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