

Assessment Philosophy & Design Standards

The Savvas Personal Finance assessment system measures both conceptual financial literacy and applied real-world decision-making. Built around high school postsecondary readiness, the framework combines 20-minute module quizzes with hands-on performance tasks, ensuring students demonstrate mastery of mathematical cash flow calculations, systemic financial structures, and rational trade-off evaluation.

End-of-Module Diagnostic Quizzes

Every module concludes with a dedicated 20-minute quiz designed for end-of-unit evaluation:

- **Structure & Pacing:** Standardized 20-minute duration allowing seamless integration into regular class periods.
- **Item Formats:** Multiple-choice items assessing core vocabulary, financial calculations, visual data interpretation, and scenario analysis.
- **Visual & Graphic Data:** Includes prompts for reading compound interest curves, stock trend charts, checking registers, and tax forms.
- **Teacher Support & Answer Keys:** Complete answer keys with point-of-use rationales are located in the Personal Finance Teacher Companion (pages 164–208).

Real-World Performance Tasks & PACED Model

Performance tasks embedded across student worktexts require active problem-solving. Central to these tasks is the PACED Decision-Making Model (Problem, Alternatives, Criteria, Evaluate, Decision), which guides complex choices such as car buying, housing selection, and debt reduction strategies.

Module	Core Focus Area	Quiz Assessment Focus	Performance Task / Artifact
Mod 1: Foundations	Income & Budgeting	Needs vs. wants, 80/10/10 rule, fixed/variable costs	1-Week Spending Log & 6-Month Savings Goal
Mod 2: Banking	Financial Systems	FDIC (\$250k), check register balancing, security	Checkbook Reconciliation & Fraud Audit
Mod 3: Wealth Building	Compound Interest	APY vs. APR, stock/bond diversification, inflation	529 Plan & Investment Growth Simulator
Mod 4: Credit & Debt	Credit Risk & Borrowing	3 Cs of credit, FICO factors, 36% DTI threshold	Credit Score Repair & Debt Avalanche Plan
Mod 5: Risk Management	Insurance & Vehicles	Deductibles vs. premiums, policy coverage limits	PACED Car Purchase & Insurance Matrix
Mod 6: Consumer Rights	Taxes & Career Prep	FTC/CFPB roles, Form 1040, gross vs. net pay	Form 1040 Tax Return Preparation Workshop