Grading Checklist
Learning Assessment #2 – The Rock Cycle

Speta, M.[1], Cubley, J.F.[2], Reid, L.F.[3] (2010)
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Learning assessments are graded using a checklist-style rubric. The purpose of the checklist is to clearly and concisely show students where they lost marks on the assignment and why. When students are reviewing their work they initially focus on the areas they got incorrect as identified on the checklist.

The checklists also help to ensure that grading is transparent to the students. They help maintain consistency amongst graders, which may be a challenge in large courses with multiple instructors/teaching assistants marking the same assignment.

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LEARNING ASSESSMENT #2 (Rock Cycle) GRADING CHECKLIST

Part 1: Sedimentary Cycle (2 pt each)
___ weathering/erosion of rock at the surface of the Earth to form sediment
___ unconsolidated sediment is transported to depositional environment (i.e. ocean basin)
___ lithification: compaction, cementation of sediment

Part 2: Metamorphic Cycle (1 pt each)
___ increased P/T conditions
___ brief description of rock types that would form (slate-schist-gneiss; to indicate the types of metamorphic rocks that may form and demonstrate understanding of metamorphic grade)
___ describe changes in mineralogy (neo and re-crystallization)
___ describe changes in texture (foliation AND grain size increase – 0.5 each)
___ mention of changes occur in solid state

Part 3: Igneous Cycle (1 pt each)
___ partial melting / melting occurs
___ magma solidifies / freezes
___ describes melt that forms as silicic or felsic
___ resulting rock type name: granite, rhyolite or migmatite
___ rock name is consistent with where it solidifies (i.e. granite or migmatite – subsurface, rhyolite – surface)

Part 4: Return to Sedimentary Cycle (1 pt each)
___ exhumation (include examples of processes that may cause this, e.g. faulting)
___ erosion/weathering of newly exposed rock to form unconsolidated sediment

Organization and Clarity (2 pts)
___ assessment was easy to read and answers were well organized, if figures were used they were well labeled and clearly linked to answering the question

TOTAL FOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT #2: ___/20

Speta et al. (2010)