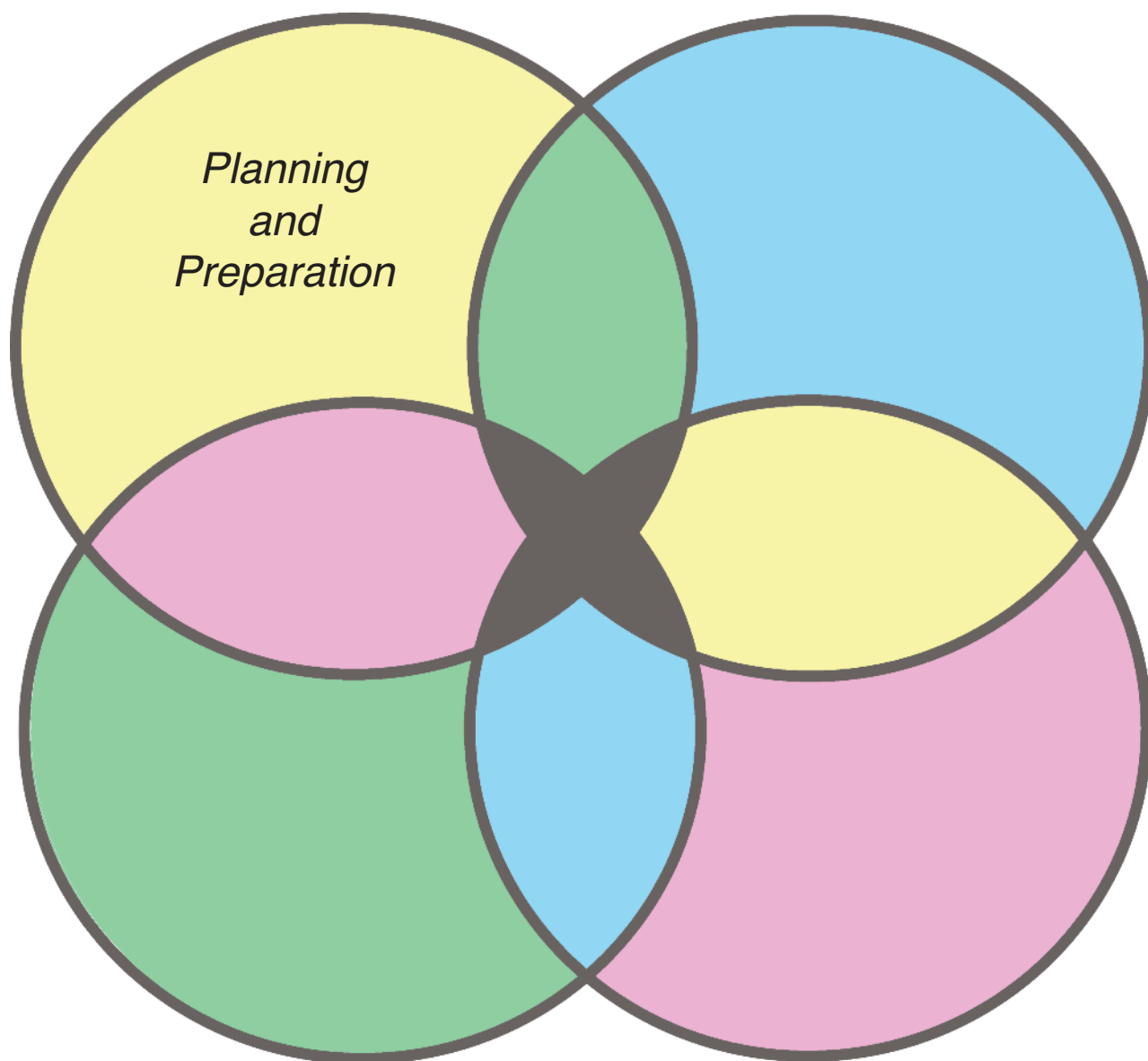


# The Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument

## DOMAIN 1

### Planning and Preparation



**1a Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy**

In order to guide student learning, accomplished teachers have command of the subjects they teach. They must know which concepts and skills are central to a discipline, and which are peripheral; they must know how the discipline has evolved into the 21st century, incorporating such issues as global awareness and cultural diversity, as appropriate. Accomplished teachers understand the internal relationships within the disciplines they teach, knowing which concepts and skills are prerequisite to the understanding of others. They are also aware of typical student misconceptions in the discipline and work to dispel them. But knowledge of the content is not sufficient; in advancing student understanding, teachers are familiar with the particularly pedagogical approaches best suited to each discipline. Elements of component 1a:

**Knowledge of content and the structure of the discipline**

Every discipline has a dominant structure, with smaller components or strands as well as central concepts and skills.

**Knowledge of prerequisite relationships**

Some disciplines, for example mathematics, have important prerequisites; experienced teachers know what these are and how to use them in designing lessons and units.

**Knowledge of content-related pedagogy**

Different disciplines have “signature pedagogies” that have evolved over time and have been found to be most effective in teaching.

Indicators:

- Lesson and unit plans that reflect important concepts in the discipline
- Lesson and unit plans that accommodate prerequisite relationships among concepts and skills
- Clear and accurate classroom explanations
- Accurate answers to student questions
- Feedback to students that furthers learning
- Interdisciplinary connections in plans and practice

## 1a Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy—Possible Examples

Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
<p>The teacher says, “The official language of Brazil is Spanish, just like other South American countries.”</p> <p>The teacher says, “I don’t understand why the math book has decimals in the same unit as fractions.”</p> <p>The teacher has students copy dictionary definitions each week to help his students learn to spell difficult words.</p>	<p>The teacher plans lessons on area and perimeter independently of one another, without linking the concepts together.</p> <p>The teacher plans to forge ahead with a lesson on addition with regrouping, even though some students have not fully grasped place value.</p> <p>The teacher always plans the same routine to study spelling: pretest on Monday, copy the words 5 times each on Tuesday and Wednesday, test on Friday.</p>	<p>The teacher’s plan for area and perimeter invites students to determine the shape that will yield the largest area for a given perimeter.</p> <p>The teacher realized her students are not sure how to use a compass, so she plans to practice that before introducing the activity on angle measurement.</p> <p>The teacher plans to expand a unit on civics by having students simulate a court trial.</p>	<p>In a unit on 19th-century literature, the teacher incorporates information about the history of the same period.</p> <p>Before beginning a unit on the solar system, the teacher surveys the class on their beliefs about why it is hotter in the summer than in the winter.</p>

<b>UNSATISFACTORY</b>	<b>BASIC</b>
<p>In planning and practice, teacher makes content errors or does not correct errors made by students.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans and practice display little understanding of prerequisite relationships important to student’s learning of the content.</p> <p>Teacher displays little or no understanding of the range of pedagogical approaches suitable to student’s learning of the content.</p>	<p>Teacher is familiar with the important concepts in the discipline but displays lack of awareness of how these concepts relate to one another.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans and practice indicate some awareness of prerequisite relationships, although such knowledge may be inaccurate or incomplete.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans and practice reflect a limited range of pedagogical approaches to the discipline or to the students.</p>

**Critical Attributes**

<p>Teacher makes content errors.</p> <p>Teacher does not consider prerequisite relationships when planning.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans use inappropriate strategies for the discipline</p>	<p>Teacher is familiar with the discipline but does not see conceptual relationships.</p> <p>Teacher’s knowledge of prerequisite relationships is inaccurate or incomplete.</p> <p>Lesson and unit plans use limited instructional strategies, and some may not be suitable to the content.</p>
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<b>PROFICIENT</b>	<b>DISTINGUISHED</b>
<p>Teacher displays solid knowledge of the important concepts in the discipline and the ways they relate to one another.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans and practice reflect accurate understanding of prerequisite relationships among topics and concepts.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans and practice reflect familiarity with a wide range of effective pedagogical approaches in the discipline.</p>	<p>Teacher displays extensive knowledge of the important concepts in the discipline and the ways they relate both to one another and to other disciplines.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans and practice reflect understanding of prerequisite relationships among topics and concepts and provide a link to necessary cognitive structures needed by students to ensure understanding.</p> <p>Teacher’s plans and practice reflect familiarity with a wide range of effective pedagogical approaches in the discipline, anticipating student misconceptions.</p>

<p>The teacher can identify important concepts of the discipline and their relationships to one another.</p> <p>The teacher consistently provides clear explanations of the content.</p> <p>The teacher answers student questions accurately and provides feedback that furthers their learning.</p> <p>The teacher seeks out content-related professional development.</p>	<p>In addition to the characteristics of “proficient”:</p> <p>Teacher cites intra- and interdisciplinary content relationships.</p> <p>Teacher is proactive in uncovering student misconceptions and addressing them before proceeding.</p>
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