

Grading and Feedback Best Practices

General Grading Goals

1. **Rigor:** Maintain high standards
2. **Consistency:** Similar feedback between different graders
3. **Fairness:** Similar feedback between different students
4. **Self-Care:** Don't spend excessive amounts of time grading

Grading should be...

- Timely
 - Aim for 2-3 day turnaround, or at least before the next set is due
- Structured
 - Plan how each question should be answered and graded
 - Schedule when grading should be completed and posted

Grading should not involve...

- Sharing or mentioning student grades to others
 - Student grades are protected by FERPA
 - Exception: Fellow TAs and instructor

Example Rubrics

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED
Part 1		
Process (5 pts)	Substitutes coefficients into the formula correctly (3 pts)	_____/ 5
	Simplifies discriminant correctly (-28) (2 pts)	
Final Answer and Formatting (5 pts)	Correct final roots $-1 \pm \sqrt{7}i$. Must receive all previous rubric items (3 pts)	_____/ 5
	Answer clearly expressed in standard form $a \pm bi$. (2 pts)	
Part 2		
Conceptual Understanding (4 pts)	Identifies vertex as the minimum point (2 pts)	_____/ 4
	Correctly argues/paraphrases why parabola extends to ∞ . (2 pts)	

Grading Criteria	Holistic score out of 10	Grading comments
Perfect solution	10	
Small mistakes that don't change the solution significantly.	8	
Most ideas are correct, but some conceptual errors exist.	6	
Some correct ideas are present.	4	
Some attempt at solving.	2	
Nonsensical or nonexistent solution.	0	

General Feedback Goals

1. **Constructive:** Areas for improvement are clear
2. **Targeted:** Explanation of where/why the error began
3. **Wise:** Leave encouraging comments indicating what the student did correctly to promote a growth mindset
4. **Standardized:** Use tools like Gradescope to apply similar comments to similar errors across different student submissions