

What do we mean by assessment?

A range of synonyms in English:

 Examinations, Evaluations, Appraisal, Judgements, Measurement, Review, Opinion, Consideration, Estimation

Practically:

 Taken to mean any 'formal' review of performance or ability – exams at any time, in-course assignments, practicals etc.



Our aim - for you ...

- · Write good MCQ questions
- · Set a fair pass score
- · Interpret item analysis
- Create effective assessments emphasising educational impact
- · Develop and use assessment vocabulary





The schedule...

0900 MCQ writing then coffee



1130 Psychometrics and Item analysis

1215 LUNCH

1315 Principles for designing assessments

1415 Designing your own assessments & tea

1540 Review and discuss designs

1620 Feedback forms and Close

Example MCQ - of SBA type

Mr. J.S., a 55 year old accountant presents to the emergency room with crushing chest pain which began three hours ago and is worsening. The pain radiates down the left arm. He appears sweaty. BP is 120/80 mm Hg, pulse 90 per minute and irregular. An ECG is taken.

What is the most likely change you will see in his ECG?

- a) Inverted t-wave and elevated ST segment
- b) Enhanced R wave
- c) RSR' pattern
- d) Increased Q wave and R wave

Case and Swanson (1998) Constructing Written Test Questions for the Basic and Clinical Sciences. NBME

Example SJT For FY1 Ranking in the UK

 $From \ \ UKFPO \ Web \ site \ \ http://www.found \ ationprog \ ramme.nhs.uk/pages/medical-students/SJT-EPM$

You are looking after Mr Kucera who has previously been treated for prostate carcinoma. Preliminary investigations are strongly suggestive of a recurrence. As you finish taking blood from a neighbouring patient, Mr Kucera leans across and says "tell me honestly, is my cancer back"

How should you respond to Mr Kucera?

Example SJT For FY1 Ranking in the UK

From UKFPO Website http://www.found.ationprogramm.e.n.hs.uk/pages/m.edical-students/SJT-EPM

Rank in order: 1= Most appropriate; 5= Least appropriate

- A. Explain to Mr Kucera that it is likely that his cancer has come back
- B. Reassure Mr Kucera that he will be fine
- C. Explain to Mr Kucera that you do not have all the test results, but you will speak to him as soon as you do $\,$
- D. Inform Mr Kucera that you will chase up the results of his tests and ask one of your senior colleagues to discuss them with him
- E. Invite Mr Kucera to join you and a senior nurse in a quiet room, get a colleague to hold your 'bleep' then explore his fears

What is a Situational Judgement Test?

From UKFPO Website http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/medical-studients/SJT-EP

SJTs are:

- · a test of aptitude
- designed to assess the professional attributes expected of a Foundation doctor
- · based on a detailed job analysis of an FY1 doctor

SJT questions assess your judgement by presenting you with challenging situations you are likely encounter at work during the first year of an integrated Foundation Programme

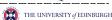


Writing and Using MCQs

- · Why use MCQs?
- T/F questions and Best of X
- · Avoiding pitfalls in writing MCQs
- Steps for writing MCQs





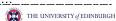


Why are MCQs useful?



- · Saves marking time / acceptable
- CAN test knowledge, judgement & justifying
- · Excellent sampling reliable results
- · Apparently fair to students same questions
- · 'Correct answer' is widely viewed / debated
- · CAN offer focused feedback on each option
- · Correlation with clinical tests and practice
- Tough testing in a safe environment
- Likely to be cost-effective.....

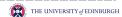




Limitations of MCQs

- Some cognitive and practical skills cannot be examined in this format
- Students might rote learn more likely if <u>bad</u> MCQs reward rote learning
- Students only able to *identify* the correct answers without understanding content.
- Students may favour book over experiential learning





What can we assess with MCQs? Work-based practice SHOWS HOW KNOWS HOW KNOWS MCQs mainly address Knowing and Knowing How Miller GE. The assence of divide 4 illivorapeter of performance. Andrew Medicine [Interest], 1990-5519, Moreoval And College and Interest of the performance of the college of the medical discussion and the performance of the perf

What 'knowledge' can we assess with MCQs?

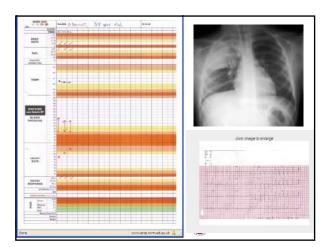
Knows and Knows How includes:

- Application
- · Analysis
- · Synthesis
- Evaluation

 Comprehension
 Much knowledge and application of knowledge relevant to practice of medicine: describe, explain, diagnose, choose Ix, Mx, interpret, justify.

Bloom, B.S., Krathwohl, D.R. & Masia, B.B., 1984. Taxonomy of educational objectives: the dassification of educational goals. New York: Longman. objectives: the





Writing good questions

- 1. Must be based on stated learning outcomes
- 2. Emphasis should be on the important
- 3. Test range of cognitive skills
- 4. Write as you go after teaching/ lectures/ reading
- 5. Experiment and use the feedback / item analysis

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Terms for Single Best Answer Question

case based on examples from Case and Swanson 2008 $www.nbme.org/pdf/itemwriting_2003/2003 iwgwhole.pdf$

≥ ш 46yr old w pain, naus tests show 137U/L, AI

Note the STEM includes the SCENARIO and the LEAD-IN QUESTION.

Normal ranges removed due to lack of space.

S The most Invery dragnosis

a.Acute pancreatitis (DISTRACTOR) b.Acute viral hepatitis (DISTRACTOR)

c.Ascending cholangitis (KEYED/CORRECT ANSWER)

d.Haemolytic hyperbilirubinaemia (DISTRACTOR) e.Drug reaction with cholestatic jaundice (DISTRACTOR)

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A GOOD SCENARIO

- Authentic clinical context think about patients
- · Addresses range of topics, diseases, clinical contexts.
- Emphasises the more important LOs/topics.
- · Uses non-identifiable data and investigations.
- · Follows the house-style for presenting the information.

Edinburgh MBChB House-style for SCENARIOS

- · Allow 90 secs per question this will guide what goes into the question
- Good structure, 30-120 (max 150) words, concise description using present tense, no immaterial facts, does not deliberately mislead or include bad practice.
- Includes information on some of the following in this order:
 - age, gender (man/woman/boy/girl), symptoms, duration, the setting IF relevant, relevant past history, family history, social history
- Presents examination findings in this order:
 - temperature, pulse e.g. 90 bpm, blood pressure, respiratory rate e.g. 20 breaths per minute.
 - Mini-mental state examination and Glasgow coma score
- · Physical findings giving positive/abnormal findings first
- Results and investigations in logical, standardised order giving normal
- Signs and symptoms of a clinical state e.g. dehydration, rather than the medical summary.

Data and Images in **SCENARIOS**

- Add data and/or images where possible and relevan rather than report findings only.
- To access teaching images/photographs in NHS Lothian you can seek a Medical Image Manager Use Profile

Contact: medical.photography@wlt.scot.nhs.uk

- · Photographs need explicit written consent
- X-rays can be used IF they have no name/ ID, and have no additional features such as pathology or jewellery that might identify patient.
- ECGs basically same rules as for X-rays

A GOOD QUESTION

- Tests a range of learning outcomes -biomedical /social science / ethics as well as diagnosis, clinical management and prescribing.
- Tests a range of relevant cognitive skills (<u>recall</u> of causes and drugs, <u>interpretation</u> of results, <u>judgement</u> of likely diagnosis).
- · Asks for the single BEST answer and not which one is TRUE e.g.
 - What is the most likely diagnosis? (Others may be reasonable)
 - What is the **best** description of the process?
 - What is the most likely site of the lesion?
- · Passes the cover test
- · Avoids asking what does NOT apply e.g. what is the least likely diagnosis

A GOOD SET OF OPTIONS

- · Similar in style and length reasonably short
- Grammatically correct all flow from the lead-in question without 'cueing' the correct answer
- Homogeneous (all treatments, or diagnoses as required by the question)
- All options plausible, familiar to students and possibly appropriate, BUT one is better than the others
- BEST (keyed/correct) answer is widely agreed by experts conforms to UK practice and NICE/SIGN guidelines
- Listed in order e.g. alphabetically or numerically as appropriate (but drawback if re-using question)

Steps to Create SBA Questions

See Appendix Template

CHOOSE THEME /TOPIC / LOs e.g. Anatomy of hand

SKILL/ QUESTION

What is the best description of the anatomical lesion?

 $\label{eq:warming} \textbf{WRITE SCENARIO} - \text{e.g.} \ \underline{\text{Man with swan neck deformity of finger}} \\ \text{with photograph}$

OPTIONS:

- 1. Rupture flexor digitorum profundus tendons
- 2. Rupture flexor digitorum superficialis tendons
- 3. Rupture extensor digitorum tendons
- 4. Rupture extensor digitorum minimi tendon
- 5 Plausible alternative from students' misconcentions

Steps to Create SBA Questions

- Other Themes -

CHOOSE THEME / TOPIC / LOs e.g. Pathology SKILL/ QUESTION –

What are the most likely findings at autopsy?

SCENARIO – *Relevant limited* details. e.g. man with chest pain worse on breathing, fever, ECG (provided). Avoid red herrings and traps. NB: Empirical data is usually *more difficult*.

OPTIONS:

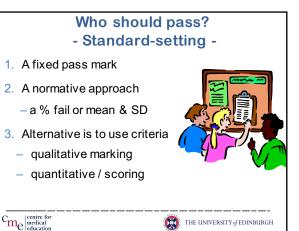
- 1.Inflammation of pleura
- 2.Inflammation of pericardium
- $3. Thrombus \ in \ the \ left \ main \ coronary \ artery$
- 4. Plausible alternative from students' misconceptions
- 5. Plausible alternative from students' misconceptions

6 Take-home Messages on MCQs Ideas for this talk were informed by: www.nbme.org/pdf/itemwriting_2003/2003iwgwhole.pdf • MCQs correlate well with clinical exams

- MCQs correlate well with clinical exams
- MCQs are reliable because of sampling
 - MCQs are fair due to reliability and same exam for all
- SBA better than T/F for summative clinical exams
 - MCQs must be well-written and pass the cover test
- MCQs can be improved with feedback and item analysis

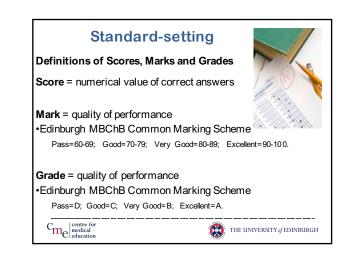




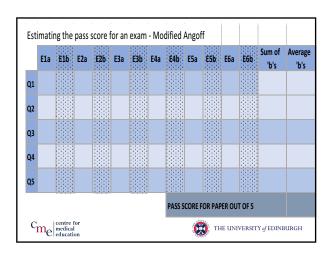


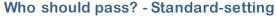
STUDENT ID NUMBER			CASE REPORT ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK					MODULE		
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Point	Description of Criteria for Academic Writing in a Foreign Language
10	A complicated, coherent, well-grounded text is created The main thought/thoughts or idea/ideas are conveyed. The text is coherent, logically organized, clearly structured, outlines the main ideas for a reader. Excellent usage of complicated special terminology and lexical collocations of a specialty language in the required context. Grammatical accuracy of academic writing. Appropriate length.
9	A clear, well-structured text is created outlining essential things. The main thought/thoughts or idea/ideas are conveyed. The text is coherent. Some complicated speciality terms are missed in the required context or some lexical collocations of the speciality language are misused. A few grammar mistakes. Appropriate length.
8	A text in which the idea is systemically developed and supporting ideas are provided is created. The main thought/thoughts or idea/ideas are conveyed, but not always in an appropriate form; some sentences or parts of a sentence are copied from the original text word for word. A text is not sufficiently coherent; basic points are appropriately outlined. Non-complicated specialty terms and lexical collocations of the specialty language prevail in the required context. A few transmar mistakes.



Setting the Pass Score - Modified Angoff Method Several judges – aware of level & course outcomes Discuss the purpose of the test Describe 'borderline students' Consider difficulty & importance of each question Estimate fraction of borderline students to answer each question correctly Discuss major discrepancies, review real performance data, re-estimate Average judges' estimates for questions and total After exam, exam lead looks at item analysis as reality check Consider Hofstee or Cohen to modify standard.





- For MCQs/OSCEs Modified Angoff/Ebel
 - based on test questions
 - decided by team of experts
 - agree pass SCORE & convert to University pass mark
 - all students' scores are converted
- For OSCEs Borderline +/- Regression
 - based on observing candidates performance
 - decided by all examiners
 - calculate pass SCORE
 - convert all scores as above





Ideal Standard Setting Methods

Consult enough experts for judgements
Inform judgements with real test data
Employ diligence without overburdening
Are supported by research evidence
Are easy to understand and put into practice
Deliver credible standards



Final word on standard setting

'Standard-setting can be tiresome but setting standards is just as important as setting the tasks and marking the output from the candidates.'

Professor Brian Jolly 1999

Standards are always arbitrary, but need not be capricious.'

WJ Popham 1978



1 • Standard-setting is not a new activity 2 • Criterion-referenced mark schemes set standards 3 • Standard-setting process required for MCQs and OSCEs 4 • Fixed mark & normative approach - variable standards 5 • Process must be doable & credible – will affect validity 6 • No absolute test of accuracy of standard-setting

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Psychometrics

- · What does the assessment tell us?
- · Was the assessment reliable and valid?
- · How did the questions perform?
- Are there errors we need to fix, or changes we need to make?
- · Are we happy to let the results stand?

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Psychometrics

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- Most "high level" questions of reliability and validity will be dealt with by module organisers and assessment experts
- BUT if you are producing any assessment (MCQ questions, OSCE stations) you will need to know something about item analysis



Item analysis

- Information about how each question/item performed
 - Used to evaluate your own performance as an assessor, author and educator
 - Used to evaluate student performance and confidence in results



Difficulty

- The proportion of candidates who got the question correct
- Scored from 0 (everyone got it wrong) to 1 (everyone got it right)
- · Very useful and important to look at
 - Did the overwhelming majority get that "must know" question right?
 - What don't they know yet?



Difficulty

- A question has a difficulty of 0.15 (15% of the class got it right)
 - Why might this be?
 - What would you do about it?
- A second question has a difficulty of 0.95 (95% of the class got it right)
 - Why might this be?
 - What would you do about it?



Discrimination

- · Exams are intended to discriminate
- · Not everyone performs identically
 - Can we distinguish between high and low performers?
 - Can we identify how competent different candidates are?



Discrimination

- · Higher numbers are better
 - A NEGATIVE number is especially worrisome
 - This means it discriminates in the wrong direction
 - Candidates who do well overall perform worse at this question
 - What causes low discrimination?



Item-total correlation

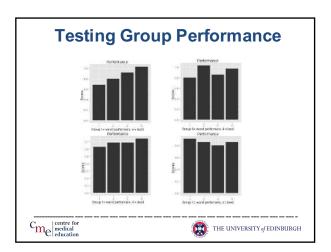
- Scores on a question are correlated with exam scores
 - Higher values mean the candidates who do well at this question do well overall
 - When values are close to zero the question tells us nothing about overall performance
 - When values are NEGATIVE this means candidates who do well on this question do badly overall



Visual Inspection

- · Where possible, a visual overview helps
- Comparing group performance and trends helps clarify what is going on
- Plots, combined with key statistics, give an excellent overview of examperformance





Common Problems with Items

- · Too many very easy questions
- Poor distractors think carefully if nobody has picked an option!
- Negatively discriminating questions make it difficult to tell who is competent and who is not



Things to do with item analysis

- · Standard setting
 - How did they do compared to what you expected?
- Check competence
 - Are they able to get the 'must know' items right?
- Check spread of ability
 - Are the excellent and poor students different?
- Monitor teaching
 - Does a change in teaching equal change in scores?



Practical

- · Look at some mock questions
- Discuss the good/bad points about the questions and what could be done to improve them
- Think about how the item analysis could inform teaching



Psychometrics

- · What does the assessment tell us?
- Was the assessment reliable and valid?
- How did the questions perform?
- Are there errors we need to fix, or changes we need to make?
- Are we happy to let the results stand?



PRINCIPLE 1: Usefulness of Assessment depends on several factors

Reliability: Can it consistently discriminate? Validity: Does it measure what was intended?

Cost effectiveness: Can we afford it - added value?

Acceptability: Will people agree to use it?

Educational impact: Does it have +ve influence?

UTILITY = $R_w \times V_w \times C_w \times A_w \times E_w$

van der Vleuten, C.P., 1996. The assessment of professional competence: developments, research and practical implicati Advances in Health Sciences Education, 1(1), pp.41–67. van der Vleuten, C.P.M. & Schwicht, L.W.T., 2005. Assessing professional competence: from methods to programmes. Medical Education, 39(3), pp.309–317.

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Validity and Reliability

Validity: how confident we can be about the inferences and decisions we make on the basis of the results

- i.e. a defensible interpretation of scores (Messick 1989)

Reliability: consistently discriminates between students.....



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A reliable but invalid test



Reliability

- · is necessary but not sufficient for validity
- determines upper limit of validity (Achilles heel)





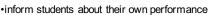
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Blueprinting Assessment to reflect Learning A Prescribing Course

TYPES of MODULE LOs	Cognitive Skills	Practical Skills	Professional behaviours	Everyday action
MCQs Dec	MoA, SE, Monitor Interact			
OSCEs June	Use BNF and choose analgesics	Script & Explain a script	Respect Shared decision re drug	
MultiSource Feedback Dec: Formative June: Summative		Review of scripts & Comm- unication	Interpersonal skills, Diligence, Response to feedback,	Same activity in work situation

Assessment affects Learning





- inform tutors about students' misunderstandings (diagnosis)
- •inform tutors about standards of performance
- •inform future tutors / employers about next stage of learning
- •inform management / public about quality of education

Having assessment

- •encourages learning that is tested but may get in the way
- •promotes certain learning approaches e.g. surface, strategic, deep
- •develops learning more than teaching alone but consider anxiety
- •influences timing of learning
- •focuses attention on certain components of curriculum
- •may surface/clarify the (hidden) curriculum





Assessment affects Learning



What are the consequences of this principle?

- 1. assessments must match the learning outcomes (LOs)
- 2. good sampling of LOs required in every assessment
- need (limited) variety of assessment types to cover K/S/B, personal preferences, and encourage understanding
- 4. plan the number, timing and frequency of assessments
- 5. students expect clarity about curricula and expected answer
- 6. consider role & timing of feedback and formative assessmen





PRINCIPLE 1: Usefulness of Assessment depends on several factors

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Van der Vleuten CPM, Schuwith LWT. Assessing professional competence: from methods to programmes. Educ. 2005. Mar 39(3):30 9- 17.

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PRINCIPLE 1: Usefulness of Assessment depends on several factors

What are the consequences of this principle?

- •we need to think about a combination of criteria when designing assessments
- •there is no perfect assessment so a programme of assessments to balance benefits and deficits is best
- •when any one criterion is extremely low it will drastically reduce the usefulness of the assessment overall
- •we cannot have valid exam results that are not reliable
- •but we can have reliable exam results that are not valid



PRINCIPLE 2: Define the purpose of assessment first and design accordingly



Why assess?

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Record of achievement Summative assessment

Summative assessment
Reassure patients, public, taxpayers, employers

Why Assess?

Promoting appropriate learning

Formative assessment and feedback Steering effect Lifelong learning

Quality control

Programme evaluation Staff development





PRINCIPLE 2: Define the purpose of assessment first and design accordingly

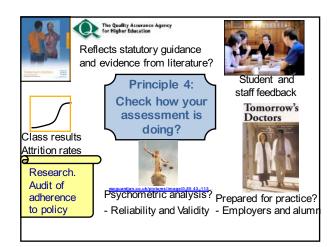
What are the consequences of this principle?

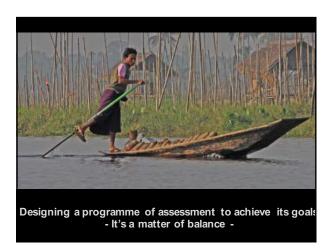
We need to be clear about purpose and adapt the:

- · the setting, frequency of the assessment
- rigour e.g. no. of markers, training, marksheets
- emphasis/compromise on feedback
- · spend in terms of money/time/staff effort
- weighting given to results for programme review/audit

PRINCIPLE 3: A Partnership - a need for Assessment Literacy RULES OF PROGRESSION EXPLANATION ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT Criteria and Mark Schemes Standard setting THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH







1415-1540 Design Your Assessments + TEA This task emphasises students' needs in assessment and developing their assessment literacy

You are the **new multidisciplinary course team** meeting to plan the assessments for the Final Year 20 credit, 4-month course on Care of Elderly

Learning outcomes for the course:

- 1. Describe the underpinning scientific principles of relevant diseases.
- 2. Consult with patients, with regard to ethical principles.
- 3. Make diagnosis & plan management taking account of psychosocial factors.
- 4. Perform cannulation.

Assessment tools for the course:

2 MCQ exams, 2 Clinical 'stations', Professionalism assessment, Case report

Divide out the cards in your group - read and discuss them.

Decide **when** each assessment tool will occur, whether it will be **formative** or **summative** and which **enhancements** you'll use around each.

BE PREPARED TO JUSTIFY ALL YOUR DECISIONS WRT 'UTILITY'

