



Department of Education  
Republic of the Philippines  
Region III

**DIVISION OF GAPAN CITY**

Don Simeon Street, San Vicente, Gapan City



# Local History

## Learning Activity Sheets

### City of Gapan

#### Grade 11



PAG-AARI NG PAMAHALAAN  
HINDI IPINAGBIBILI

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# LEARNING ACTIVITY SHEET FOR LOCAL HISTORY

## Gapan City

### Grade 11

#### I. Introduction

In your previous grade, you have studied both the Philippine and World History and perhaps, you enjoyed looking back at how our past has changed and evolved. You might think that it may be boring as history seems to be a bombardment of memorizing names, dates, places, and events. But those are just false assumptions that have long been believed by some. History tells us how and why things happen. Dictionary.com defined it as “continuous, systematic narrative of past events as relating to a particular people, country, period, person, etc., usually written as a chronological account; chronicle.”<sup>1</sup>

You have studied several histories of places and events that are significant to today’s life of people. Let us study the history of Gapan City, a very progressive city in the province of Nueva Ecija, a place rich of historical events and the land of the Gapanenses. In this endeavor, you will be able to discover many things about the place where you probably grew up and made some memories with.

Feel free to explore to gain more knowledge about the history of Gapan City as technology is just in the palm of your hands.

#### II. Objectives

After reading and answering all the activities in this *Learning Activity Sheet*, you are expected to:

1. examine local history
2. evaluate the relevance of local history to national history
3. foster interest in the past that enables them to enjoy all that history has to offer.

#### III. Discussion

According to [cityofgapan.webs.com](http://cityofgapan.webs.com) (n.d), “Gapan was organized by the Spanish curates and officials who in their early occupation, exercised great influence over the people and the things they were doing, History places like Gapan as one of the first towns of Pampanga founded sometime in the middle part of the sixteenth century.

Historical data recorded that Gapan was founded in 1595 making it the oldest town in Nueva Ecija and one of the oldest in the Philippines. It was likewise a big *Pueblo* embracing an area as far as Cabanatuan City in the north, which was its barrio with the name Cabanatuan before it separated in 1777: the Sierra Madre in the East, San Miguel, Bulacan in the South and Candaba, Pampanga in the West. Gradually as the Spanish power waned and economic progress caught up in the area, the pueblo disintegrated into many pueblos until it remained to comprise only the towns of Peñaranda, General Tinio and San Leonardo (formerly called Manikling), Nueva Ecija province. In fact, the Patron Saint Divina Pastora had its origin or residence in Barrio Callos. Peñaranda.

Gapan was originally known as “Ibon”. Then records of the first Catholic Mission to the far east indicated that in August 28, 1595 Augustinian missionaries Fathers Contreras, Tendilla, Caballo and Salazar were responsible for clearing the forest which later became a Pueblo and named it as Convento Delos Reyes de Gapan. A church, presidencia and residential houses made of bricks and limes were constructed by the Spaniards which constituted age old landmarks of the town.

According to a legend, it was told that some Spanish soldiers were on a certain mission when they saw natives crawling through the thick bushes. The soldier halted them and not knowing the local dialect asked in Spanish for the name of the town. The natives know nothing of the Spanish language and thinking that the Spanish were asking what they were doing answered in Tagalog “Gumagapang gapang kami”. The Spanish thought that it was the name of the place and henceforth called the pueblo Gapang. In due time, the letter “g” was dropped and the more finesse name Gapan sticks to this day. Another legend on the origin of the name of Gapan said the name came from the climbing and crawling plants that were so numerous in the locality.

Originally, the town had the following barrios: Sta. Cruz, Mangino, Pambuan, San Lorenzo, San Vicente, San Nicolas, Sto Cristo and San Roque or Baluarte, Sto. Cristo Sur, with San Lorenzo and San Vicente constituting the poblacion of the Municipality. Thirteen additional Barrios or Barangays were established by the then Municipal Council, namely, Bungo, Kapalangan, Puting Tubig, Makabaklay, Maburak Sto Nino, Bayanihan, Sto Cristo Norte, Malimba, Mahipon, Bulak, Parcutela and Marelo.



### **Three Kings Parish Church**

One of the famous landmarks in the city is its church (the National Shrine of Divina Pastora, also known as Three Kings Parish Church). In an interview conducted by *Simbahang Sariling Atin* (December 20, 2013), “the church was originally named Santiago de Ayumbon and later on became Ayumbon and Kumbento Delos Reyes.”<sup>3</sup> The Church of Gapan is made of Bricks, Adobe and Lime. The architecture is Byzantine and was constructed under the successive direction and supervision of Fathers Loredó, Conejo and Llaneza for a period of about sixteen years, that is 1856-1872. Like most gigantic buildings done during the Spanish regime, the church was built through forced labor. The materials used were taken from *Laryuhan* in Barrio San Vicente and from Barrio San Lorenzo near Pambuan. To bring the material to the site of the church, laborers had to line themselves straight between the sources of materials and site of construction and had to pass the bricks from one hand to another. Records show that since 1740, Gapan has “Cura Parrocos” beginning with father Francisco Medalla.

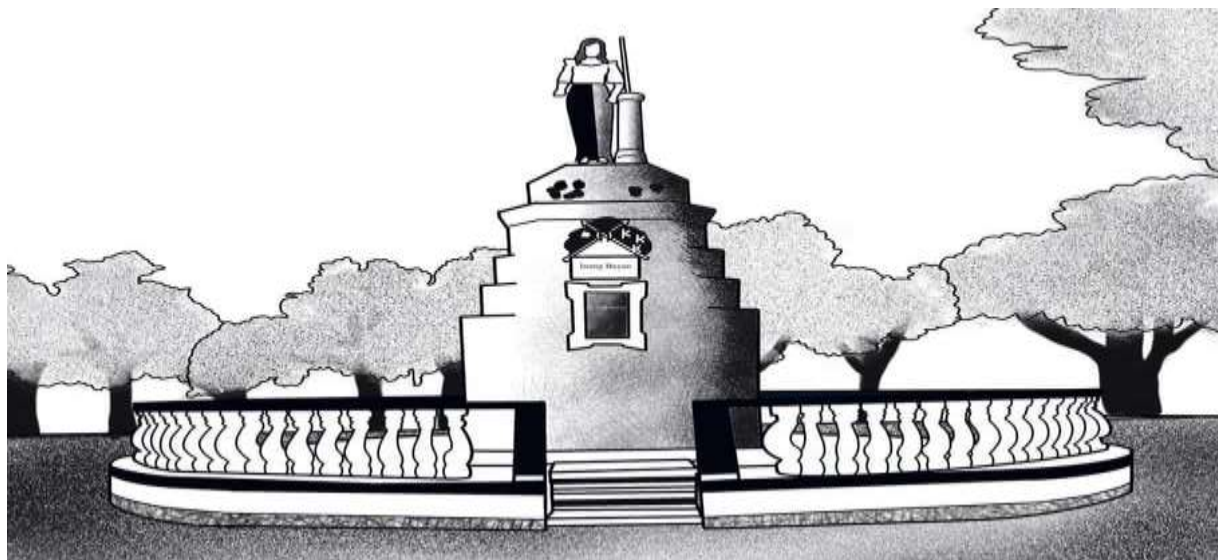


**Three Kings**



**La Virgen Divina Pastora**

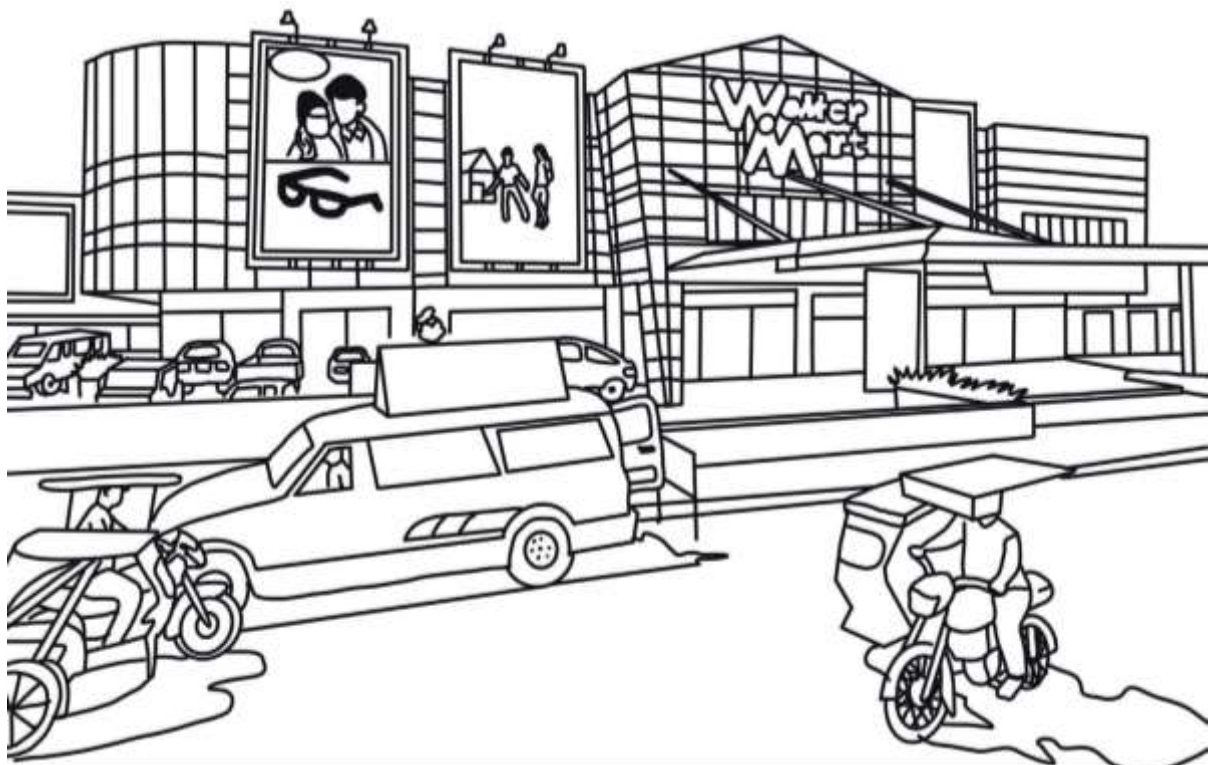
The City has two Patron Saints, the Three Kings and the La Virgen Divina Pastora (Shepherdess). The feast for the Three Kings is every sixth day of January and every first of May for the Divina Pastora. Gapan City has become a place of Pilgrimage for devotees in Central Luzon. The miracles of the Divina Pastora has attracted the attention of the church authorities and on April 26, 1964, the Divina Pastora was crowned queen at the church plaza, making Gapan an official pilgrimage city where her graces would flourish for those who visit the place. According to Reyes, (Kasaysayan ng Gapan, 28)” the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, at its 52nd Annual Meeting held in Tagaytay City on January 24-26 has approved unanimously the petition of the Most Reverend Ciceron Tumbocon, the then Bishop of Cabanatuan, for the Church of Mary Divina Pastora of Gapan City, Nueva Ecija as a National Shrine.”<sup>4</sup>



**Inang Bayan Shrine**

One of the eight rays in the Philippine flag represent Nueva Ecija as one of the eight provinces that took up arms against Spain. Participants in this uprising came from Gapan, San Isidro, Cabiao and Penaranda led by

General Pantaleon Valmonte (mentioned as Belmonte in history). Gapan contributed thirteen heroes or martyrs who were killed by the Spaniards. They were Epifanio Ramos, Quintin Tinio, Faustino Delos Reyes, Emilio Jacinto, Ismael Del Corro, Honorio Malgapo, Juanario Malgapo, Leocadio Liwag, Valentin Liwag, Severino Tiangco, Saturnino Magno and Ramon Tinawin. In due recognition of their patriotic sacrifices the Gapan City Government honored them by erecting a monument at the San Vicente Plaza called “Inang Bayan” where their names were engraved and named the streets in the city proper after them.



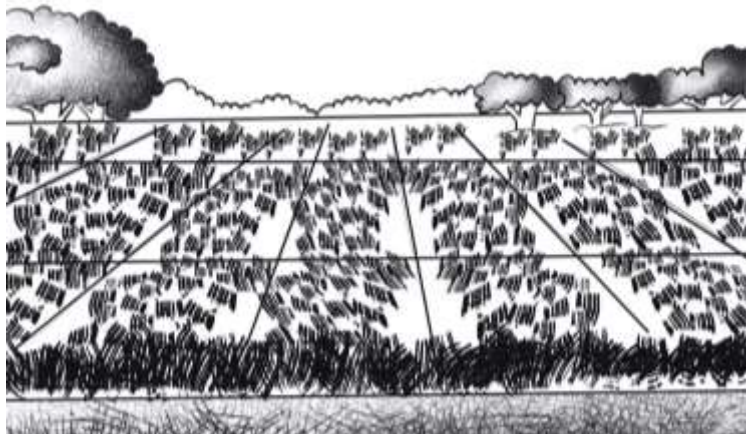
**Gapan City Proper**

The City of Gapan acquired corporate existence when a majority of the people approved its cityhood application in a plebiscite conducted last August 25, 2001. By virtue of Republic Act 9022 sponsored by Congresswoman Julita Lorenzo Villareal, Gapan was converted into a component city. It was granted under the administration of the late mayor Ernesto Natividad together with the then head of the Sangguniang Panglungsod Leoncio Puti Mangahas On May 10, 2010 former City Councilor and Vice Mayor Christian Tinio was elected as City Mayor and took office on June 30, 2010.”<sup>2</sup> After his first term,

Mayor Maricel Natividad-Nagaño took her office from 2013 to 2016. Following her is the current Mayor Emerson D. Pascual and on his second term now.

In an article published in Philippinescities.com, it described Gapan City as the following:

## PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



**Agricultural Land**

“More than 80% of the total land area are either grassland or devoted to agriculture. Main products are rice, root crops, vegetables, livestock and poultry. Fish production is primarily done in fishponds and to a certain extent in the rivers. Footwear is the chief manufactured product in the city. Other cottage industries produce processed foods and handicrafts.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Though Gapan City’s majority area is agricultural, it can be developed as an agro-industrial center. Industries that can be established in this city are food processing, feed and fertilizer, farm machineries and tools, fashion and footwear, furniture and home decors, and other consumer goods.

Gapan City’s major source of income includes farming, slipper making, fishponds, poultry and piggery, and commercial establishments. The place has rich natural resources and great potentials in agri-base industries as well as footwear industries which help sustain the City’s virtual role in agricultural and industrial production. Commercial and trade activities in the city are further accelerated by the influx of financing lending institution and new businesses.”<sup>5</sup>

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. How did Gapan City acquire its name?



2. Who are the Patron Saints of Gapan City and what time of the year they are being celebrated?
3. How many barangays comprise Gapan City?
4. How were the thirteen heroes or martyrs who fought against the Spaniards honored by Gapan City?
5. How does the city's location contribute to the progress of Gapan City?
6. How will you describe Gapan as a city?

#### **IV. Activities**

##### **Activity A: FACT OR BLUFF**

Direction: Read the following statements carefully. Write FACT if the statement is correct, otherwise, write BLUFF. Write your answer on a sheet of paper.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Gapan is the oldest town in Nueva Ecija and one of the oldest in the Philippines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Congresswoman Magnolia Antonino sponsored Republic Act 9022 which converted Gapan as one component city of Nueva Ecija.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Gapan was originally known as "Ibon".
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The feast of the Three Kings is celebrated every 6<sup>th</sup> of January.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Gapan City has become a place of Pilgrimage for devotees in Central Luzon because of the miraculous La Virgen Divina Pastora.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Gapan was founded in 1595 by Japanese Emperors who conquered the Philippines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. San Lorenzo and San Vicente constitute the poblacion of the city of Gapan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Mayor Ernesto Natividad became the first city mayor of Gapan City
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. At first, Gapan was composed of 13 barrios.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Thirteen barrios or barangays were added to its original barangays or barrios thus Gapan is now composed of 32 barangays.

### Activity B: Text Twist

Direction: Identify the answer to the given statement by rearranging the jumbled letters. Write your answer on a sheet of paper.

1. The feast of this Patron Saint of Gapan City is celebrated every 6<sup>th</sup> of January.

K	H	T	I	G	S	R	E	N	E

2. Gapan City became a place of what to devotees because of the miraculous Patron Saint La Virgen Divina Pastora.

G	P	M	I	L	A	R	E	I	G

3. The original name of the municipality before it became known as Gapan.

O	I	B	N

4. This place was built to honor the thirteen martyrs or heroes that became part of the uprising of Nueva Ecija against Spaniards.

N	A	B	N	I	G	A	Y	A	N

5. The name that was given by the Spaniards to the pueblo after talking to some natives who were not able to understand the Spanish language.

G	P	N	G	A	A

6. The primary manufactured product of Gapan City.

W	R	F	O	T	E	O	A

7. The architecture of the Church of Gapan.

Y	A	Z	T	B	N	I	E	N
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8. The current city mayor of Gapan.

S	E	M	A	L	P	C	U	E	N	G	A

9. The General who led the participants in the uprising against Spaniards from Gapan, San Isidro and Cabiao.

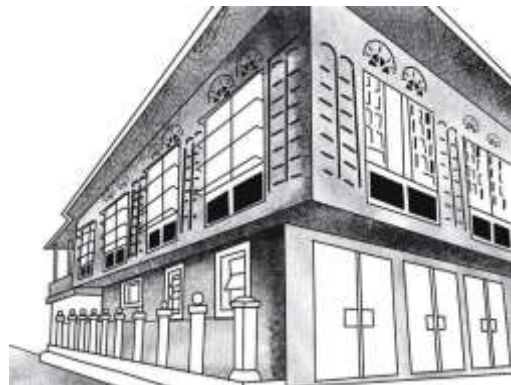
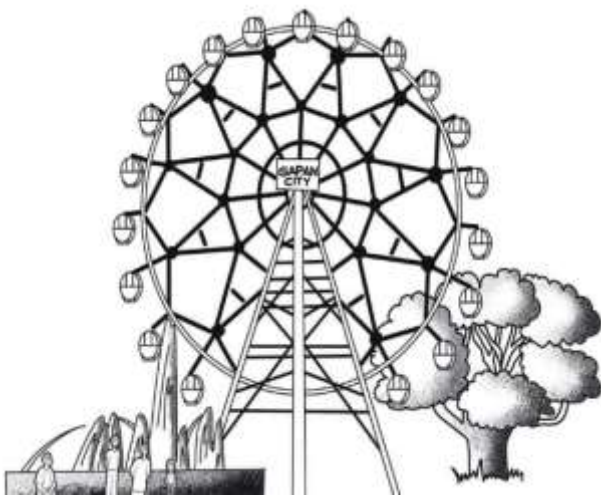
L	M	O	V	P	N	A	E	T	L	A	N	A	T	N	O	E

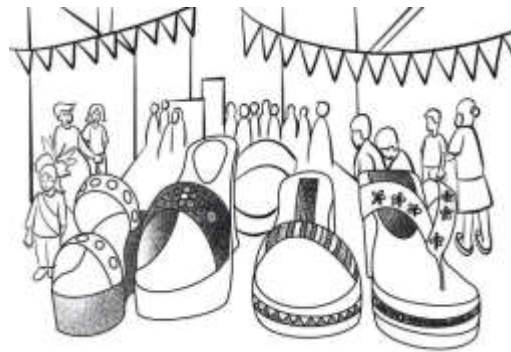
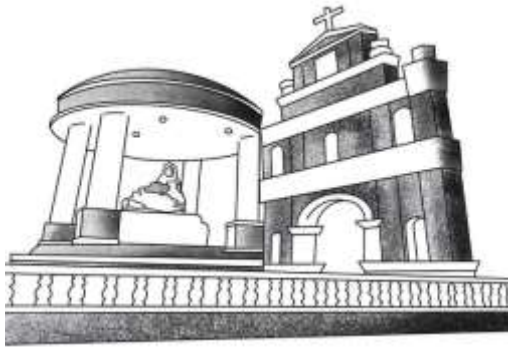
10. The original town residence of Patron Saint Divina Pastora.

A	P	Ñ	R	E	A	D	N	A

**Activity C: Caption This and Comment**

Direction: Create a caption for each image and make comments afterwards. Write it in a sheet of paper





### **Activity D: Your Opinion Matters**

Direction: Read the following articles and make a reflective writing on how the governance of Gapan City is coping with the pandemic situation due to Corona Virus. Write your answers in a sheet of paper.

In a news article written by delas Alas (June 18, 2020), he stated that “Gapan City is now ready to transition to the “New Normal” as restrictions are furthered eased under Modified General Community Quarantine.

Mayor Emerson Pascual lauded his constituents for being disciplined during the trying times of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

“For us to be more prepared, not just me or the task force, but the entire community should further coordinate with us,” he said during Thursday’s episode of Network Briefing News on Radyo Pilipinas which was hosted by Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar. Residents are urged to report to the city government when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms as a way of their contribution to the community.

“If someone has a fever, cough or feeling ill, immediately visit our Gapan City Rapid Testing Station so they can be tested [for COVID-19]. Secretary Martin, for me, Gapan City is ready for the new normal,” Pascual furthered.

Gapan City currently has zero active COVID-19 cases following the recovery of nine positive patients.

Gapan City Mayor Emerson Pascual assures the city is now ready for the transition to the new normal during the Network Briefing News hosted by Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar. (Mar Jay S. Delas Alas/PIA 3)

Pascual disclosed that they have already eased transportation restrictions within the city and ensured drivers are still following strict health and safety protocols.

“We already allowed the operation of tricycles in the city, but they have to follow our rules, like one, backriding in tricycles are strictly prohibited, and drivers should be wearing a face mask. Second, only one passenger is allowed, and he should also be wearing a face mask. There should be a plastic barrier between the driver and the passenger,” Pascual stressed adding violators will be apprehended.

The mayor also said they are finalizing the new system for jeepney operations as they will now allow 50 percent of its seating capacity.

Moreover, Pascual cited their initiatives to alleviate challenges students may face during online schooling and blending learning modalities to be utilized by Department of Education (DepEd).

“We will put fiber optics in all households who want internet access with free installation and a 5mbps speed for only PhP50 per month. They can expect it this coming Monday as we will start the fiber optics installation, which can take up to 45 days as for our estimate,” Pascual explained.

He also assured that the city government is continuously coordinating with DepEd to further help both teachers and students on its new teaching methods during the pandemic.

Also, Pascual pitched some programs as they progress to the new normal such as the preparation for the upcoming planting season, opening of a dialysis center, groundbreaking of the Gapan City Hospital, among others. (CLJD/MJSD-PIA 3)<sup>6</sup>

### **Activity E: Easy Essay**

Direction: Answer the following questions briefly. Write your answers on a sheet of paper.

1. What do you think are the problems being faced by the City of Gapan and how can they be solved?
2. Cite some events in the past and explain their impacts that contributed to the present status of Gapan City.
3. As a student, how can you contribute to the progress of our beloved Gapan City?

RUBRIC FOR REFLECTIVE AND ESSAY WRITING	
CRITERIA	POINTS
Content/Ideas	15
Grammar/Choice of Words/Spelling	10
Organization	5

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**VI. Answer Key**

**Activity A: FACT OR BLUFF**

1. FACT
2. BLUFF
3. FACT
4. FACT
5. FACT
6. BLUFF
7. FACT
8. FACT
9. BLUFF
10. BLUFF

**Activity B: TEXT TWIST**

1. Three kings
2. Pilgrimage
3. Ibon
4. Inang Bayan
5. Gapang
6. Footwear
7. Byzantine
8. Emeng Pascual
9. Pantaleon Valmonte
10. Penaranda

**Activity C: Caption This and Comment**

Answers will be based on the ideas and understanding of the students. Grades are based on the given rubrics.

**Activity D: Your opinion Matters**

Answers will be based on the comprehension of the students after reading the article. Grades are based on the given rubrics.

**Activity E : Easy Essay**

Answers will be based on the ideas and understanding of the students. Grades are based on the given rubrics.