

Types of assessment

Video at: www.trinitycollege.com/TESOL-AL

This video looks at the different types of assessment learners and teachers experience on a learning journey and considers reasons for these different types of assessment.

0:09 – 3:18	Types of assessment overview	6.50 – 8:09	Formative assessment
3:19 – 5:05	Initial assessment	8:10 – 9:43	Summative assessment
5:06 – 6:49	Diagnostic assessment		

1. Before watching the video

What types of tests or exams do you use or know?

What are the purposes of these tests (eg are they to decide which level students should be in)?

What do you think the following types of tests are?

Initial assessment

Diagnostic assessment

Formative assessment

Summative assessment

2. During the video

Now you either watch the rest of video and complete the table below or watch the parts that are of interest to you can and complete only those sections.

Types of Assessment Overview (00:09)

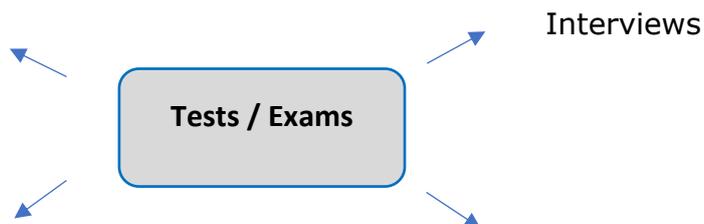
Match the terms on the left with the terms on the right. You will not be able to match one of the terms.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Initial assessment | a) Assessment of learning |
| 2) Diagnostic assessment | b) Assessment for learning |
| 3) Formative assessment | c) Placement test |
| 4) Summative assessment | |

Assessment type	Purpose	When usually given	Example
Initial (03:19)			
Diagnostic (05:06)			
Formative (06:50)			
Summative (08:10)			

Whole video activity.

What specific types of tests are mentioned in the video? Complete the mindmap below. Add arrows as necessary.



3. Discussion points

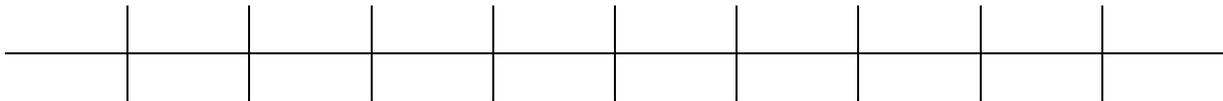
To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Indicate the degree of agreement or disagreement by marking it on the continuum.

a) Initial assessments should always test the four skills, grammar and vocabulary.

Strongly disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Strongly agree

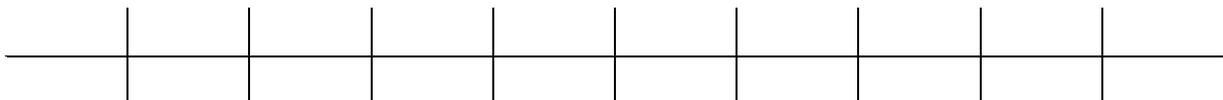


b) There is no need to have different initial and diagnostic assessment.

Strongly disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Strongly agree



c) All formative assessments should be informal and all summative assessments should be formal.

Strongly disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Strongly agree



d) Formative assessments should mirror the summative assessments students are going to take.

Strongly disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Strongly agree



Now consider the following questions below.

a) Why do many initial assessments not have a speaking component?

b) What are the advantages and disadvantages of using an initial assessment for diagnostic purposes?

c) When might you consider making a formative assessment formal and/or a summative assessment informal?

d) What are the advantages and disadvantages of using formative assessments that mirror the students' summative assessments?

4. Further learning

If you want to learn more about this topic, look at these resources:

Books

Baxter, A., & Seligson, P. (1997). *Evaluating Your Students*. London: Richmond Publishing.

Hughes, A. (2002). *Testing for Language Teachers*. Cambridge: CUP.

Tummons, J. (2011). *Assessing Learning in the Lifelong Learning Sector*. Exeter: Learning Matters.

Websites

<http://www.teachthought.com/pedagogy/6-types-assessment-learning/>

<https://phil-race.co.uk/>

Journal article

Lee, I. (2007). 'Assessment for learning: integrating assessment, teaching, and learning in the ESL/EFL writing classroom'. *Canadian Modern Language Review*, 64 (1), pp199-213.