

**Praxis II – PLT**  
**Principles of Learning and Teaching**  
**Approaching Constructed Response Items**

Format: A case is provided followed by two or three “essay” questions. Each question usually has at least two parts. The word ESSAY is misleading in that the questions do NOT ask YOUR opinion but rather what best professional practices would be.

## Strategies:

1. Read the questions FIRST then read the case.
2. As you read the case mark it up - circle, underline, writing brief notes in the booklet margins.
3. When you finish reading the case, re-read the first question.
4. Refer back to the case (using your markings as a guide) to find the specific case information to answer the questions. Remember, the questions should be answered in terms of the case.
5. Be sure ALL parts of the question are answered when you finish.
6. Your answer should be brief but substantive.

## Example of a Question

Explain TWO specific actions the teacher, Mrs. Jensen, might take to connect the school and the home environment of her student, Eric, for the benefit of Eric's learning. Explain, basing your response on principles of human development and principles of fostering positive relationships with family to support student learning and well-being.

Structure Your Response (on the test booklet or  
in your head)

Intro (one-liner)

Action One

Example

Explanation

Action Two

Example

Explanation

Closure (one-liner)

## Example of a Second Question

Review the pre-observation notes in which the student teacher, Ms. Lewis, explains the purposes of her high school classes as she sees them. Explain TWO additional purposes her cooperating teacher mentor might suggest to Ms. Lewis that might motivate students to become more engaged. For each purpose, explain how Ms. Lewis might modify her instruction to better motivate her students to meet these purposes. Base your response on principles of motivation and learning theory.

## Example of a Third Question

In the introduction to the lesson to be observed, Mr. Weber briefly mentions the modifications he has made, or has not made, for a number of students in his class. Review his comments about modifications for Brian and Connie. For each of these two students, explain ONE different way he might have provided a modification to offer a better learning situation for each student. Base your response on principles of varied instruction for different kinds of learners.