

**Psalm Paper Rubric – NPM Intermediate Cantor Certification (30 points; passing score = 21/30)**

Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A: Overall criteria (Applies to both essays.)**

	1	2	3	4	5	Score/ Level
Structural Organization  Effective use of language	Essays lack logical progression of ideas. AND/OR Numerous errors interfere with clarity of the essay(s).	Essays include brief skeleton AND/OR Frequent usage and/or spelling errors, but clarity is intact.	Essays include brief skeleton (introduction, body, conclusion) AND/OR Multiple errors in usage	Essays are adequately organized & developed. AND - Nearly error-free, reflecting careful proofreading.	Essays are powerfully organized & developed. AND - Error-free, reflecting thorough proofreading.	
Support from professional literature	Essays are based only on personal experience/personal opinion. Professional literature is not cited or is not relevant.	Few to no solid supporting ideas or evidence for the essay content. Literature cited is loosely relevant.	Some supporting ideas and/or evidence for the essay content. Literature base is limited but relevant.	Specific details and adequate support and evidence in each section. Literature base is adequate and relevant.	Specific, developed details and strong support and evidence in each section. Literature base is varied and relevant.	

**Section B: Essay # 1: Role of the Responsorial Psalm**

	1	2	3	4	5	Score/ Level
Understanding of Material; Focused delivery  (Connections between the Psalm and the readings)	Apparent lack of preparation (completion of required readings not evident).  Few relevant ideas are included. No connections are identified.	Apparent misunderstanding of material.  Essay loses focus by including irrelevant ideas and/or failing to establish meaningful connections between the Psalm and the readings.	Limited understanding of material displayed by vague language.  Essay is focused on the topic.  Limited or superficial connections are identified between Psalm & first reading, and between Psalm & Gospel.	Clear understanding displayed by clear language and complex ideas with regard to most of the key points.  Essay is focused and reflects clear insights.  Justifiable connections are identified between the Psalm & first reading, and between Psalm & Gospel.	Deep understanding displayed throughout by clear, concrete language and complex ideas.  Essay is focused and reflects clear insights.  Clear, relevant connections are identified between the Psalm and the first reading, and between the Psalm and the Gospel.	
Understanding of Material; Focused delivery  (Impact of the Responsorial Psalm)	Apparent lack of preparation (completion of required readings not evident.)  Few relevant ideas are included. No reference to impact of the Psalm.	Apparent misunderstanding of material.  Essay loses focus by including irrelevant ideas or failing to establish the impact of the Psalm.	Limited understanding of material displayed by vague language.  Essay is focused on the topic. Limited reference to the impact of the Psalm.	Clear understanding of material displayed by clear language and complex ideas with regard to most of the key points.  Essay is focused and reflects clear insights.  Justifiable declaration of the impact of the chosen Psalm.	Deep understanding displayed throughout by clear, concrete language and complex ideas.  Essay is focused and reflects clear insights.  Clear declaration of impact - how the chosen Psalm is a response to the readings, as well as who the Psalm is calling us to be.	

**Section C: Essay # 2: Ministry and Spirituality of the Psalmist**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Score/ Level</b>
<p>Understanding of Material; Focused delivery</p> <p>(Ministry of the Psalmist)</p>	<p>Apparent lack of preparation (completion of required readings not evident).</p> <p>Few relevant ideas are included.</p>	<p>Apparent misunderstanding of material.</p> <p>Essay loses focus by including irrelevant ideas or failing to address the ministry of the psalmist.</p>	<p>Limited understanding of material displayed by vague language.</p> <p>Essay is focused on the topic. Limited reference to the ministry of the Psalmist.</p>	<p>Clear understanding of material displayed by clear language and complex ideas with regard to most of the key points.</p> <p>Essay is focused and shows evidence of reflection on the role of the Psalmist and appropriate preparation for ministry.</p>	<p>Deep understanding displayed throughout by clear, concrete language and complex ideas.</p> <p>Essay is focused and reflects clear insights (based on personal reflection and the use of resources from the resource list) on the role of the Psalmist and appropriate preparation for ministry.</p>	
<p>Understanding of Material; Focused delivery</p> <p>(Spirituality of the Psalmist)</p>	<p>Apparent lack of preparation (completion of required readings not evident).</p> <p>Few relevant ideas are included.</p>	<p>Apparent misunderstanding of material.</p> <p>Essay loses focus by including irrelevant ideas or failing to address the spirituality of the Psalmist.</p>	<p>Limited understanding of material displayed by vague language.</p> <p>Essay is focused on the topic. Limited reference to the spirituality of the Psalmist.</p>	<p>Clear understanding of material displayed by clear language and complex ideas with regard to most of the key points.</p> <p>Essay is focused and shows evidence of reflection on the spirituality of the cantor with respect to the chosen Psalm.</p>	<p>Deep understanding displayed throughout by clear, concrete language and complex ideas.</p> <p>Essay is focused and reflects clear insights (based on personal reflection and the use of resources from the resource list) on the spirituality of the cantor with respect to the chosen Psalm.</p>	

**Total Score (Section A + Section B + Section C) = \_\_\_\_\_**