Algebra I

Three calibration cases • Observed in selected released student work

JANUARY 2026 / Q35 / 3/6

Check both constraints

The response established the two equations and checked the proposed values against only one. Compare the complete example on pages 77–78.

Test this possibility. The student may think one true receipt verifies a pair, or may have stopped after one check.

Ask: If one receipt works and the second fails, what can you conclude about the proposed prices?

Exam task · Response · PDF p. 89 · State commentary · Higher anchor

JANUARY 2026 / Q30 / 1/2

Translate a boundary

The algebra was consistent with the inequality the student wrote. The starting inequality differed from the situation.

Test this possibility. The barrier may be interpreting the spending limit rather than solving the inequality.

Ask: Would spending exactly the budget work? What about one dollar more?

Exam task · Response · PDF p. 38 · State commentary · Higher anchor

AUGUST 2026 / Q33 / 3/4

Restrict a graph to its context

The response extended the graph beyond the axes in a way the scorer identified as inconsistent with the context.

Test this possibility. A familiar graph-drawing routine may have overridden the physical limits.

Ask: What would a point in the extension mean in the story? Could that event happen?

Exam task · Response · PDF p. 61 · State commentary · Higher anchor

Algebra I

Constructed practice responses • Read independently, then compare with the facilitator interpretation.

ALG1-1 / Two receipts

Three coffees and two teas cost $12. Two coffees and four teas cost $16. Define variables, write both equations, and test a friend's claim that both drinks cost $2.50. Find the two prices and verify them.

Focal request

Test the price claim against both receipts and give one verdict. Use the two receipts in the Studio task below.

Response A

At $2.50 each, the first order would cost $12.50. That rules the claim out.

Response B

At $2.50 each, the receipts would be $12.50 and $15 instead of $12 and $16. The proposed pair fails both checks.

What the pair distinguishes

A gives a logically sufficient counterexample to reject the claim. B shows both receipt checks. If the local criterion asks only for a valid disproof, both demonstrate it. If it explicitly asks for both checks, only B shows both. Respect the actual prompt.

A fresh transfer check

Change the claim to $2 per coffee and $3 per tea. Ask what evidence is now required to confirm it.

Evidence of transfer

Transfer is demonstrated when both constraints are checked to validate a solution and a single failure is recognized as enough to reject one.