

Answers to Exercise 5.2

Review Questions

1. *What are the defining characteristics of approach 1?*

There are two major defining characteristics of approach 1: the use of assessments with all score values on the scale from the very beginning of a unit, and the calculating of a summative score at the end of a grading period.

The clear advantage to this approach is twofold: students know right away what they are expected to be able to know or do, and it is easy to track, and therefore celebrate, knowledge gain. The primary disadvantage to this approach is that it is nontraditional, and it may take some time for students and parents to become acclimated.

2. *What are the defining characteristics of approach 2?*

There are two major defining characteristics of approach 2: a current summative score is kept at all times for every student, and though instruction begins with an assessment containing all score values of the scale, it is highly individualized after that point.

The advantage of this approach is seated in its individualization. Students move at their own paces and can take control of their progress by using student-generated assessments. The major disadvantage to this approach is that because of the focus on individual students, it is labor-intensive.

3. *What are the defining characteristics of approach 3?*

Approach 3 focuses on the class as a unit. Instead of addressing all score values for the scale on every assessment, this approach assesses each level of the scale separately. That is, students learn the score 2.0 content and are assessed on that first, and when the teacher is reasonably sure the class is ready to move on, score 3.0 content is addressed and assessed, and so on.

The advantage to this approach lies in its similarity to traditional approaches. Students and parents will be familiar and comfortable with an approach that produces high scores on tests from the beginning. Additionally, the 100-point scale can be used here. The major disadvantage to this approach is that it does not address the individual needs of students very well.

4. *What are the defining characteristics of approach 4?*

Approach 4 is defined by students' ability to increase their scores on any learning goal throughout the entire year. In this approach, students can track their formative scores on each assessment as well as track their summative scores across all learning goals.

The advantage of this approach is that it greatly empowers students. The disadvantage is that it is nontraditional by nature and is quite labor-intensive.

5. Answers to question 5 will vary.