Looking at Multiple-Choice Item Data Protocol

This is a protocol for looking at multiple-choice item data to identify areas of student need in any content area.

1. Sort the test items by the percentage of students who answered each item correctly.

2. Decide on the thresholds to divide the items into three color-coded categories, based on percent correct: e.g., Red for below 60%, Yellow for 60 – 80%, and Green for over 80% correct.

3. Look for trends among the standards associated with the questions marked Red. (use optional chart below for analyzing items by % correct vs. standard and looking for patterns)

4. Select up to five items for investigation, either because their standards fit a pattern or a low percent correct.

For each of the selected items, complete steps 5 – 6:

5. List the content, skills, and vocabulary a student would need to answer the item correctly on the *Multiple Choice Item Deconstruction Chart* below.

6. Look at the distractor patterns for the selected item.

Once the information for each item has been recorded in the chart, complete the worksheet:

7. Record inferences about why students may have gotten these items wrong on the provided worksheet.

8. Look for patterns that run across the selected items.

Optional chart for separating questions by % correct and standard or strand in order to look for patterns - list item numbers in appropriate boxes (add columns as needed, and decide ranges for red, yellow, green):

% correct	Standard or Strand 1	Standard or Strand 2	Standard or Strand 3
Example: Items that 80-100% of students answered correctly			

Multiple-Choice Item Deconstruction Chart

Question #	Standard	% Correct	Distractors	Content: What do students need to know in order to answer this question?	Skills: What do students need to be able to do in order to answer this question?	Vocabulary: What vocabulary do students need to know in order to answer this question?

What patterns seem to emerge from the deconstruction chart?

What inferences can you make that might explain why students are having trouble with the selected items?

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