Performance Task
Requires Students to Utilize Critical-Thinking Skills
Skills Measured:
Analysis and Problem Solving • Writing Effectiveness • Writing Mechanics

Performance Tasks ask students to:
• recognize when information is relevant or irrelevant to the task at hand
• analyze and understand data in tables and figures
• evaluate the credibility of various documents
• distinguish rational arguments from emotional ones
• determine the difference between fact and opinion
• identify questionable or critical assumptions
• deal with inadequate, ambiguous, or conflicting information
• spot deception, possible bias, and logical flaws in arguments
• identify additional information that would help resolve issues
• weigh different types of evidence
• organize and synthesize information from several sources
• marshal evidence from different sources in a written response

Selected-Response Questions
Requires Students to Apply Critical-Thinking Skills
Skills Measured:
Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning • Critical Reading and Evaluation • Critiquing an Argument

Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning questions, which ask students to:
• make inferences and hypotheses based on given results
• evaluate the reliability of information (such as experiment design or data collection methodology)
• identify information or quantitative data that are connected or conflicting
• detect questionable assumptions (such as implications of causation based on correlation)
• support or refute a position
• draw a conclusion or decide on a course of action to solve a problem
• evaluate alternate conclusions and recognize when a text has open issues, requiring additional research

Critical Reading and Evaluation questions, which ask students to:
• support or refute a position
• analyze logic
• identify assumptions in arguments
• evaluate the reliability of information
• identify connected and conflicting information
• make justifiable inferences

Critiquing-an-Argument questions, which ask students to:
• evaluate the reliability of information, including potential biases or conflicts of interest
• detect logical flaws and questionable assumptions
• address additional information that could strengthen or weaken the argument
• evaluating alternative conclusions