

# General Scoring Guidelines

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*Exemplary response* (27–30 points)—Gives a complete response with a clear, coherent, unambiguous explanation; includes a clear and simplified diagram, communicates effectively to an audience of peers, shows understanding of the problem’s mathematical ideas and processes, identifies all important elements of the problem, may include examples and counter-examples, presents strong supportive arguments.

*Competent response* (24–26 points)—Gives a fairly complete response, fairly clear explanations, includes an appropriate diagram, communicates effectively, shows understanding of the problem’s mathematical ideas and processes, identifies the most important elements of the problem, presents a solid argument.

*Minor flaws* (21–23 points)—Completes the problem with muddled explanation, incomplete argumentation, unclear or inappropriate diagram, demonstrates some understanding of underlying mathematical ideas, uses mathematical ideas with some effect.

*Serious flaws* (18–20 points)—Demonstrates understanding of the problem and connects it with ideas from the course but did not complete solution: omitted significant parts, failed to show adequate understanding of mathematical ideas and processes, major computational errors, misuse or lack of use of mathematical terms, used an inappropriate strategy.

*Begins but fails to complete problem* (10–17 points)—Explanation incoherent or incomprehensible, unclear diagram, unable to demonstrate clear understanding of the problem, major computational errors.

*Unable to begin* (5–9 points)—Gives some response to the problem, but explanation is inappropriate, diagram misrepresents problem or is missing, fails to identify appropriate information, irrelevant computations.

*No attempt* (0 points)