

Updated 8/20/2026:

We are writing to provide clarity on (1) **how to establish a basal** and (2) **when to administer Mandatory Items** on the Vineland-4 Pilot Interview.

1. How to establish a basal

We require all administered subdomains to have a basal (6 consecutive U's or reach item 1). **This may mean that you ask the respondent about topics that are earlier than the age-based start point topic.** That is OK and is expected. After reviewing multiple cases, we see this happens most frequently for older Candidates on the Interpersonal Relationships and Expressive subdomains but it can happen for any subdomain for Candidates of any age. **Please review all administered subdomains to ensure that a basal has been reached before mailing us the Interview Form.**

Here is a detailed example of how you would administer the Vineland-4 Pilot Interview to reach the basal. The Interview is intended to be administered by topic until 6 U's or Yes's are reached, or you get back to Item 1. The order of administration is:

1. Start at the candidate's age start point. In the image below, it is topic J (Item 38) for a 16 year old candidate.
2. Administer the topic for that age start point (Topic J). Ask the topic question, then fill out the ratings for the items in Topic J based on the information that the respondent provides. Note that this includes items before the age-based start point, that is ok. You should rate those as well.
3. Move to the next topic, K. Ask the topic question, then fill out the ratings for the items in topic K based on the information that the respondent provides. At this point, you have rated the last item in the subdomain.
4. In order for the basal to be established, move to the previous topic, in this image it is topic H. Note that this is before the age based start point, but must be administered to get 6 Us in a row. Ask that topic question and fill out ratings for the H items based on the respondent information.
5. Continue this pattern until you reach 6 consecutive U or Yes ratings, or Item 1.

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

SOCIALIZATION DOMAIN

INTERVIEW TOPICS

A Beginning Social Behavior	D Recognizing Self & Others	G Friendships	J Taking Others' Perspective
B Responding to Familiar People	E Imitating Others	H Demonstrating Caring	K Interpersonal Flexibility
C Expressing & Recognizing Emotions	F Interpersonal Appropriateness	I Conversational Skills	* Mandatory Items

		Performs independently:			
		usually	sometimes	never	✓ if guessed
I	33. Has conversations with others without interrupting too often. A conversation is a back-and-forth exchange that lasts at least two to three turns per person. Rate N if the person does not have conversations by this definition.	U	S	N	
J	34. Tells other people what they are thinking and feeling instead of assuming that others know. For example: says, "That hurt my feelings," "This is really important to me."	U	S	N	
4:00-4:11 I	35. Stays on topic in conversations. That is, they do not change the subject too often. A conversation is a back-and-forth exchange that lasts at least two to three turns per person. Rate N if the person does not have conversations by this definition.	U	S	N	
H	36. Responds positively when good things happen to others. For example: congratulates a friend who receives an award.	U	S	N	
K	37. Is willing to do an activity suggested by a friend, even if it is not their first choice. Focus on the person's flexibility in doing activities they do not prefer. Rate N if they only do things they prefer, even if the activities are suggested by others. If the respondent has not had the chance to observe this, ask them to guess a rating and make a check mark in the last column.	U	S	N	
5:00-5:11 J	38. Asks about or references the interests of others in conversation. For example: "Tyrone tells me you like cars." The person's questions or remarks must fit the situation, role, and setting in order to count. A conversation is a back-and-forth exchange that lasts at least two to three turns per person. Rate N if the person does not have conversations by this definition.	U	S	N	
K	39. Has conversations about things that do not interest them. The person's ability to keep the conversation going is more important than if they enjoy it. A conversation is a back-and-forth exchange that lasts at least two to three turns per person. Rate N if the person does not have conversations by this definition.	U	S	N	
J	40. Responds to hints or indirect cues in conversation. For example: knows that a yawn may mean "I'm bored;" an abrupt change of subject may mean, "I don't want to talk about that;" looking at the time may mean, "I need to end this conversation." A conversation is a back-and-forth exchange that lasts at least two to three turns per person. Rate N if the person does not have conversations by this definition.	U	S	N	
J	41. Notices when someone does not understand <u>and</u> explains it again. For example: "In case you missed what I said..." "What I meant was..." The person must take the other's point of view to know when to do this.	U	S	N	

Review the Vineland-4 Pilot Manual starting on Page 19 for specific instructions and examples on how to correctly administer the Interview Form by topic to establish the basal and the ceiling. The Examiner Training Video also has a helpful section that illustrates these rules.

2. When to administer Mandatory Items

Mandatory items are only required for the age-applicable subdomains. If you don't administer a subdomain because the Candidate's age does not require it, then you do not need to administer the mandatory items that are part of that subdomain. Also note that **every** mandatory item should be rated for the subdomains that you administer for the Candidate. Table 1.2 on Page 3 of the Vineland-4 Pilot Manual lists which subdomains are administered to which ages. The ages are also listed on the first page of the subdomain on the Interview Form.

FINE MOTOR (Ages 0:00–9:11)

MOTOR SKILLS DOMAIN

INTERVIEW TOPICS

A Handling Objects	D Using Writing Tools	G Coloring	J Precise Movements
B Manipulating Things	E Hand Coordination	H Using Scissors	K Using Technology
C Opening Doors	F Drawing	I Tying	* Mandatory Items

				Performs independently:			
				usually	sometimes	never	✓ if guessed
0:00–0:11	A	1. Reaches for a toy or object.		U	S	N	
	A	2. Picks up objects. They may use both hands.		U	S	N	

For example, Fine Motor subdomain is only administered for Candidates ages 0:0–9:11. Therefore, Mandatory Items for Fine Motor on page 44 of the Interview Form should only be administered for Candidates ages 0:0–9:11. You would skip the whole subdomain (including the Mandatory items) for a Candidate who is older than 9:11. You would administer the subdomain and every Mandatory item for a Candidate who is 9:11 and younger.

For additional questions or support, please email contentdevfeedback@pearson.com.

We look forward to continuing work with you.

Sincerely,

The Vineland-4 Pilot Content Development Team

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