



## NEDP Sample Performance Task

The National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is a competency-based, applied performance assessment system in which participating adults and out-of-school youth demonstrate their abilities in a series of simulations that parallel job and life situations.

Participants are evaluated against a criterion of excellence instead of by comparison to others and achieve mastery of all required competencies, plus an occupational or specialized skill. Participants are responsible for acquiring any pre-requisite knowledge needed to demonstrate mastery of the competencies. This may be done by using referral services for instructional support recommended after the initial diagnostics phase, resources and tutorials within the assessment phase, and independently searching additional web resources.

Participants demonstrate mastery of the competencies in ten (10) content areas by completing multiple performance tasks. Sample competencies and related performance tasks to demonstrate the competencies are listed below.



## Sample of NEDP Competencies and Related Performance Tasks

Cultural Literacy – Literature	
<b>Competency</b>	Analyze the language used in a short story and describe in an extended narrative what it reveals about the human condition.
<b>Performance Task</b>	Select one of three (3) short stories and describe in an extended narrative report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Where the story is set;</li> <li>· How the characters are introduced and developed;</li> <li>· Textual evidence of a metaphor that describes what the author is trying to communicate about the human condition; and</li> <li>· Explanation of what a given passage reveals about how the plot will develop later in the story.</li> </ul>

Consumer Awareness and Financial Literacy	
<b>Competency</b>	Evaluate multiple sources of information on the use of credit, including interest rates, payment and penalty terms, and credit reports.
<b>Performance Task</b>	<p>Critically read and compare the statements for two (2) credit card offers based on the following considerations for each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Card application procedures;</li> <li>· Payment terms;</li> <li>· How finance charges are computed;</li> <li>· Definition of key elements of credit card statements; and</li> <li>· Features promoted and how they affect the total amount paid.</li> </ul> <p>Apply an algebraic formula to calculate monthly interest at various annual percentage rates and the total amount of dollars needed to pay off debt.</p>
Geography and History	
<b>Competency</b>	Compare and contrast important political and economic features of identified foreign countries and explain their impact on international relationships today.
<b>Performance Task</b>	<p>Choose one pair from three (3) sets of countries to research and compare their political systems by writing short answer responses to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Compare the types of governments;</li> <li>· Describe how the people are represented in the government;</li> <li>· Identify important economic features that affect how each country is viewed in the world; and</li> <li>· Define how a key historical event between the two (2) countries still influences international relationships today.</li> </ul>
Science	
<b>Competency</b>	Identify and analyze scientific issues underlying national debate and decisions, citing supporting evidence.
<b>Performance Task</b>	<p>Collect research information presenting both sides of a scientific issue currently in the news and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Identify textual evidence that describes both sides of the identified issue;</li> <li>· Use multiple data sources to identify claims and counterclaims fairly for both sides of the argument;</li> <li>· Differentiate the most relevant evidence from the data sources presented;</li> <li>· Describe the strengths and limitations of both claims and counterclaims; and</li> <li>· Write a concluding statement that supports one side of the argument, citing supporting evidence.</li> </ul>



The NEDP web-based assessment includes key features shown below.

**Overview**  
Purpose/summary

**Activities**  
Practice tasks

Personnel: App Admin Log Out  
Client: NEDP Client Change

**Consumer Awareness and Financial Literacy Group A**

**Credit Cards**

Overview Activity A Activity B In-Office Check Tutorials

**Purpose:** Compare and contrast two credit cards.

**Introduction**  
Choosing the right credit card and knowing how to use it wisely are important skills. Understanding credit cards can mean the difference between big financial worries and peace of mind. These skills include knowing the meaning of key terms, understanding mathematical relationships, and evaluating the financial impact of one's actions.

In this part of your assessment, you will complete two activities at home in preparation for an in-office check.

In **Activity A**, you will define terms found on a monthly credit-card statement and perform calculations related to these terms. **You will refer to a tutorial in the tutorial tab to complete this activity.**

In **Activity B**, you will compare two credit-card offers. You will also show how different payment amounts affect the total interest paid.

At the **In-Office Check**, you will calculate interest amounts at various rates.

**Note:** You may use the online calculator to answer any math calculation in this competency.

**In-Office Check**  
Proctored assessment

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Each performance assessment task has standardized evaluation criteria used to determine whether the client has demonstrated the competency. The client's work and responses are evaluated by a certified NEDP Assessor and then verified by a Portfolio Reviewer according to the evaluation criteria. The Assessor and the Portfolio Reviewer must adhere to the evaluation criteria when determining whether a competency is demonstrated.



Each NEDP Assessor and Portfolio Reviewer is required to complete an 18-hour hands-on training that covers all components of the NEDP, including the NEDP competencies, the diagnostic and standardized performance assessment phases of the program, and the evaluation criteria. The training components emphasize inter-rater reliability among Assessors for evaluation criteria and annual recertification of NEDP Assessors. Regular proctored in-office checks are conducted to ensure standardization of the NEDP.

**NEDP** is a program of **CASAS** – Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems.