

Choosing the Right Assessment Tools

Assessment Tool	Pros	Cons
Multiple Choice Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ easy to grade ✓ objective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reduces assessment to multiple choice answers
Licensing Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ easy to score and compare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ no authentic testing, may outdate
Standardized Cognitive Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ comparable between students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ heavily dependent to exposure to topics on the test
Checklists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ very useful for skills or performances ✓ students know exactly what is missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ can minimize large picture and interrelatedness ✓ evaluation feedback is basically a yes/no - present/absent - without detail
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ displays analytical and synthetic thinking well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ time consuming to grade, can be subjective
Case Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ displays analytical and synthetic thinking well ✓ connects other knowledge to topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ creating the case is time consuming, dependent on student knowledge from multiple areas
Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ displays analytical and synthetic thinking well ✓ authentic if real world situations are used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ difficult to grade due to multiple methods and potential multiple solutions
Oral Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ easily graded with rubric ✓ allows other students to see and learn what each student learned ✓ connects general education goals with discipline-specific courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ difficult for ESL students ✓ stressful for students ✓ takes course time ✓ must fairly grade course content beyond delivery
Debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provides immediate feedback to the student ✓ reveals thinking and ability to respond based on background knowledge and critical thinking ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ requires good rubric ✓ more than one evaluator is helpful ✓ difficult for ESL students ✓ stressful for students ✓ takes course time
Product Creation & Special Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ students can display skills, knowledge, and abilities in a way that is suited to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ must have clearly defined criteria and evaluative measures ✓ "the look" can not over-ride the content
Flowchart or Diagram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ displays original synthetic thinking on the part of the student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ more difficult to grade, requiring a checklist or rubric for a variety of

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ perhaps the best way to display overall high level thinking and articulation abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ different answers difficult for some students to do on the spot
Portfolios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provides the students with a clear record of their work and growth ✓ best evidence of growth and change over time ✓ students can display skills, knowledge, and abilities in a way that is suited to them promotes self-assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ time consuming to grade different content in portfolio makes evaluating difficult and may require training bulky to manage depending on size
Exit Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provides good summative data easy to manage data if Likert-scaled responses are used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Likert scales limit feedback, open-ended responses are bulky to manage,
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provides best display of skills and abilities ✓ provides excellent opportunity for peer review ✓ students can display skills, knowledge, and abilities in a way that is suited to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ stressful for students may take course time some students may take the evaluation very hard - evaluative statements must be carefully framed
Capstone project or course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ best method to measure growth overtime with regards to a course or program - cumulative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ focus and breadth of assessment are important ✓ understanding all the variables to produce assessment results is also important ✓ may result in additional course requirements ✓ requires coordination and agreement on standards
Team Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ connects general education goals with discipline-specific courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ must fairly grade individuals as well as team ✓ grading is slightly more complicated ✓ student interaction may be a challenge
Reflective self-assessment essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provides invaluable ability to evaluate affective growth in students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ must use evidence to support conclusions, not just self-opinionated assessment
Satisfaction and Perception Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provides good indirect data data can be compared longitudinally ✓ can be used to determine outcomes over a long period of time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ respondents may be influenced by factors other than those being considered ✓ validity and reliability must be closely watched