

# Test Construction Principles

# Types of Test

In traditional assessment or evaluation, tests can be categorized into 2 major types:

- Objective Test
- Subjective Test

## Objective Test

- Multiple Choice
- True-false
- Matching
- Short Answer

## Subjective Test

- Short Answer
- Writing: Paragraph or Essay

(กฤษฎากาญจน์ ไตพิทักษ์. ม.ป.ป.: 7-8; ผดุงชัย ภูพัฒน์, ม.ป.ป.: 3-10; บุญธรรม กิจปรีดาบริสุทธิ์, 2542; อมรา รักษมณี, 2555: 14-17; บรรดล สุขปิติ. 2542: 7-12 อ้างถึงใน มนชิตา เรืองรัมย์. 2556: 47-50; **Jacobs. 2004: 7-15; Brown & Abeywickrama. 2010; Kubiszyn & Borich. 2013** )

## Multiple Choice

How to write a stem/question

- A direct question scheme is accepted.
- The language must be made definite and explicit.
- Non-functioning words can be eliminated.
- Double negatives are unacceptable.

- A good test must not contain any hint to a correct answer.
- A question should be made simple and not too long.
- Meaning modification are allowed but being too flowery and detailed is not necessary.
- It can be used to test knowledge, thinking and skills.

## How to write choices

- A correct one and its distractors always appear together.
- The length of choices must be made consistent.
- 3-5 alternatives for selection are acceptable.
- All the choices must be comprehensible.

Is this a good test?

Multiple Choice

Jack and Joe, my neighbors, give a present to people for.....

- a. Wedding day
- b. New Year day
- c. Birthday
- d. Christmas day

Is this a good test?

1. Helen: Long time no see. How are you?

What should you say?

- a. I'm fine. Thanks.
- b. Oh! Nice to see you again.
- c. Good morning. How have you been?
- d. Do you know me?
- e. Same old, same old.

Is this a good test?



## True-false

- The statements must be clearly true or false (no hedging).
- It can be used to test reading/listening comprehension with a text.
- It can be used to test knowledge without a text.
- A too long sentence is too wordy and useless.
- A compound or a complex sentence is accepted but a too complicated statement can cause confusion.
- The use of double negatives must be avoided.
- All the statements must be made balanced in length.

# Is this a good test?

## Family Members True False Exam

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Read the statements carefully and identify whether they are True or False. Circle the incorrect part and write the correction next to the "False" option.

1. The woman who gave birth to me is my father.

a. True      b. False

2. I am a boy. I am my father's son.

a. True      b. False

3. The mother of my mother is my grandfather.

a. True      b. False

4. The brother of my father is my aunt.

a. True      b. False

# Is this a good test?

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?

*In boxes 1-8 on your answer sheet, write*

**TRUE**            *if the statement agrees with the information*  
**FALSE**          *if the statement contradicts the information*  
**NOT GIVEN**    *if there is no information on this*

- 1      You should not arrive more than half an hour before your allocated starting time.
- 2      Your Rider Identity Card will be sent to you before the event.
- 3      Some roads may have normal traffic flow on them.
- 4      Helmets are compulsory for all participants.

## Matching

- The unequal number of responses and premises can reduce a chance of guessing probability.
- Generally, the response list can be made longer than the premise list but this is adaptable.
- In case there are more premises than the responses, some response is intended to answer some premises.
- Even distractors need to be made possible to be selected with some reason.
- Using only homogeneous material in matching items is preferable.
- A good test must not contain any hint to a correct answer.

# Is this a good test?

Adjectives can compare two or more nouns or pronouns. Add *er* to an adjective to make the comparative form. The superlative form of an adjective compares more than two things or people. Add *est* to an adjective to make the superlative form.

**Directions:** Match the adjective in the left column to its comparative form in the middle column. Then, match the comparative adjective in the middle column to its superlative form in the right column.

1. big	angrier	saddest
2. small	smarter	smartest
3. tall	funnier	tallest
5. short	skinnier	hungriest
6. fast	bigger	happiest
7. quick	smaller	toughest
8. angry	lighter	fastest
9. happy	tougher	quickest
10. hungry	sadder	biggest

# Is this a good test?

## MATCHING.



*Match the following fruits and their colors.*

1) Banana

A) Blue

2) Carrot

B) Purple

3) Blueberries

C) Yellow

4) Eggplant

D) Orange

5) Zucchini

E) Green

6) Lettuce

## Short Answer

### Primary Understanding

-Many theorists in the evaluation field use the word “supply type” and classify it into 2 categories which are “a short answer type” and “a completion type”.

-Many also consider the short answer type is a kind of test which covers completion.

-Many call it “completion” when a test requires a test taker to fill in a blank or to answer a question.

-Many assume that the short answer type is subjective rather than objective.

From many different angles towards the categorizations of this test type, they can be concluded as follows:

- A short answer test can be formatted as **questions** and **blanks for answers**.
- A short answer test can be formatted as **giving a direction** and some **blanks are left for answers**.
- A short answer test can be formatted as **a statement** with **a blank**.

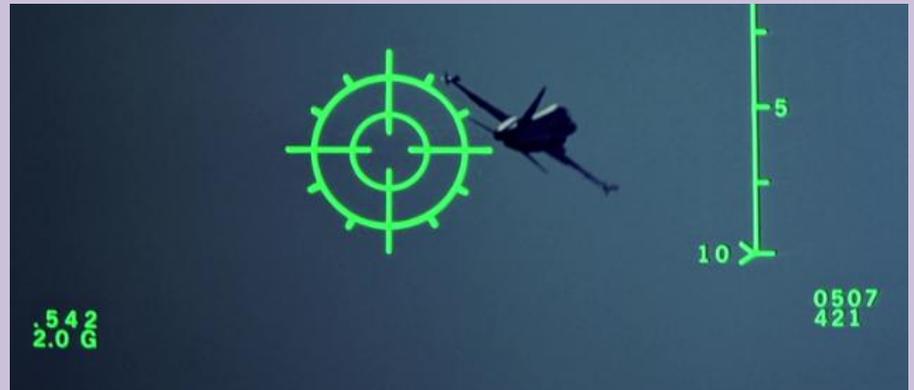
\* In all the cases,

if the answers are restricted → objective

But the answers are non-restricted → subjective

# Objective Short Answer

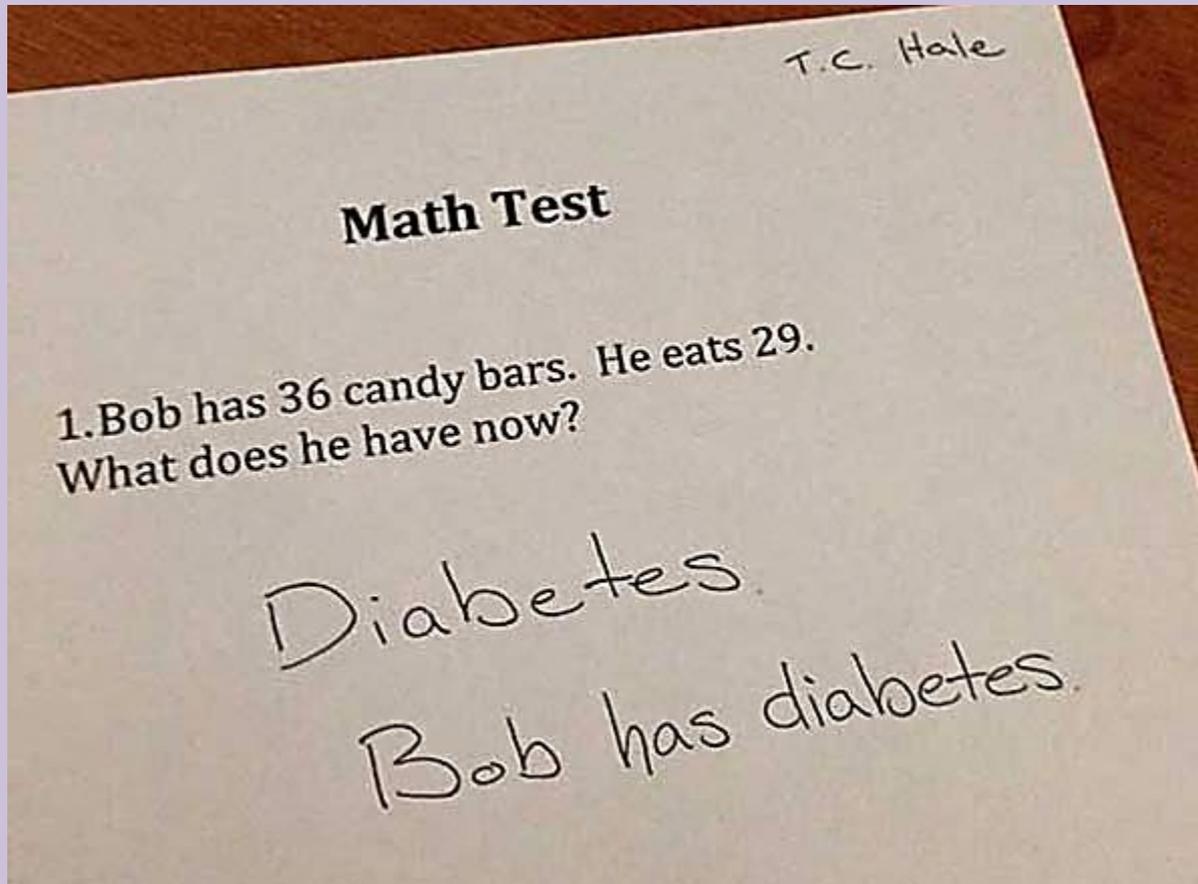
- From the passage, what is the meaning of “handsome salary”?
- Who composed the song “Fortune Cookie”?
- Write the steps of designing an achievement test’s blueprint.
- Communicative approach was initiated by..... \*(After reading a passage)
- The man ....was running near our faculty yesterday’s early morning is the president.
- I ..... (write) a magazine. (\*Present Continuous Tense)



## How to design

- It allows only short answers.
- The answers are in an exact scope or type.
- Blanks need to be equal in length to prevent ease of guessing.
- There should not be too frequent blanks in a specific part.
- Define absolutely correct answers before deciding where in a text to leave empty.
- Do not copy or excerpt any text directly from any material used in class except you want to test memorization.

Is this a good test?



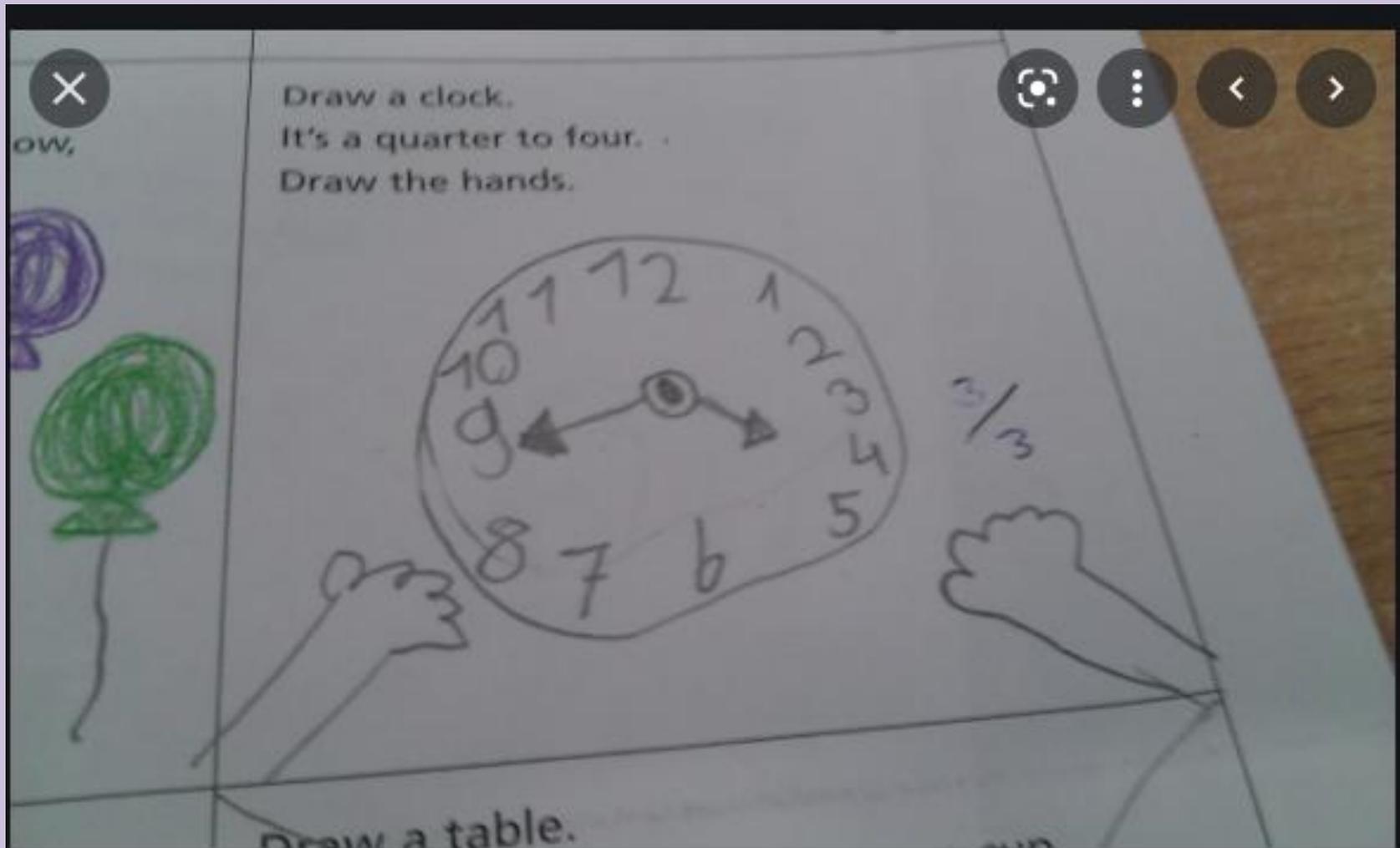
<https://shareably.net/20-most-hilarious-answers-students-have-ever-given-on-exams/>

Is this a good test?

D) Present simple.

1. Ana watchn't (not watch) TV
2. Peter studyn't (not study) F
3. Javi watches (watch) TV.
4. Antonio playes (play) co
5. Luis Miguel readn't (not re

# Is this a good test?



Take a look at this test and judge which ones are good or poor. Are they really objective? How can you answer them?

These are objective! What are your answers?

- 1.The evolutionary theory of \_\_\_ is based on the principle of \_\_\_
- 2.Columbus discovered America in \_\_\_
- 3.The capital city of Mexico is \_\_\_
- 4.In what year did William J. Clinton become president of the United States? \_\_\_
5. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ blanks cause much frustration in \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_
6. \_\_\_ was the first American to \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

- 1.The evolutionary theory of Darwin is based on the principle of survival of the fittest.
- 2.Columbus discovered America in 1492.
- 3.The capital city of Mexico is Mexico City.
- 4.In what year did William J. Clinton become president of the United States? 1992 (OK)
- 5.Too many blanks cause much frustration in both test takers and test scorers.
- 6.Armstrong was the first American to walk on the moon.

# Subjective Short Answer

-Though many primarily assume that a subjective test must be an essay test but, in fact, answers good for this test type can be words, phrases and sentences or a very short paragraph representing different angles of possible thoughts.

-If a test is more open for several ideas or different viewpoints or more than one aspect of possibilities as answers, that test is subjective.

-The concept of designing this test is to give an open opportunity to test takers to fill in their ideas, reasons, knowledge, recommendations and creativity.

-So, using the word “writing test” for an essay or a well structured paragraph test looks reasonable.

-To conclude, a short answer type can be made “subjective”.



# Subjective Short Answer

-Please write 10 sentences to describe your pet.

-From the news, what would you do as a lawyer?  
Please write in the provided blank.



# Subjective Short Answer



Clever Classroom

May 30 · 🌐



Clever little monkey!

Write five words you can spell (5 marks)

1 five ✓

2 words ✓

3 you ✓

4 can ✓

5 spell ✓

# Subjective Short Answer

-Please describe this picture in a short paragraph.



Xavier

They have money to buy a car but don't have money to buy a single whiteboard 😞

# Subjective Short Answer

-Please describe this picture in a short paragraph.

Contrast  
October 30, 2020 · 🌐



KEEP HIM BUSY WITH HIS BASIC NEEDS, AND HE WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT FULL FREEDOM.

The Master Mind  
October 26, 2020 · 🌐

## Essay type

-As this can be considered as a writing test, formal paragraph writing with more complicated organization is applicable here.

-Define a clear idea of what to test. Knowledge? Writing? Reasoning? and whatever.....

-Decide what kind of answer you want from your students.

(Non-restricted/uncontrolled response = more open for creativity or the mix of several thinking process

Restricted/controlled response = limited to either comparison, reasons to some case study, explanation, exemplification or classification)

Non-restricted essay test (open ended points with more open instructions or rules)

For example:

-Discuss the various theories of human development that have been talked about this semester. Among other things, be sure to compare and contrast the basic assumptions of the theories, the method used to study development, and the criticisms of each. You are free to take the whole morning part. Write as many pages as you like, and organize your answer as you see fit.

-Explain the difference between PPP (Present Practice Produce) and TBL (Task-based Learning). Include in your answer (a) brief descriptions of both theories, (b) supporters of both theories and (c) research methods used to study each of the two theories.

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED285499.pdf>

[https://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/6429\\_Chapter\\_7\\_Salkind\\_\(Tests\)\\_I\\_Proof\\_3.pdf](https://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/6429_Chapter_7_Salkind_(Tests)_I_Proof_3.pdf)

Restricted essay test (close ended points with less open instructions or rules)

For example:

-Compare and contrast two of the basic theories of human development that have been discussed this semester. Include a brief summary of each theory, the method used to study development, and the criticisms of each perspective. Limit your response to five written pages. You have 1 hour and 30 minutes for this part.

-Identify research methods used to study the PPP (Present Practice Produce) and the TBL (Task-based Learning) theories.

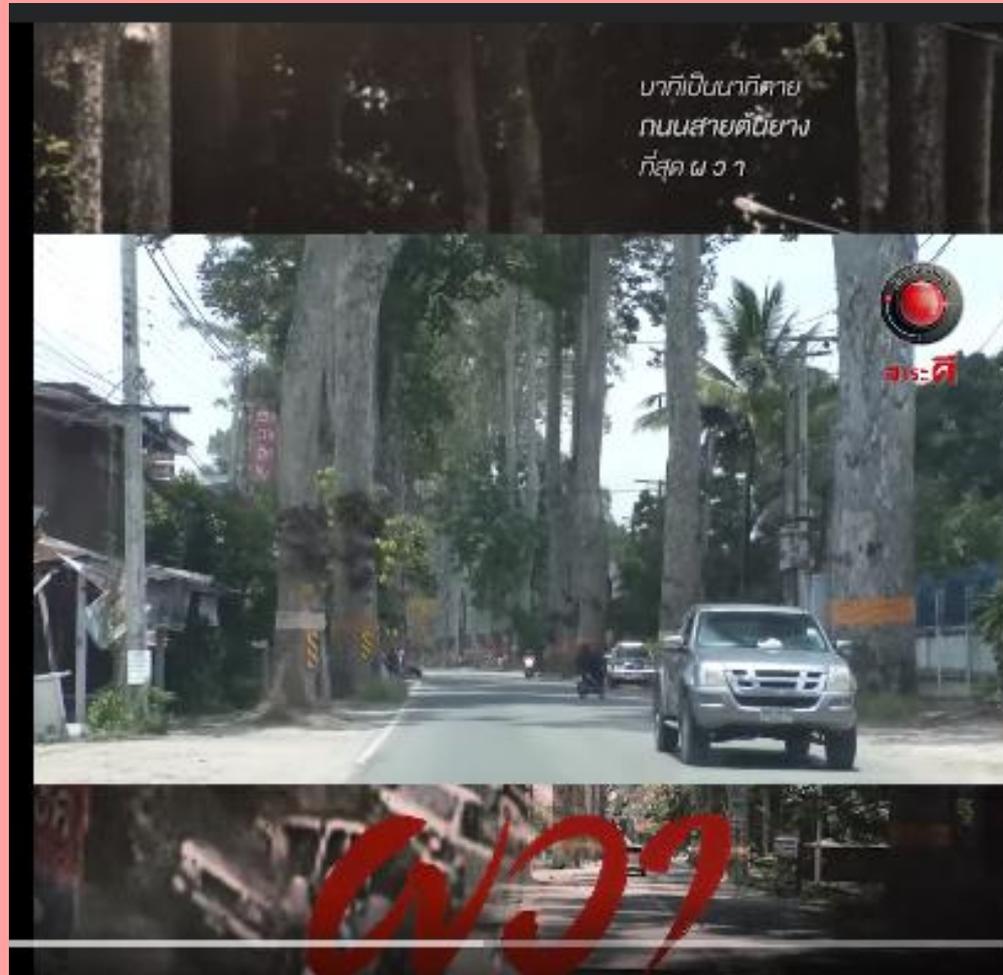
- Make an essay question a comprehensible.
- Make an essay question more focused.
- Make an essay topic either as a question, a quote, a condition, a problem or a contradiction.
- Avoid giving an opportunity to select any item among all in case the completeness of content knowledge is divided into more than one aspect or part.

- Guilty/ Not guilty?
- Solutions to drug problems
- How to teach ethics
- If you were.....,  
what would you.... ?



[https://www.innnews.co.th/news/news\\_175513/](https://www.innnews.co.th/news/news_175513/)

# Environment V.S. Safety



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf5PAQZYs8k>

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