

MCQ Test

Instructions

Time: 7 minutes

The test is OPEN-BOOK. You may consult any materials you wish, including those on the Internet. You may NOT speak to colleagues or ask questions of them. You may NOT communicate with anyone electronically.

For each question, there are four (4) options. Indicate the ONE option you believe to be the BEST answer. Note that some questions might have two options which can be considered correct or “best”. Select just ONE. If you are UNSURE of the answer, you may guess, or you may leave the question unanswered.

A correct answer scores 4 marks. No attempt at an answer, or an incorrect answer, scores 0.

During the test, you should note your answers on the question paper. At the end of the test, transfer your answers to the ANSWER SHEET. Keep the question paper for future reference.

Do NOT turn over before the start of the test.

Scenario: The University wants to improve undergraduate assessment, and sets up a committee from three departments, being the School of Acting, School of Electronics and Computer Science, and the Department of Psychoanalysis, to pilot the initiative. You are appointed to the committee for no very good reason except you apparently attended a workshop on MCQs recently.

Q1 You want to suggest the purchase of a licence for an ECS item bank with over 30,000 computing and electronics MCQ items at a one-off cost of £15,000. The benefits of such an investment would be greatest if the item bank supports the Department's requirements:

- 1 For formative rather than summative assessment.
- 2 For analytic and evaluative capabilities rather than recall and comprehension capabilities.
- 3 For items with demonstrated item-test correlations above 0.2.
- 4 For items with demonstrated difficulties between 0.4 and 0.6.

Q2 The head of the School of Acting approaches you and asks where or how MCQ tests might work for their School. Assume that the underlined clauses starting "given" are true. You reply,

- 1 Given the School emphasises acting practice rather than acting theory, it will need to choose appropriate topics carefully because MCQs work best in the cognitive rather than the psychomotor or affective domains.
- 2 Given the usually subjective and often contentious judgement in School staff assessments of student acting ability, the perfect inter-rater reliability of MCQs means that second, shadow, or double-marking examiners would not be required.
- 3 Given that the principles of good acting have been generally articulated and accepted for some time, the module content of the School is particularly stable, which means that the front-loaded investment in MCQs will receive excellent pay-back subsequently.
- 4 Given that School staff are not particularly numerate, MCQs provide a welcome ability to mark and re-mark an assessment until its internal reliability and consistency reaches an acceptable standard.

Q3 The head of the Department of Psychoanalysis approaches you and asks you about the general *disadvantages* of MCQ testing. You reply that successful MCQ testing requires:

- 1 Significant front-loaded time and effort compared to essay-type assessment.
- 2 Significant familiarity and comfort with statistical concepts.
- 3 Well-articulated intended learning outcomes.
- 4 Summative rather than formative assessment.

Scenario: The Chair of the committee asks you to lead a seminar on constructing effective MCQ test items for any committee members who wish to participate. You can recall four points from your recent workshop:

- 1 Construct feedback for every distractor option.
- 2 Tie every item to the syllabus.
- 3 Ensure items sample the full range of Bloom's cognitive capabilities from remember through comprehension, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.
- 4 Ensure the range of item difficulties are centred on $p = 0.5$.

Q4 Your first topic is "Effective MCQ items for summative assessment". Which one of the above key points would you make with regard to MCQ items for summative assessment?

Q5 Your second topic is "Effective MCQ items for formative assessment". Which one of the above key points would you make with regard to MCQ items for formative assessment?