INTERACTIVE BALANCE SHEET LAB

Atlas Analytics - Grading Rubric

A deterministic 100-point assessment of transaction analysis, entries, statements, and accounting explanations.

Teaching Lab public beta | Hongye Chris Yang | Release 2026-08-21

Grading principle

Score the accounting representation, not cosmetic formatting. A student may use a different journal-entry line order if debits, credits, accounts, and amounts are correct. Do not double-penalize the same clearly traceable arithmetic carry-forward error.

100-point grading rubric

CRITERION	POINTS	FULL-CREDIT EVIDENCE
Transaction predictions and account classification	20	Two points per transaction: identify the affected account classes and the correct accounting-equation direction before viewing the entry.
Journal entries	40	Four points per transaction: correct accounts, debit-credit direction, amounts, and a balanced entry.
Income statement and retained-earnings bridge	15	Temporary accounts are totaled correctly; net income and ending retained earnings are derived from the ledger. For this scenario, net income and ending retained earnings are both $7,000.
Ending balance sheet	15	Correct line items and classifications; total assets equal total liabilities and equity using ledger-derived amounts. For this scenario, both sides of the accounting equation equal $102,000.
Concept-check explanations	10	Two points for each of five concept checks: select the correct response and explain the governing accounting rule.
Total	100	Ledger, statements, and explanations describe one internally consistent accounting system.

Journal-entry scoring detail

Four points for each of ten entries

ELEMENT	POINTS PER TRANSACTION	SCORING RULE
Account selection	1	All economically necessary accounts are present; no unrelated account is substituted.
Debit-credit direction	1	Each account appears on the correct side given its normal balance and the transaction effect.
Amounts	1	Amounts match the transaction and linked effects, including both sale and COGS lines in Transaction 5.
Entry balance	1	Total debits equal total credits and no line contains both a debit and credit amount.

Performance bands

Interpretation of total score

SCORE	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION
90-100	Accurate ledger and statements; explanations distinguish recognition, cash movement, and equity flow.
80-89	Mostly accurate with limited classification or bridge errors that do not undermine the core model.
70-79	Understands the equation but shows recurring debit-credit, timing, or temporary-account confusion.
60-69	Partial transaction analysis; statements rely on forced totals or omit important linked effects.
Below 60	Entries and statement logic are not yet internally consistent; targeted reteaching is required.

Diagnostic feedback codes

Feedback that identifies the misconception

CODE	OBSERVED ERROR	INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE
CASH-REV	Treats owner investment, borrowing, or receivable collection as revenue	Ask whether an earning activity occurred and whether a repayment or prior receivable explains the cash.
CASH-EXP	Treats equipment purchase or payable settlement as current expense	Ask whether the payment acquires an asset or settles a liability already recorded.
INV-COGS	Expenses inventory at purchase or omits COGS at sale	Separate asset acquisition from expense recognition when goods are sold.
RE-DIRECT	Posts revenue or expense directly to Retained Earnings	Keep temporary accounts open through Net Income, then derive ending Retained Earnings.
DEP-CASH	Credits Cash for depreciation	Identify Accumulated Depreciation as the contra-asset and locate the earlier equipment cash outflow.