Scoring Rubric for Short Answer Responses on Botany Test Questions
Four Levels of Achievement (5pt question)

Exemplary (5 pts)
  General Approach. Addresses the question. States only relevant, correct answer. Presents arguments in a logical order. Uses acceptable style and grammar (no glaring errors).
  Comprehension. Demonstrates a clear and complete understanding of the question. Backs conclusions with scientific information and justification. Uses 2 or more ideas, examples and/or arguments that support their answer (unless restricted to one). Descriptions of biological significance can also demonstrate comprehension.

High Quality (4 pts)
  General Approach. Combination of above traits, but less consistently represented (1 error).
  Comprehension. Same as above but less thorough. Uses fewer arguments or examples to support answer.

Adequate (3 pts)
  General Approach. Does not address the question explicitly, although does so tangentially. States a somewhat relevant and justifiable answer. Presents arguments in a logical order.
  Comprehension. Demonstrates only minimal understanding of question because does not back conclusions with scientific information and justification. Uses only one idea to support the answer. Less thorough than above.

Needs Improvement (0 pts)
  General Approach. Does not address the question. States no relevant answers. Indicates misconceptions. Is not clearly or logically organized. Fails to use acceptable style and grammar (two or more errors).
  Comprehension. Does not demonstrate understanding of the question. Does not provide evidence to support their answer to the question.

No Answer (0 pts) -- --

Demonstrates Wide Lack of Knowledge (negative pts)
  Comprehension. Does not demonstrate understanding of the question. Does not provide evidence to support their answer to the question and also demonstrates a lack on knowledge regarding subjects not directly addressed in the test question.