



What is the High School Proficiency Scale?

The proficiency scale is a strengths-based and growth-oriented assessment tool, used to describe the depth of understanding a student has demonstrated of course outcomes. The scale describes the quality of learning from simple (Beginning) to sophisticated (Exemplary).

What is an outcome?

The outcomes describe what a student is expected to know and be able to do according to the Alberta Programs of Study.

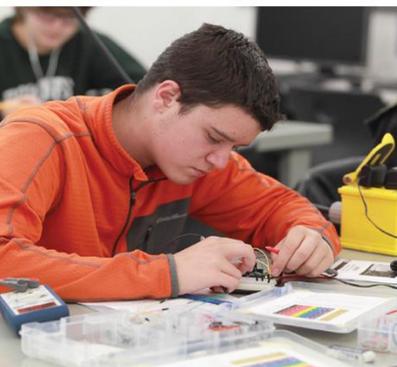
Beginning		Developing		Proficient		Exemplary	
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
<p>The student demonstrates a level of understanding and/or skill that is not yet meeting expectations of the course outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of work may be vague and/or undeveloped. Targeted adjustments to planning and instruction will be necessary for further learning in this area. 		<p>The student demonstrates a basic level of understanding and/or skill that meets expectations of the course outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of work may be adequate and/or concrete. Adjustments to planning and instruction may be necessary for further learning in this area. 		<p>The student demonstrates a well-developed level of understanding and/or skill that meets expectations of the course outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of work may be clear and/or well-reasoned. The student can be confident of being prepared for further learning in this area. 		<p>The student demonstrates a mastery level of understanding and/or skill that meets expectations of the course outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of work may be perceptive and/or insightful. The student can be confident of being prepared for further learning in this area. 	
20%	40%	55%	65%	75%	85%	95%	100%

How is student understanding assessed with a proficiency scale?

- Clear and understandable criteria for each proficiency level is provided to help students know what success looks and to set goals for improvement.
- Timely and descriptive feedback, in relation to the outcomes and proficiency level criteria, helps students know their strengths and areas for further growth.
- Teachers plan opportunities for students to demonstrate an improved understanding of outcomes, resulting in grades that accurately reflect a student's current level of achievement.
- Once students have received feedback and opportunities for more learning, the teacher uses the same criteria to evaluate a student's level of achievement through formal assessment(s).

How are final percentage grades determined for report cards?

- Across the CBE, the same course outcomes and associated weightings exist. This is an adjustment from gradebooks that determined course grades by weighting the type of task (e.g., Tests, Quizzes, Homework, Final Exam)



Example of Course Weighted by Task Type	Example of Course Weighted by Outcomes
<p>Course Grade will be calculated using the following categories and weightings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tests 40% - Quizzes 20% - Homework 10% - Final Exam 30% 	<p>Course Grade for Social 10-1 will be calculated using the following outcomes and weightings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identity & Globalization 10% - Historical Globalization 20% - Sustainable Prosperity 20% - Role in Globalization 10% - Dimensions of Thinking 15% - Democratic Practice 5% - Research 5% - Communication 15%

- Each task and/or assignment is connected to specified course outcome(s) and assessed using the High School Proficiency Scale. Each level of the scale is associated with a percentage grade, which is used to determine overall outcome grades.
- When determining overall outcome grades, teachers will review all tasks and/or assignments connected to that specific course outcome. The overall outcome grade is communicated using the CBE High School Proficiency Scale levels, but do not always represent the associated percentage grade, as these are sometimes calculated values.
- Final course grades are determined using the overall outcome grades in combination with their associated weightings. Final course grades are communicated using per cents.

The table below provides an example for two students in a course with five key outcomes:

Outcome (Outcome weighting of final grade)	Outcome 1 (25%)	Outcome 2 (15%)	Outcome 3 (15%)	Outcome 4 (25%)	Outcome 5 (20%)	Final Percentage Grade
Student A	Proficient 1 (75%)	75%				
Student B	Proficient 1 (75%)	Proficient 2 (85%)	Exemplary 1 (95%)	Proficient 1 (75%)	Proficient 2 (85%)	81.5%