

Choosing the Right Assessment

Quality instructional design principles call for aligning the complexity of the assessment to that of the learning outcome. A useful tool is to match the Bloom's taxonomy level of the outcome with the assessment to pick the right assessment for the job.

Simple to Complex

Bloom's Taxonomy	Verb Used in Outcome	Assessment Options
Synthesizing: Combining ideas to create a new whole	Categorize, combine, compile, create, devise, design, explain, generate, modify, organize, plan, rearrange, relate, reorganize, revise, rewrite, summarize	Create an original product, combine different ideas thematically or with meaning into a new whole, use project-based scenarios that require information from multiple sources, develop procedures or plans
Evaluating: Making determinations about the value of specific information.	Appraise, compare, conclude, criticize, critique, defend, discriminate, evaluate, explain, interpret, support, justify	Literary reviews, mock debates, craft solutions to long-standing, and real-world problems, review strategic options, assess sustainability of solutions, produce justifications, calculate the effects of a plan
Analyzing: Separating whole pieces of information into component parts	Analyze, compare, contrast, diagram, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, illustrate, relate, infer, select, separate	Create a portfolio of essays analyzing one problem, demonstrate interrelated concepts, distinguish via creating visual diagrams, choose best method for solving a problem and then doing it, write an essay on subtle differences, measure needs
Applying: Using an idea in a new set of circumstances.	Apply, compute, construct, demonstrate, manipulate, modify, operate, predict, prepare, produce, relate, show, solve, use	Compute answers to multi-step problems, demonstrate reactions to a given problem, put theory into effect, apply facts to solve problems
Understanding: Making meaning of facts and ideas in one's own words.	Convert, distinguish, estimate, explain, generalize, give examples of, interpret, paraphrase, rewrite, summarize, translate	Multiple choice, true/false, short-answer essay, match cause and effect or classification, predict using principles, choose best definition, examples, summaries, ordering information into groups
Remembering: Simple identification and recall of information.	Define, describe, identify, label, list, match, name, outline, recall, recognize, reproduce, select, state	Multiple choice, true/false, matching, listing, identify facts and locations, label or order, define, quote law or procedure



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