Ideas for assessment benchmarks

multiple-choice quiz/questionnaire

- All students will score an 85% correct or better on the quiz (one benchmark for entire questionnaire)
- At least 85% of students will answer question A correctly (separate benchmarks for each question)
- The number of correct responses will rise at least 20 percentage points from pretest to posttest (using both a pre and post test)

short answer quiz or worksheet

- For a short answer quiz, you would go with the same type of benchmark as for a multiple choice quiz/questionnaire.
- For a worksheet, it depends how detailed the worksheet is and how detailed you want the assessment to be. Then you can either set a general benchmark level like a quiz, or make a short rubric.

longer assignments using a rubric

- 100% of students will score at the 'developing' level or above on the rubric. (one benchmark for the entire rubric)
- 90% of students get a score of 3 or 4 on on criteria A. (separate benchmarks for each criteria)

The advantage one benchmark for an entire quiz/worksheet/rubric is that it is less time consuming to put the data together. Having a separate benchmark for different questions or rubric criteria allows you to pinpoint where students are struggling. It is also useful when you expect different levels of proficiency for different outcomes—perhaps you just introduced certain skills/concepts to the class where others were covered in prior classes.