

# *Webb's Four Levels of Cognitive Complexity*

## • **Level 1: Recall and Reproduction**

- Requires **recall of information**, such as a fact, definition, term, or performance of a simple process or procedure

## • **Level 2: Skills & Concepts**

- Includes the **engagement of some mental processing** beyond recalling or reproducing a response
- Items require students to make some decisions as to how to approach the question or problem
- Actions imply more than one mental or cognitive process/step

## • **Level 3: Strategic Thinking**

- Requires **deep understanding exhibited through planning, using evidence, and more demanding cognitive reasoning**
- The cognitive demands are complex and abstract
- An assessment item that has more than one possible answer and requires students to justify the response would most likely be a Level 3

## • **Level 4: Extended Thinking**

- Requires high cognitive demand and is very complex
- Students are **expected to make connections, relate ideas within the content or among content areas, and select or devise one approach among many alternatives on how the situation can be solved**
- Due to the complexity of cognitive demand, DOK 4 often requires an extended period of time