Scoring Expectations for Constructed Response (Open-Ended) Questions and Reference Sheets

We suggest students use the Student Readiness Tool (SRT) located on the Illinois Support page to help them become familiar with the TestNav tools, item types, and features they will encounter on their assessments.
Practice Items | IL Portal

Disclaimer:

Some of the practice items may not reflect how the students interact with our current test items.
Below are two examples of items where the interaction differs:

Item Type	Practice Item	Assessment Item
Multiple Select (Grades 3-5)	Select **all** the correct answers.	Select the **two** correct answers.
Technology Enhanced Item	Move the correct answer to each box. Each answer may be used more than once.	Drag and drop the correct number or answers into each box.

Reference Sheets:

The reference sheets included in the practice item sets are different from the IL reference sheets used during the IAR. In the practice items, you will see a reference sheet for grade 4, but the grade 4 IAR does not include a reference sheet. The math reference sheets can be found on the Pearson support site, linked in the table below.

Grade	IL Math Reference sheet	Practice Test Reference sheet
3	No reference sheet provided	No reference sheet provided
4	No reference sheet provided	Practice Test reference sheet provided
5	IL Math Reference sheet **IL Math Grade 5 Reference Sheet**	Practice Test reference sheet provided
6	IL Math Reference Sheet **IL Math Grade 6 Reference Sheet**	Practice Test reference sheet provided
7	IL Math Reference Sheet **IL Math Grade 7 Reference Sheet**	Practice Test reference sheet provided
8	IL Math Reference Sheet **IL Math Grade 8 Reference Sheet**	Practice Test reference sheet provided

Strategies:

Read each question carefully and follow the directions to answer each part of the question completely.

Some questions will have multiple parts (e.g., Part A and Part B), each with a designated answer space. Be sure the answer(s) are in the corresponding answer box for each part.

Consider all stimulus materials, including all associated charts, tables, or graphs.

Look for the specific task(s) you are being asked to answer. Often, these will be easily identified as bulleted instructions at the end of the question. The entire question, including every bullet, needs to be addressed in the response to receive full credit.

For constructed response questions, showing the reasoning of how one arrived at an answer is just as important as providing the final answer.

- The correct answer, with no work shown or explanation provided, will not receive the top score point.
    - Carefully review the entire question for what specific work or explanation is expected.
    - Simply stating that one used a calculator to find the answer is not sufficient for work or explanation.
    - There may be multiple tasks in the same question, each requiring an explanation.

If the task requires an equation, then a proper equation with correct mathematical symbols or valid operational language must be provided to receive full credit.

- Do: 2+3=5 or "I added 2 to 3 and that equals 5."
- Don't: I put 2 and 3 together and I got 5.

Avoid run-on equations.

- Do: 3+4=7, and 7+5= 12
- Don't: 3+4=7+5=12

If a question involves multiple calculations, make it clear which answer corresponds to which calculation.

Ensure you are using the proper labels and units as required by the prompt.

Define any variables used that are outside of what is provided in the stimulus materials and the question.

Drawing Tool - Constructed response items in which a visual representation of the explanation could be beneficial may include a drawing box in addition to the text box. Students may use the drawing tool to help visualize, explain, and build their answer. Unless specifically requested in the question, use of the drawing box is not mandatory to receive the top score point on an item.

Before moving on, review the question then check that the calculated answer is reasonable and makes sense in the context of the question.