

## Analysis of typical quiz/exam discrete point tasks:

### SAMPLE TEST SECTION:

**B. For each blank space, choose the appropriate verb and write the correct form of it. 16 pts.**

Ana \_\_\_\_\_ (**ser/estudiar**) estudiante en la Universidad de Colorado; es mi amiga y mi compañera de cuarto. Ella y yo \_\_\_\_\_ (**escuchar/estudiar**) historia y lenguas. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ (**desear/hablar**) portugués y español. Ella \_\_\_\_\_ (**escuchar/desear**) estudiar francés porque su familia es de Francia. Ana \_\_\_\_\_ (**pagar/trabajar**) en la cafetería porque \_\_\_\_\_ (**necesitar/regresar**) dinero para \_\_\_\_\_ (**tomar/pagar**) la matrícula (*tuition*). La madre de ella \_\_\_\_\_ (**comprar/tocar**) los libros para ella.

TO COMPLETE THIS TASK SUCCESSFULLY, STUDENTS MUST...

- understand content of passage
- understand both verb choices
- be able to identify subject of verb
- remember how to conjugate verbs

(This task would be much more challenging if there were a verb bank instead of two choices for each space—the cognitive load would be much heightened in this case. And on the other hand, most of the task’s communicative properties would be lost were there to be one verb listed after each blank.)

**For tasks like these, credit should be given for what students CAN do.** Automatic ½ credit for choosing the correct verb; full credit for correct conjugation of correct verb. Teacher/program may choose to give no credit if wrong verb is chosen, as this demonstrates a lack of comprehension.