

HEIghten® Critical Thinking Assessment

Performance Level Descriptions for earning a Certificate & Badge

Advanced (Scaled Score Range 173-180)

A typical student at the advanced level has demonstrated the ability to:

- extrapolate implications from multiple pieces of information and argumentation.
- accurately recognize descriptions of the logic of complexly structured arguments.
- employ multistep reasoning to identify hidden assumptions.
- employ multistep reasoning to identify evidence that directly or indirectly supports or undermines a claim, or specify additional information needed in order to resolve a point.
- identify subtle appeals to emotion and revisions to an argument that would reduce such appeals.
- distinguish information that may be peripherally or generally relevant to assertions/arguments from information that is directly on-point.
- employ multistep reasoning to distinguish causation from correlation and identify possible alternative causes or explanations.
- engage in reasoning that involves complex interactions among multiple claims, arguments or pieces of information.
- identify abstract concepts or principles that are implicitly instantiated in an argument.
- identify the most accurate among competing descriptions of the logical relationships between assertions/arguments and supporting (or irrelevant or undermining) information, even when the required distinctions are subtle or complex.

Proficient (Scaled Score Range 162-172)

A typical student at the proficient level has demonstrated the ability to:

- make inferential connections between points whose relationship is not explicitly given.
- follow the logic of an argument whose structure is not fully explicit.
- identify implicit assumptions.
- identify evidence that directly or indirectly supports or undermines a claim or specify additional information needed in order to resolve a point.
- identify appeals to emotion and revisions to an argument that would reduce such appeals.
- distinguish information that is relevant to assertions or arguments from irrelevant information.
- distinguish causation from correlation and identify possible alternative causes or explanations.

- engage in reasoning that involves interactions among multiple claims, arguments or pieces of information.
- identify abstract concepts or principles that are instantiated in an argument.
- identify the most accurate among competing descriptions of the logical relationships between assertions/arguments and supporting (or irrelevant or undermining) information.