

Tikrit University
College of Education for Humanities
English Department



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Testing, measurement and evaluation
Testing and Assessment

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A test

A test is one form of assessment and refers to procedures used to measure a learners' learning at a specific point in time and often involves collective information in numerical form. Common forms of tests are multiple choice questions and gap-fill or cloze tests. In English classes, teachers also need to assess their students' learning to determine the effectiveness of their teaching and of the materials they use.

A test refers to a tool, technique or a method that is intended to measure students knowledge or their ability to complete a particular task. In this sense, testing can be considered as a form assessment, such as validity and reliability.

A test or quiz is used to examine someone's knowledge of something to determine what he or she knows or has learned. Testing measures the level of skill or knowledge that has been reached.

Assessment is the process of collecting information about learners using different methods or tools (e.g. tests, quizzes,...)

Educators assess their students for a variety of purposes:

a-to evaluate learners' educational need.

b- to diagnose students' academic readiness.

c-to measure their progress in a course.

d-to measure skill acquisition

Assessment is the process of documenting knowledge, skill, attitudes and beliefs, usually in measurable terms. The goal of assessment is to make improvements as opposed to simply being judged. In an educational contexts, assessment is the process of describing, collecting, recording, scoring and interpreting information about learning.

Assessment is the process of collecting information about students from diverse sources so that educators can form an idea of what they know and can do with this knowledge. While education is concerned with making judgments about instruction, a curriculum, or an educational

system, assessment is concerned with the students' performance. In other words, one assesses an individual but evaluates a program, a curriculum, an educational system etc.

Assessment and testing

Assessment is a popular and sometimes misunderstood term in current educational practice. You might be tempted to think of assessing and testing as a synonymous terms, but they are not. Lets differentiate between these two concepts.

Assessment is apprising or estimating the level or magnitude of some attribute of a person. In educational practice, assessment is an ongoing process that encompasses a wide range of methodological techniques. Whenever students responds to a question, offers a comment, or tries out a new word or structure, the teacher subconsciously makes an appraisal of the student's performance.

Tests, on the other hand are a subset of assessment, a genre of assessment techniques. They are prepared administrative procedures that occur at identifiable times in a curriculum when learners muster all their faculties to offer peak performance, knowing that their responses are being measured and evaluated. In scientific terms, a test is a method of measuring a person's ability, knowledge or performance in a given domain. The components of this definition :

A test is **first a method**. It is an instrument, a set of techniques, procedures or items that requires performance on the part of the test-taker. To qualify as a test, the method must be explicit and structured: multiple choice questions with prescribed correct answers, a writing prompt with a scoring rubric, an oral interview based on a question script, or a checklist of expected responses to be filled in by the administrator.

Second, a test must **measure**, which may be defined as a process of quantifying a test-taker's performance according to explicit procedures or rules. Some tests measure general ability, where as others focus on very specific competencies or objectives. A multi skill proficiency test determines a general ability level; a quiz on recognizing correct use of definite articles measures specific knowledge. Some tests such as, a

classroom-based, short answer essay, may earn the test-taker a letter grade accompanied by the instructor's marginal comments.

Third, a test measures **an individual's** ability, knowledge, or performance. Teachers need to understand who the test-taker are. What are their previous experiences and backgrounds? Is the test appropriately matched to their abilities?

Fourth, A test measures **performance**, but the results imply the test-taker's ability or to use a term common in the field of linguistics, **competence**. Most language tests measure one's ability to perform language, that is, to speak, write, read, or listen to a subset of language.

Finally, a test measures **a given domain**. For example in the case of proficiency test , even though the actual performance on the test involves only a sampling of skills, the domain is overall proficiency in a language, general competence in all skills of a language. Other tests may have more specific criteria. A test of pronunciation might well be a test of only a limited set of phonemic minimal pairs. A vocabulary test may focus on only the set of words covered in a particular lesson or unit.

A well-constructed test is an instrument that provides an accurate measure of the test-taker's ability within a particular domain.

Purposes of assessment

- 1-Placement: to place or classify students on a suitable course.
- 2-Diagnosis: to specify student's particular strengths and weaknesses.
- 3-Selection: to select as fairly as possible the best candidates for a limited number of places or jobs or for higher education studies.
- 4-Evaluation : to evaluate the effectiveness of the syllabus as well as the method of teaching so as to make adjustments where needed.
- 5- Progress: to assess what students have learned of the specific syllabus and what progress they have made.
- 6-Predivtion: to discover potential abilities and aptitudes and to predict probable future successes in school or outside.

7-Accreditation: to provide evidence that a student has undergone a course of training or study and is qualified to practice his profession.

Q:Which one is wider (Assessment or test)?

Educational language assessment involves the use of a variety of procedures and tools to collect information about teaching and learning, and more importantly about students' language ability which is not only useful but necessary to prepare them for success. The most common kind of assessment procedure is testing.

Testing means presenting a student with a set of questions or tasks in order to obtain a measure of performance often represented by a score. The score is intended to give information about the person tested.

The differences between assessment and test

Test and assessment are used interchangeably but they do mean something different

Assessment	Test
1-Assessment is seen as a procedure instead of a product. 2-Assessment is used during and after the instruction has taken place. 3-Assessment is the systematic process of documenting and using empirical data to measure knowledge, skills, attitudes and beliefs. 4-Assessment might show that students actually understands facts and figures, or a specific process.	1-Test is a "product" that measures a particular behavior or set of objectives. 2-Tests are done after the instruction has taken place, it is a way to complete the instruction and get the results. The results of the tests do not have to be interpreted, unlike assessment. 3-A test is used to examine someone's knowledge of something to determine what that person knows or has learned. 4-Testing might show the student's ability to memorize facts and figures, instead of a true understanding of those facts and figures.

<p>5-Assessment can have different formats.</p> <p>A-They might require a student to answer questions . Or an assessment might be a teacher talking to a student about what they know.</p> <p>B-It could be a teacher's observation of a student working or talking about a subject. Assessment also be graded assignments, presentations, or class work that helps a teacher get an idea of what a student knows and doesn't know.</p>	<p>5-Test usually follow a general format, where questions are asked and students answer them , they might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -essay questions -multiple-choice questions -fill-in-the-blank questions -or true or false questions <p>But the overall format is the same.</p>
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Types of test

- Achievement test
- Diagnostic test
- placement test
- proficiency test
- aptitude test

Types of Assessment

- Informal and formal assessment
- formative and summative assessment
- norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment

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