

Bias and Fairness Review Guidelines*

It is not the intent of the panel to discourage the teaching of controversial issues or issues which bring forth strong emotion. However, since there can be no teacher intervention during the testing process, there are certain items that need to be avoided.

1. Race/Ethnic/Cultural Considerations

- a. Does the material favor one racial or ethnic group over others?
- b. Does the material portray one or more racial or ethnic groups or culture in a negative or stereotypic manner or *trivialize* any group?
- c. Does the material use language, content, or context that is offensive to one or more racial or ethnic groups or culture?
- d. Does the material use language, content, or context that is not accessible or not widely familiar to one or more racial or ethnic groups or culture?
- e. Does the material trivialize significant or tragic human experiences?

2. Sex Considerations

- a. Does the material use language, content, or context that is offensive to males or females?
- b. Does the material use language, content, or context that is not accessible to or is not widely familiar to either males or females?
- c. Does the material negatively represent or stereotype people based on gender or sexual orientation?
- d. Does success with the material assume that the examinee has experience with a certain type of family structure?
- e. Does the material present sexual innuendoes?

3. Religious Considerations

- a. Does the material favor one religion and/or demean others?
- b. Does the material portray one or more religions or religious leaders in a negative or stereotypic manner?
- c. Does the material use language, content, or context that is offensive to one or more religious groups (for example reference to witchcraft, sorcery and magic)?
- d. Does the material use religious language, content, or context that is not commonly understood by members of all religious groups?
- e. Does the material require the parent, teacher, or examinee to support a position that is contrary to their religious beliefs or teachings?
- f. Does the material require knowledge of individuals, events, or groups that is not familiar to all students?

4. Age Considerations

- a. Does the material favor one age group over others except in a context where experience or maturation is relevant?
- b. Does the material portray one or more age groups in a negative or stereotypic manner?

- c. Does the material use language, content, or context that is offensive to one or more age groups?
 - d. Does the material use language, content, or context that is not accessible to one or more of the age groups tested?
- 5. Disability Considerations**
- a. Does the material degrade people on the basis of physical appearance or physical, cognitive, or emotional challenge?
 - b. Does the material focus only on a person’s disability rather than portraying the whole person?
 - c. Does the material use language, content, or context that is offensive to a person with disabilities?
 - d. Does the material portray one or more people with disabilities in a negative or stereotypic manner?
- 6. Socio Economic Considerations**
- a. Does the material suggest that affluence is related to merit or intelligence?
 - b. Does the material use language, content, or context that is offensive to people of a particular economic status?
 - c. Does the material favor one socioeconomic group over another?
 - d. Is a particular ethnic, cultural, or religious group stereotyped as belonging to a specific socioeconomic status?
 - e. Does the material romanticize or demean people based on socioeconomic status?
 - f. Does the material suggest that poverty is related to increased negative behaviors in society?
- 7. General Considerations**
- a. Does the material require a student to take a position that challenges parental authority?
 - b. Does the material present war or violence in an overly graphic manner?
 - c. Does the material present inflammatory or highly controversial themes such as death, wars, abortions or euthanasia, except where they are needed to meet State Content Standards?
 - d. Does the material assume values not shared by all test takers?
 - e. Does the material degrade people or cultures from certain religions of the country or state?
 - f. Does the material accept or fail to denounce criminal, illegal, or dangerous behavior?
 - g. Does the material require examinees to disclose value that they would rather hold confidential?
 - h. Does the material use context or setting that may be differentially interesting or familiar (sports, war, violence)?
 - i. Does the material contain harassing or homophobic language?
 - j. Could the material evoke unintentional powerful negative emotions?
 - k. Does the material perpetuate myths and support stereotypes?

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