

Assessment

Criterion Referenced Norm Referenced Summative Formative Objective Subjective

What is Assessment?

According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary the word **assessment** comes from the root word *assess* which is defined as:

- *to determine the rate or amount of (as a tax)*
- *to make an official valuation of (property) for the purposes of taxation*
- *to determine the importance, size, or value of (assess a problem)*
- *to charge (a player or team) with a foul or penalty*

Assessment in education is best described as an action "to determine the importance, size, or value of."

Criterion & Norm Referenced Assessment

Criterion Referenced Assessment

Criterion-referenced assessment, typically using a criterion-referenced test, as the name implies, occurs when candidates are measured against defined (and objective) criteria. Criterion-referenced assessment is often, but not always, used to establish a person's competence (whether s/he can do something).

The best known example of criterion-referenced assessment is the driving test, when learner drivers are measured against a range of explicit criteria (*such as "Not endangering other road users"*).

Norm Referenced Assessment

Norm-referenced assessment (colloquially known as "grading on the curve"), typically using a norm-referenced test, is not measured against defined criteria. This type of assessment is relative to the student body undertaking the assessment. It is effectively a way of comparing students.

The IQ test is the best known example of norm-referenced assessment.

Many entrance tests (to prestigious schools or universities) are norm-referenced, permitting a fixed proportion of students to pass ("passing" in this context means being accepted into the school or university rather than an explicit level of ability).

Formative and Summative

Summative assessment - Summative assessment is generally carried out at the end of a course or project. *In an educational setting, summative assessments are typically used to assign students a course grade.*

Formative assessment - Formative assessment is generally carried out throughout a course or project. Formative assessment, also referred to as "educative assessment," is used to aid

learning. *In an educational setting, formative assessment might be a teacher (or peer) or the learner, providing feedback on a student's work, and would not necessarily be used for grading purposes.*

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***When the cook tastes the soup, that's formative.
When the guests taste the soup, that's summative***

Objective and Subjective

- Assessment (either summative or formative) is often categorized as either objective or subjective.
- Objective assessment is a form of questioning which has a single correct answer.
- Subjective assessment is a form of questioning which may have more than one correct answer (or more than one way of expressing the correct answer).
- There are various types of objective and subjective questions.
- Objective question types include true/false answers, multiple choice, multiple-response and matching questions.
- Subjective questions include extended-response questions and essays.
- Objective assessment is well suited to the increasingly popular computerized or online assessment format.

Formal & Informal

Formal – we sit down and assess

Informal – we notice and ask “huh”...

That’s Right...

HUH?

We shift from judgment to curiosity...

