

ATI Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) Item Scoring Guide



Type of NGN Question	Description	Scoring
Bow Tie (Not used in Case Study)	Presents a clinical scenario in a medical record format. Drag each response from color-coded word choice boxes to the targets in the corresponding answer sections. Choose two responses from first column, one response from middle column, two responses from third column. Always a standalone item.	(0/1)
Drag-and-Drop Cloze	Presents information in sentence format. Contains one to five answer spaces, or targets, that represent a missing word or short phrase. Drag answers from associated word choice box to targets. Word choice box contains four to 10 word choices. Word choice box always includes more word choices than available targets. Can be case study or standalone item.	(0/1)
Drag-and-Drop Rationale	Presents information in a single sentence. Sentence contains two targets (dyad) or three targets (triad). Select answers from corresponding word boxes and drag to appropriate targets. Can be case study or standalone item.	(R)
Drop-Down Cloze	Presents information in sentence format. Contains two to five drop downs that represent missing information in the form of a word or short phrase; each drop down has three to five options. Select option from each drop down to complete sentence. Can be case study or standalone item.	(0/1)
Drop-Down Rationale	Presents information as a single sentence; contains two drop downs (dyad) or three drop downs (triad) that represent missing information in the form of a word or short phrase. Select option from each drop to down to complete sentence. Can be case study or standalone item.	(R)
Drop-Down Table	Presents information in a table containing at least one column and three rows. Each row has one drop down that represents missing information. Select option from each drop down to complete sentence. Can be case study or standalone item.	(0/1)
Highlight Table	Presents information in a table that contains one to five rows. Up to 10 segments of text in the table will be highlighted as selectable options. Click on highlighted segments of text to select answer(s). Can be a case study or standalone item.	(+/-)
Highlight Text	Presents information in a sentence or paragraph format that may contain a bulleted list. Up to 10 segments of text in the table will be highlighted as selectable options. Click on highlighted segments of text to select answer(s). Can be case study or standalone item.	(+/-)
Matrix Multiple Choice	Presents information in a table containing two to three columns and four to 10 rows. Each row contains a single correct answer. The number of correct answers in each column is not considered for this item type. Click button in appropriate column of table to provide answer. Can be case study or standalone item.	(0/1)
Matrix Multiple Response	Presents information in a table containing two to 10 columns and four to seven rows. Each column contains one to 10 correct answers. The number of correct answers in each row is not considered for this item type. Click the checkbox(es) in the appropriate row(s) of the table to provide answer(s). Can be case study or standalone item.	(+/-)
Multiple Response Grouping	Presents information in a sentence format with two to five small groups of options. Each group contains two to four options with one to four correct answers. Select one to all options in each group to answer the item. The number of correct answers in each group might not be the same. Can be a case study or standalone item.	(+/-)
Multiple Response Select All That Apply	Presents information in a sentence format with a list of options, similar to a traditional multiple-choice item. In this item type, there are five to 10 options. Select one to all options to answer the item. Can be a case study or standalone item.	(+/-)
Multiple Response Select “N”	Presents information in a sentence format with a list of five to 10 options. Number of correct answers is indicated in the presented information. Select appropriate number of options to answer item. Can be a case study or standalone item.	(0/1)

Scoring Rule	Explanation
Zero-one (0/1)	This is the classic approach to scoring exam questions. A student earns a point for each correct response they select and earn no point for selecting an incorrect response. The score on the NGN item using zero-one scoring is the sum of all correct responses.
Plus-minus (+/-)	A student earns a higher score on an item for identifying and selecting the most pertinent information. A student earns points for selecting correct information and points are offset if the student selects incorrect information. Score sums that result in negative numbers default to zero.
Rationale Scoring (R)	Requires the student to have a full understanding of paired information because the concepts measured by the item require justification through a rationale. For example, a nurse must do X because of Y. To earn points, both X and Y must be correct.

NOTE: Standard items (Fill in the Blank Alpha, Fill in the Blank Numeric, Multiple Choice, Multiple Response Select All That Apply, Hot Spot, and Ordered Response) continue to have ONLY zero-one (0/1) scoring.