducted, grades, or scores do not meet the Level 3, even when they distinguish errors from correct responses.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- Evidence of feedback is general, unrelated to the assessed learning objectives, developmentally inappropriate, inaccurate, or missing for one or more focus students.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2:

- Although the feedback is related to the assessed learning objectives, it is also vague and does not identify specific strengths or needs for improvement. At Level 2, general feedback includes identifying what each focus student did or did not do successfully with little detail, e.g., checkmarks for correct responses, points deducted, and comments such as, "Watch out for negative signs!" that are not linked to a specific strength or need. General feedback does not address the specific error or correct solution (e.g., "Check your work!" or "Yes!"). Feedback that is limited to a single remark, such as identifying the total percent correct (86%), an overall letter grade (B), or one comment such as "Nice work!" with no other accompanying comments or grading details does not meet the Level 2 requirement and should be scored at a Level 1. Those examples of a single piece of feedback do not even provide any general feedback to focus students that is related to the learning objectives.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: There are **two different ways** that evidence is scored at Level 1:

1. Feedback is not related to the learning objectives.
2. Feedback is not developmentally appropriate.

Automatic Score of 1 is given when:

- Feedback includes content inaccuracies that will misdirect the focus student(s).
- There is no evidence of feedback for the analyzed assessment for one or more focus students. This includes when there is only a description of feedback rather than actual feedback (video, audio or written) presented to the focus student(s).

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- Feedback is specific, related to assessed learning objectives, and addresses students' strengths AND needs.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- Specific feedback addresses both strengths and needs. For example, "You did a great job setting up the equation correctly. Make sure to check your answer is in simplest form."

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets Level 4
AND

- The feedback for at least one focus student includes:
 - A strategy to address a specific learning need, including the need for a greater challenge.
For example, "You got the right answer. Make sure you slow down and show all of your work."

OR

- A meaningful connection to experience or prior learning. For example, the candidate refers back to a prior lesson: "I want you to visualize the new situation as you did in the problem you solved yesterday, to be able to compare the two different scenarios. Then sketch the situation and label all the angles and sides before you work on solving it. This will help you see the problem as you solve it."

Assessment Rubric 13: Student Understanding and Use of Feedback

AG13: How does the candidate support focus students to understand and use the feedback to guide their further learning?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate explains how they will help focus students understand and use the feedback provided in order to improve their learning.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- N/A

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Assessment Commentary **Prompt 2c**

Evidence of Written or Oral Feedback

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	▪ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	▪ None

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- Candidate describes how the focus students will understand **OR** use feedback related to the learning objectives. This description needs to relate to the feedback given to one or more of the focus students.
- The description should be specific enough that you understand what the candidate and/or students are going to do in relation to the feedback given. Otherwise, it is vague and the evidence should be scored at Level 2.
 - Example for **understanding** feedback: Candidate reviews work with whole class focusing on common mistakes that explicitly includes content that one or more focus students were given feedback on.
 - Example for **using** feedback: Candidate asks focus students to revise work using feedback given and resubmit revised work.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- Opportunities for understanding or using feedback are superficially described or absent.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- The description of how the focus students will understand or use feedback is very general or superficial. Details about how the focus students will understand or use the feedback are missing (e.g., "The students will use the feedback on their next assignment").
- The use of feedback is not clearly related to the assessed learning objectives.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- Opportunities for understanding or using feedback are not described **OR**
- There is **NO** evidence of feedback for two or more focus students.

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- Support for the focus students to understand **AND** use feedback are described in enough detail to understand how the focus students will develop in areas identified for growth and/or continue to deepen areas of strength.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The candidate describes planned or implemented support for the focus students to understand and use feedback on their strengths **OR** weaknesses to further develop their learning in relation to learning objectives. For example, a candidate may work with focus students in a small group and reteach several concepts they struggled with on their assessment (as noted by feedback given), using a graphic organizer to further develop understanding of each concept (such as a T- chart or concept map). Next, students would be given an opportunity to revise their responses involving those concepts, using the graphic organizer to support their revisions. This example shows how a candidate can help focus students understand their feedback in relation to misunderstandings and support them in using that feedback to enhance learning in relation to objectives assessed. This type of planned support could take place with the whole class as long as explicit attention to one or more of the focus student's strengths or weaknesses is addressed in relation to the feedback given.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,

- The candidate describes planned or implemented support for the focus students to understand and use feedback on their strengths **AND** weaknesses related to the learning objectives.

Assessment Rubric 14: Analyzing Students' Language Use and Agricultural Learning

AG14: How does the candidate analyze students' use of language to develop content understanding?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate explains students' use of the identified language demands and how that use demonstrates and develops agricultural education understandings.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

Use the definitions below and the subject-specific Academic Language handout to further clarify concepts on Rubric 14.

- **language demands**—Specific ways that academic language (vocabulary, functions, discourse, syntax) is used by students to participate in learning tasks through reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking to demonstrate their disciplinary understanding.
- **language functions**—Purpose for which language is used. The content and language focus of the learning task, often represented by the active verbs within the learning outcomes. Common language functions in agricultural education include **describing** agricultural phenomena; **interpreting** investigative procedures, diagrams, figures, tables, graphs, and dense authoritative text; **predicting** from models and relationships between concepts; **classifying** based on common attributes; **summarizing** agricultural data from investigations; **justifying** conclusions; **evaluating** data; **explaining** phenomena and processes; **drawing conclusions** based on data; and so on.
- **vocabulary**—Words and phrases that are used within disciplines including: (1) words and phrases with subject-specific meanings that differ from meanings used in everyday life (e.g., table); (2) general academic vocabulary used across disciplines (e.g., compare, analyze, evaluate); and (3) subject-specific words defined for use in the discipline.
- **discourse**—How members of the discipline talk, write, and participate in knowledge construction, using the structures of written and oral language. Discipline-specific discourse has distinctive features or ways of structuring oral or written language (text structures) or representing knowledge visually that provide useful ways for the content to be communicated. In agricultural education, language structures include symbolic representations such as schematics and blueprints, graphic and tabular representations (which is shorthand language for complex sets of data), and narrative (e.g., analysis and conclusion sections on lab reports, research papers or articles).
- **syntax**—The rules for organizing words or symbols together into phrases, clauses, sentences or visual representations (e.g., graphs, blueprints, schematics). One of the main functions of syntax is to organize language in order to convey meaning.
- **language supports**—The scaffolds, representations, and pedagogical strategies teachers intentionally provide to help learners understand and use the concepts and language they need to learn within disciplines. The language supports planned within the lessons in edTPA should directly support learners to understand and use identified language demands (vocabulary and/or symbols, language function, and syntax or discourse) to deepen content understandings.

Primary source of evidence:

Assessment Commentary **Prompt 3**

Evidence of Student Language Use (student work samples and/or video evidence)

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	■ N/A for this rubric
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	■ None

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- The candidate explains and identifies evidence that the students used or attempted to use the language function AND one additional language demand (vocabulary and/or symbols, syntax, and/or discourse) associated with the language function. Note: The language demands discussed in the Assessment Commentary do not have to be the same as those discussed in Task 1.
- It is not sufficient for the candidate to reference an artifact and make a general statement, for example, "As seen in the work samples, the student used the vocabulary as they analyzed data." The candidate must explain how the students used the identified language and reference or identify an example of that use from the artifact, e.g., "Students 1 and 2 used the new vocabulary term *hydroponics* and explicitly incorporated both data (measurements of the plants grown in the soilless, nutrient-dense solution and the plants grown in the potting medium in the data table as part of their report) and horticulture concepts (the two components of analysis identified) in their analyses. Student 3 used a mixture of vocabulary and everyday language while discussing the PVC pipe that was used to transport the "water" in the analysis, with clear references to data (measurements of the plant growth differences), but not concepts.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- The candidate's identification of student's language use is not aligned with the language demands or limited to one language demand.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

- The candidate's description and/or evidence of students' language use is limited to only one language demand (vocabulary and/or symbols, function, syntax, or discourse).

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,

- The candidate identifies language use that is unrelated or not clearly related to the language demands (function, vocabulary and/or symbols, and additional demands) addressed in the Assessment commentary.
- Candidate's description or explanation of language use is not consistent with the evidence provided

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- Candidate identifies specific evidence of student use of the language function and vocabulary (and/or symbols) along with at least one other language demand (syntax or discourse).
- Candidate explains how evidence of student language represents their development of content understandings, which may include growth and/or struggles with both understanding and expressing content understandings.
- Candidate explains and provides evidence of language use and content learning for students with distinct language needs.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

- The candidate identifies and explains evidence that students are able to use the language function, vocabulary and/or symbols, AND associated language demands (syntax and/or discourse). The explanation uses specific evidence from the video and/or work samples.
- The candidate's analysis includes how evidence of student language use demonstrates growth and/or struggles in developing content understandings. For example, the candidate notes that, "All students could give a complete explanation using some commonly used vocabulary words, like variables, equations, solution in the context of their explanations (4:35, 5:07). Most of the students could produce detailed explanations (the language function) in terms of general concepts and procedures for graphing to find the solutions for an equation. However, other students' explanations were incomplete (e.g., at 2:05, not explaining how to create the graph from the equation in standard form), suggesting that some students still need support to develop in the area of the language function.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5, the candidate meets Level 4 **AND**

- Explains and provides evidence that students with distinct language needs are using the language for content learning.

Assessment Rubric 15: Using Assessment to Inform Instruction

AG15: How does the candidate use the analysis of what students know and are able to do to plan next steps in instruction?

The Guiding Question

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate uses conclusions from the analysis of student work and research or theory to propose the next steps of instruction. Next steps should be related to the standards/objectives assessed and based on the assessment that was analyzed. They should also address the whole class, groups with similar needs, and/or individual students.

Key Concepts of Rubric:

- N/A

Primary Sources of Evidence:

Assessment Commentary **Prompt 4**

Scoring Decision Rules

▶ Multiple Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Criterion 1 (primary): Next steps for instruction■ Criterion 2: Connections to research/theory■ Place greater weight or consideration on criterion 1 (next steps for instruction).
▶ AUTOMATIC 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ None

Unpacking Rubric Levels

Level 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:

- *Primary Criterion*: The next steps focus on support for student learning that is general for the whole class, not specifically targeted for individual students. The support addresses learning related to the learning objectives that were assessed.
- *Secondary Criterion*: The candidate refers to research or theory when describing the next steps. The connections between the research/theory and the next steps are vague/not clearly made.
- If evidence meets the primary criterion at Level 3, the rubric is scored at Level 3 **regardless of the evidence for the secondary criterion**.
- If evidence meets the primary criterion at Level 4, and candidate has NO connection to research/theory, the rubric is scored at Level 3.

Below 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:

- The next steps are not directly focused on student learning needs that were identified in the analysis of the assessment.

- Candidate does not explain how next steps are related to student learning.

What distinguishes Level 2 from Level 3: At Level 2,

- The next steps are related to the analysis of student learning and the standards and learning objectives assessed.
- The next steps address improvements in teaching practice that mainly focus on how the candidate structures or organizes learning tasks, with a superficial connection to student learning. There is little detail on the changes in relation to the assessed student learning. Examples include repeating instruction or focusing on improving conditions for learning such as pacing or classroom management, with no clear connections to how changes address the student learning needs identified.

What distinguishes Level 1 from Level 2: There are **three different ways** that evidence is scored at Level 1:

1. Next steps **do not follow from** the analysis.
2. Next steps are **unrelated to the standards and learning objectives** assessed.
3. Next steps are **not described in sufficient detail** to understand them, e.g., "more practice" or "go over the test."

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:

- Next steps are based on the assessment results and provide scaffolded or structured support that is directly focused on specific student learning needs related to agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, OR problem-solving strategies.
- Next steps are supported by research and/or theory.

What distinguishes Level 4 from Level 3: At Level 4,

- The next steps are clearly aimed at supporting specific student needs for either individuals (2 or more students) or groups with similar needs and are related to agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, OR problem-solving strategies. Candidate should be explicit about how next steps will strategically support individuals or groups and explain how that support will address each individual or group's needs in relation to the area of agricultural learning.
- The candidate discusses how the research or theory is related to the next steps in ways that make some level of sense given their students and central focus. They may cite the research or theory in their discussion, or they may refer to the ideas from the research. Either is acceptable, as long as they clearly connect the research/theory to their next steps.
- Scoring decision rules: To score at Level 4, the candidate must meet the primary criterion at Level 4 and make at least a fleeting, relevant reference to research or theory (meet the second criterion at least at Level 3).

What distinguishes Level 5 from Level 4: At Level 5,

- The next steps are clearly aimed at supporting specific student needs for both individuals and groups with similar needs and are related to agricultural-related conceptual understanding, relevant skills, AND problem-solving strategies. Candidate should be explicit about how next steps will strategically support individuals and groups and explain how that support will address each individual's and group's needs in relation to the areas of agricultural learning.

- The candidate explains how research principles support the proposed changes, with clear connections between the principles and the next steps. The explanations are explicit well-articulated, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the research or theoretical principles involved.