

TYPES OF TESTS

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Learn how to succeed on different types of exams

Whether you like them or not, tests are a way of checking your knowledge or comprehension. They are the main instrument used to evaluate your learning by most educational institutions. According to research studies, tests have another benefit: they make you learn and remember more than you might have otherwise. Although it may seem that all tests are the same, many different types of tests exist and each has a different purpose and style.

Diagnostic Tests

These tests are used to diagnose how much you know and what you know. They can help a teacher know what needs to be reviewed or reinforced in class. They also enable the student to identify areas of weakness.


Placement Tests

These tests are used to place students in the appropriate class or level. For example, in language schools, placement tests are used to check a student's language level through grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing, and speaking questions. After establishing the student's level, the student is placed in the appropriate class to suit his/her needs.

Progress or Achievement Tests

Achievement or progress tests measure the students' improvement in relation to their syllabus. These tests only contain items which the students have been taught in class. There are two types of progress tests: short-term and long-term.

Short-term progress tests check how well students have understood or learned material covered in specific units or chapters. They enable the teacher to decide if remedial or consolidation work is required.



Long-term progress tests are also called Course Tests because they check the learners' progress over the entire course. They enable the students to judge how well they have progressed. Administratively, they are often the sole basis of decisions to promote to a higher level.

Progress tests can also be structured as quizzes, rather than as tests. They can be answered by teams of students, rather than individuals. They can be formulated as presentations, posters, assignments, or research projects. Structuring progress tests in this way takes into account the multiple intelligences and differing learning styles of the students. Yet many students still expect a “regular test” as a part of “normal learning”.

Proficiency Tests

These tests check learner levels in relation to general standards. They provide a broad picture of knowledge and ability. In English language learning, examples are the TOEFL and IELTS exams, which are mandatory for foreign-language speakers seeking admission to English-speaking universities. In addition, the TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication) checks students' knowledge of Business English, as a prerequisite for employment.

Internal Tests

Internal tests are those given by the institution where the learner is taking the course. They are often given at the end of a course in the form of a final exam.

External Tests

External tests are those given by an outside body. Examples are the TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS,.The exams themselves are the basis for admission to university, job recruitment, or promotion.

Objective Tests

Objective tests are those that have clear right or wrong answers. Multiple-choice tests fall into this group. Students have to select a pre-determined correct answer from three or four possibilities.

Subjective Tests

Subjective tests require the marker or examiner to make a subjective judgment regarding the marks deserved. Examples are essay questions and oral interviews. For such tests, it is especially important that both examiner and student are aware of the grading criteria in order to increase their validity.

Combination Tests

Many tests are a combination of objective and subjective styles. For example, on the TOEFL iBT, the Test of English as a Foreign Language, the reading and listening sections are objective, and the writing and speaking sections are subjective.

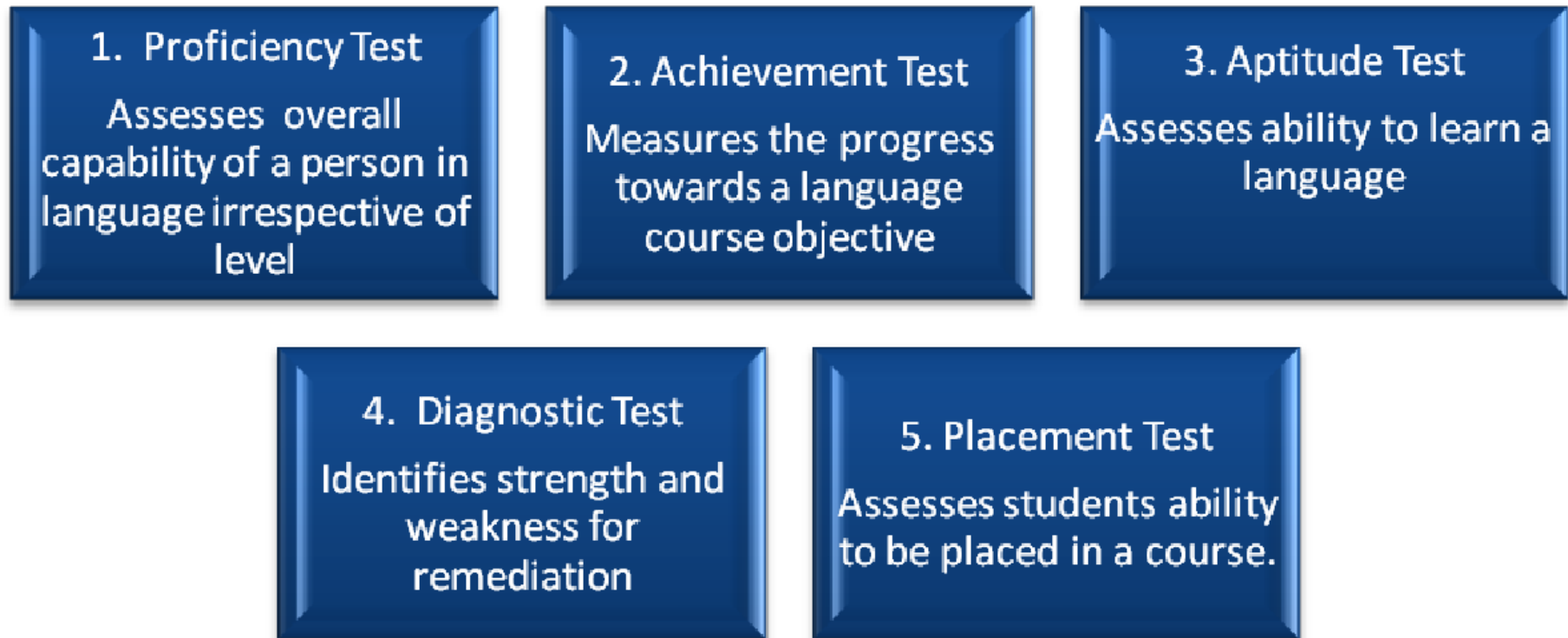


Figure 2: Kinds of tests adapted from Bachman (1995) & Hughes (2003)

Achievement Tests

- refer to more formal tests that have been designed to show mastery of a particular syllabus

Aptitude Tests

- predict how successful a learner will be in for example learning a foreign language

Proficiency Tests

- they are not usually based on a particular syllabus but are used to measure achievement in relation to a specific task that the candidate may be required to perform at a subsequent point of time.

Placement Tests

- They are a special type of proficiency test. They give an indication of the language levels of learners so that they can be placed in an appropriate class for English

Diagnostic Tests

- enable teachers to identify any areas of weakness or difficulty, so that they can then plan and implement an appropriate remedial teaching program.

Question **Types**

Secrets to answering different types of questions on tests

To earn high marks on a test, you must do three things: study the material, find out what kind of test it is, and learn effective test taking strategies. Some strategies are general and apply to all tests while others will help you with specific types of questions.

General Test-Taking Strategies

Make sure to read the instructions carefully before you begin the test. Many students are in such a rush, they neglect to read exactly what has to be done. As a result, they end up doing more or less than they need to do. They may omit questions, skip sections, or provide a written answer that does not answer the question at all.

Specific Test-taking Strategies

Multiple-Choice Questions

In a multiple-choice test, you are asked a question or given a statement, followed by three or four possible answers. You need to choose one. Here's an example of a typical question on a multiple choice test:

Who wrote Macbeth?

- a. George Bernard Shaw
 - b. Shakespeare
 - c. T.S. Eliot
 - d. None of the above
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True or False Questions

- This common test question provides a series of statements. You must evaluate each statement and say whether it is true or false. A variation on this format is a yes / no answer. This type of test question checks your knowledge of any kind of subject. Occasionally, the true-false question is based on information provided in a reading passage. In this case, you must read the text carefully to ensure that you are choosing the answer based on the writer's views and opinions and not your own. Sometimes you'll also have to give a short explanation.
 - True-False tests are similar to multiple choice tests except that you have only two alternatives to choose from, so you can use many of the same strategies. A few additional points to bear in mind:
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- Longer statements tend to be truer than shorter statements.
 - If in doubt, choose *true*.
 - Statements with strong definitive language such as always, never, all, or none are usually false.
 - Statements with less definitive language and more general vocabulary such as usually, probably, could or might are usually true.
 - Make sure the entire statement is true. If even one tiny part is incorrect, the statement is false.
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Matching Questions

In a matching question, you have to match words, expressions, or sentences from one column with related phrases in another column. Matching questions are often used to evaluate your knowledge of vocabulary, historical events, or scientific discoveries. Some tips:

- Cross out answer choices after you have used them, to save time and avoid unnecessary duplication.
 - Sometimes, both columns have the same number of items. In others, one column may have more items than the other. Count both columns to make sure. Start with the shorter column if necessary.
 - To save time, reread as little as possible. For example, if one column has vocabulary words and the other column has definitions, read the first definition and run through the vocabulary words to find the right match. Then go on the next definition. This way you only read and reread the vocabulary words, rather than reviewing the definitions, which would take much longer.
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- Book
- Table
- Chair
- Banana
- House

- Pisang
 - Rumah
 - Meja
 - Buku
 - Kursi
 - Pensil
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Essay Questions

Essay exams evaluate not only your knowledge but also your ability to organize and present that information in a written manner. By following some simple steps you can learn how to develop any kind of essay answer. The following tips will help you raise your grades:

- Always take a few minutes to plan before beginning to write your essay.
 - Use time to brainstorm as much as possible so you have the maximum material to include in your essay.
 - Remember the opening paragraph is the most important in your entire essay. It sets the tone for your essay and lets the examiner know the quality of the answer to follow. Like any first impression, it should be the best you can give.
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- The conclusion is the second most important paragraph in your essay as it makes the final impression, which should be as powerful as possible.
 - Once you begin writing, get directly to the key points, especially if time is limited. Don't waste time on unnecessarily long introductions. You don't want to run out of time and discover that you didn't get in all the points that were asked for.
 - Match the focus of your essay to the focus of the exam question. Explain the connection if necessary for added clarity and to let the examiner know you've understood the nature of the task.
 - Read the question carefully to understand all you're being asked to do. Look for key descriptive words such as discuss, compare, summarize, outline or define to help you know exactly what you're being asked to do.
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- Look for added details requested in the essay question. For example, are you begin asked to give example, reasons, or definitions? Then, make sure you do in order to get full marks.
 - Read samples of good essays to familiarize yourself with effective writing techniques.
 - Try to follow the same patterns and adopt any useful transition language to make strong connections between words, sentences, and paragraphs.
 - Build your vocabulary so you can use dynamic verbs and unusual adjectives. This will help your essay stand out from the rest. However, make sure you include any key vocabulary associated with the subject or field, to sound professional and knowledgeable.
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Fill in the Blank

In these questions, you need to find the missing word or expression that would correctly complete a sentence or correctly answer a question. Write in or find the information that makes the sentence or questions true. The missing information may be found in the main points or supporting details of your textbook. Fill in the blank questions may appear in the form of a multiple choice question or require you to write in the answer. Make sure the missing information is grammatically and factually correct.

Where _____ you from?

- a. is
 - b. being
 - c. are
 - d. none of the above
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Combination Exams

For a combined objective and essay exam, there are various approaches. Some students prefer to do the multiple-choice or true and false questions first to build confidence and get them out of the way first. Others brainstorm the essays, then do the objective sections and then return to writing the essay. This gives your subconscious mind time to generate further ideas while you're working on other parts of the test.

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THANK YOU**
