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 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.