

3-1: Introduction To And Administration Of Oral And Written Tests

Purpose

To measure student understanding and retention of technical information and to evaluate student accomplishment of the cognitive learning objectives

Written Tests

- Can be objective or subjective
- Objective
 - Measures cognitive learning
 - Limited to recall and recognition
- Subjective
 - Measures cognitive learning
 - Measures analysis, evaluation and interpretation

Multiple-choice Test

- An objective test
- One of the most versatile tests
- Consists of
 - Stem
 - The question
 - Choices or alternatives
- Discriminate between students

Multiple-choice Test

■ Advantages

- Measures achievement, complex learning objectives, various types of knowledge
- 25% chance of guessing correct answer
- Easy to score

■ Disadvantages

- Cannot measure higher cognitive levels
- Guessing factor of 25%

True/False Tests

- An objective test
- Best known test
- Most abused test
- Statement is entirely true or false
- Standard true/false test
- Modified true/false test

True/False Tests

■ Advantages

- Covers a wide range of subject matter
- Easy to score
- Can promote student interest and discussion points

■ Disadvantages

- 50% chance of correctly guessing the answer
- Cannot test higher learning levels

Matching Test

- An objective test
- Variation of multiple-choice tests
- Good at testing who, what, where, when
- Consists of
 - Problem statement in one column
 - Response options in a second column

Matching Test

■ Advantages

- Minimize guessing correctly
- Cover large amount of material

■ Disadvantages

- Cannot test higher learning levels

Short Answer/completion Test

- A subjective test
- No single answer provided
- A variety of answers may appear
- Measures who, what, when, where, how
- Consists of
 - Short answer
 - Completion

Short Answer/completion Test

■ Advantages

- Can cover a wide range of topics
- Minimizes ability to guess the correct answer

■ Disadvantages

- Time consuming
- Difficult to score
- Answer legibility can be an issue
- Misspelled words

Essay Tests

- A subjective test
- Measures student's ability to analyze, organize, explain concepts
- Consists of
 - Topic or question
 - Student writes a nonfictional response

Essay Tests

■ Advantages

- Guessing is eliminated
- Tests a high level of learning

■ Disadvantages

- Time consuming
- Difficult to score
- Legibility can be an issue
- May contain a variety of opinions and perceptions

Interpretive Exercises

- An objective or subjective test
- Measures comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation
- Consists of
 - Introductory material
 - Test items

Interpretive Exercises

■ Advantages

- Material tested in great depth
- Higher levels of learning tested
- Interesting and appealing to students

■ Disadvantages

- Test items are difficult to construct
- Time consuming
- Require a high level of student reading ability

Oral Tests

- Students are asked questions and must supply answers verbally
- Usually administered one-on-one between instructor and student
- Not commonly used in the fire service
- Two purposes
 - To determine knowledge
 - To determine how a student will react under pressure

Oral Tests

■ Advantages

- Evaluates verbal communication skills
- Can test higher levels of learning

■ Disadvantages

- Time consuming
- Difficult to score due to subjectivity

Test Administration

■ Prior to the test

- Advise students prior to test date
 - Test type
 - Test content
 - Materials needed
- Eliminate adverse conditions
- Maintain test security
- Arrange seating
- Read directions to students
- Ask if there are any questions

Test Administration

- During the test
 - Walk around the room
 - Ensure no cheating is taking place

Test Administration

- Following the test
 - Collect tests and answer sheets
 - Maintain security
 - Score answer sheets
 - Return test materials to the proper authority
 - Report grades

Certification Testing

- Summative tests differ from certification exams
- Summative tests are part of the learning process
- Certification exams are not part of the learning process