7.6 Understanding the Scoring Guidelines

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 15 marks**

KEY WORDS preponderance of evidence • scoring guidelines • portfolio • selected works • materials

Objective

Build toward the published **scoring guidelines** .

You must be able to:

- know the SI and Selected Works rubric rows
- aim at the *advanced* descriptor
- understand **preponderance of evidence**
- self-score each term

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The rows

SI has four independently scored rows: inquiry; practice/experimentation/revision; materials/processes/ideas; drawing skills. Synthesis is included in the third row. Selected Works combines written and visual evidence into a separate overall 1–5 score.

■ The ladder

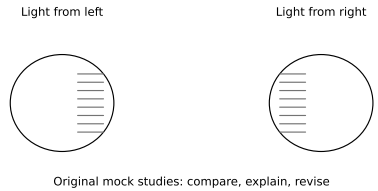
Rudimentary -> moderate -> good -> advanced. Aim at the top descriptors.

■ Preponderance

Scores are given by the overall weight of evidence, not a checklist.

■ Worked application: Score one row from its own evidence

The 2026 Sustained Investigation rubric uses four separate rows: inquiry; practice, experimentation and revision; materials, processes and ideas; and drawing skills. Each row is scored on its own 1–3 scale. Synthesis is considered in the materials/processes/ideas row, not an extra fifth row. In an original mock review, polished shading supplies skill evidence but does not establish an inquiry that guides development. A sequence comparing two lighting arrangements, followed by a visible revision and an explanation of what changed, supplies different evidence for development. Check what each row asks before assigning a score. This classroom task uses local practice marks, not an official portfolio score. Source: 2026 College Board scoring guidelines.



2 Practice

2.1 AP portfolios are scored by [1]

☐ **A** a strict checklist of every criterion
B preponderance of evidence
C the teacher's grade only
D the fastest finish

2.2 Why read the scoring guidelines in September, not April? [2]

2.3 Name two rows of the Sustained Investigation rubric. [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Self-score a mock portfolio against the rubric.

(a) For each SI row, propose a score of 1, 2 or 3 using that row's criteria, and cite visible/written evidence. [3]

(b) Turn the lowest row into one concrete to-do. [2]

3.2

Describe what strong synthesis would look like in your own work. [2]

3.3 An original mock portfolio has polished finished drawings but no visible experiments, revisions or account of development. Explain why polished drawing alone cannot establish strong evidence for the practice/experimentation/revision row, and propose a concrete improvement. [4]

Solutions

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1 B

- **preponderance of evidence**, not all-or-nothing

2.2

- you cannot build toward a target you have not seen; early reading lets you self-score and fix gaps in time

2.3

- any two of the four SI rows: inquiry; practice/experimentation/revision; materials/processes/ideas; drawing skills

3.1

- every row scored with a reason; honest, evidence-based levels; the weakest row identified; a concrete action to raise it

3.2

- describes inseparable material/process/idea; specific to the student's own inquiry

3.3

Drawing skill and evidence of development are different criteria; finished polish alone does not show practice, experimentation and revision leading development; a specific visible experiment/revision sequence is proposed; writing explains how that sequence developed the investigation.