Keystone Literature

Handscoring
Nonscore Codes
**PENNSYLVANIA NONSCORABLE CODES**

For PSSA Reading, Science, and Mathematics and all Keystone Open-ended Items (items with zero as a valid score point):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonscoreable Code</th>
<th>Definition/Example/Notes</th>
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| B – Blank          | Completely blank response. This includes responses that:  
|                   | - Are completely erased (so that words are unreadable)  
|                   | - Are completely crossed out (so that words are unreadable)  
|                   | - Online responses that consist solely of “white space” (e.g., spaces, tabs, returns) |
| R – Refusal        | Response indicates a refusal to attempt the task. This includes:  
|                   | - *I don’t care; I’m not taking this test; This is stupid; I won’t do it; you can’t make me answer this question*  
|                   | - *I don’t know; IDK; we never learned this; X; NA*  
|                   | - Unrelated song lyrics/rap lyrics/poetry (e.g., the lyrics to Hotel California in answer to a writing prompt asking whether backpacks should be allowed in class)  
|                   | - Intentionally off-task response (e.g., a detailed description of what the student ate for breakfast that morning in answer to a question about Mozart’s childhood)  
|                   | This also includes responses that consist solely of scribbles, random keystrokes (yyyyyyyy, av:aeoiuhvbe, hhrtrttuuuv), indecipherable writing/keystrokes (swenstsfengetstets arawnstes) emoticons, stray marks, doodles, drawings, circles, underlines, a couple of random letters (not a word), copying the question and/or test directions, or other evidence that no attempt was made to address the task. |
| K – Off task/topic | Response makes no reference to the item or (if applicable) the passage provided, but does not seem to constitute an intentional refusal.  
|                   | If any part of the response relates to the item in any way, score the response. |
| F – Foreign Language | Responses written entirely in a language other than English.  
|                   | Note that mathematics responses may still be scoreable if they also contain mathematical language (numbers, operators, etc.) that can be assessed by the rubric.  
|                   | Also note that a Spanish language version of the test is available for students for mathematics and science assessments. These are scored by qualified Spanish-speaking scorers. |
| U – Illegible      | This category includes:  
|                   | - Responses that are completely illegible due to poor handwriting.*  
|                   | - Online or typed responses that are incoherent due to consisting of random strings of words that are not clearly a Refusal or Off Topic (e.g., *best day school teacher inspired so I rode my car*)  
|                   | *If a response is difficult to read, every effort is made to read the response. Multiple people, including a Team Leader and/or a Scoring Director, will attempt to decipher the response, and the original answer document will be reviewed if necessary. If, ultimately, only a portion of the response is legible, that verbiage will be scored on its own merits. |

**Note:** In reading, copied irrelevant text receives a score of 0.

**Note:** Responses that consist of a couple of words and do not represent a complete thought (e.g., *I think that, Ramps are*) receive a score of 0.

**Note:** Crossed out, but legible/partially legible, responses are scored according to the rubric based on whatever verbiage is legible.