



PRESENTATION

Presentation by:

Maria Ashraf

Presented To:

Dr.Shazia Zamir

THE ESSAY TEST



Definition

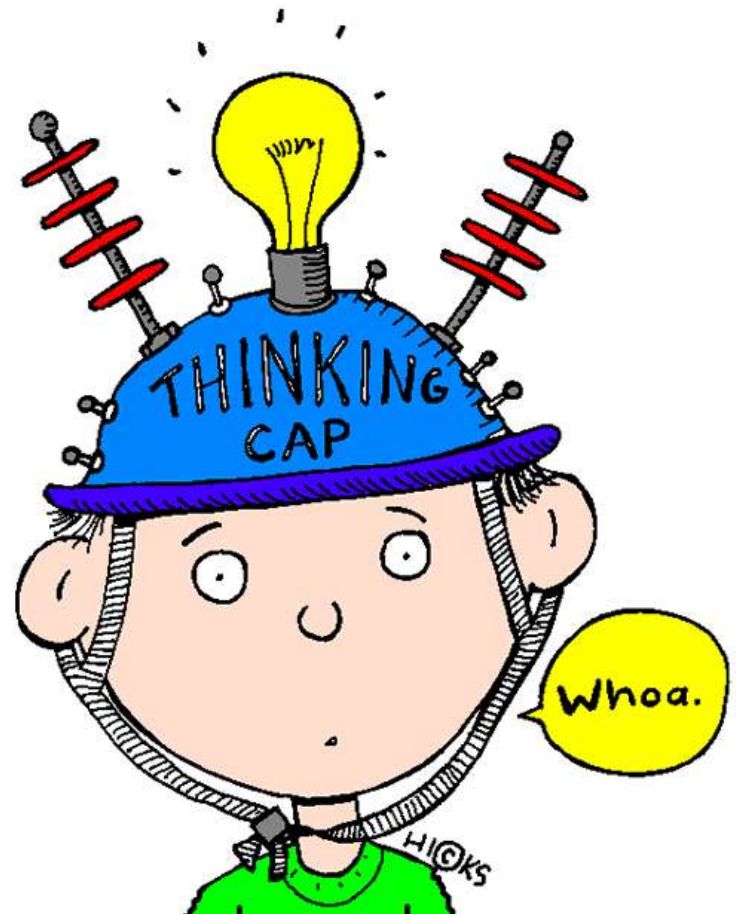
Essay test is a test that requires the student to compose responses, usually lengthy up to several paragraphs.



Essay test measure Higher Level Thinking

Questions that test higher level processes such as

- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation
- Creativity



Distinctive Feature of Essay Test

The distinctive feature of essay type test is the “***freedom of response***”. Pupils are free to select, relate and present ideas in their own words.

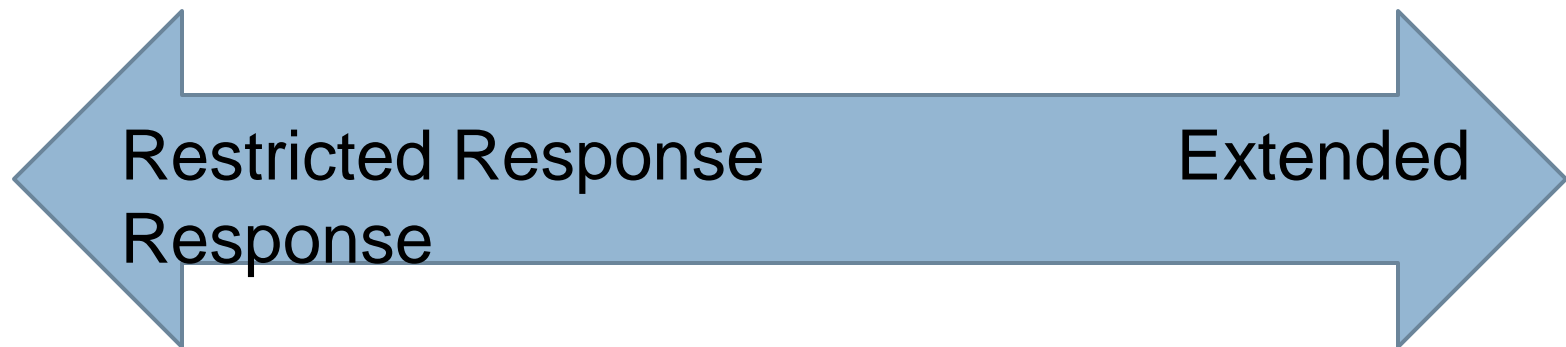


Uses of Essay Test

1. Assess the ability to recall, organize, and integrate ideas.
2. Assess the ability to express oneself in writing.
3. Ability to supply information.
4. Assess student understanding of subject matter.
5. Measure the knowledge of factual information.

Form of Essay Test

- Restricted Response/ Controlled Response.
- Extended Response/Uncontrolled Response.



Restricted Response Essay Questions

Restricted response usually limits both the content and the response by restricting the scope of the topic to be discussed.

Useful for measuring learning outcomes requiring interpretation and application of data in a specific area.

Example of Restricted Response

- Describe two situations that demonstrate the application of the law of supply and demand. Do not use those examples discussed in class.
- State the main differences between the Vietnam War and previous wars in which the United States has participated.

Advantages of Restricted Response Questions

- ❑ Restricted response question is more structured.
- ❑ Measure specific learning outcomes.
- ❑ Restricted response provide for more ease of assessment.
- ❑ Any outcomes measured by an objective interpretive exercise can be measured by a restricted response essay question.

Limitations of Restricted Response Questions

Restricted response question restricts the scope of the topic to be discussed and indicating the nature of the desired response which limits student opportunity to demonstrate these behavior.

Extended Response Essay Questions

Extended response question allows student to select information that they think is pertinent, to organize the answer in accordance with their best judgment, and to integrate and evaluate ideas as they think suitable.

They do not set limits on the length or exact content to be discussed.

Examples of Extended Response Essay Questions

- Compare developments in international relations in the administrations of President William Clinton and President George W. Bush. Cite examples when possible.
- Imagine that you and a friend found a magic wand. Write a story about an adventure that you and your friend had with the magic wand.

Advantages of Extended Response Questions

- This type of essay item is mostly useful in measuring learning outcomes at the higher cognitive levels of educational objectives such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation levels.
- They expose the individual differences in attitudes, values and creative ability.

Limitations of Extended Response Questions

- They are insufficient for measuring knowledge of factual materials because they call for extensive details in selected content area at a time.
- Scoring such type of responses is usually difficult and unreliable since the examinees have free will in the array of factual information of varying degree of correctness, coherence and expression.

Major Difference

- Objective Interpretive- *select*
- Restricted Response Essay- *supply*
- Extended-Response Essay- *write*

Advantages Of Essay Questions

- The freedom of response allows the student to express himself in his own words.
- It measures complex learning outcomes that cannot be measured by other means.
- Essay tests promotes the development of problem-solving skills.
- It helps students to improve their writing skills such as writing speed.
- It encourages creativity by allowing their own unique way.

Advantages Of Essay Questions

- It is easy and economical to administer.
- It encourages good study habits in students.
- Essay item is easy to construct and does not take much time
- It can be used to measure in-depth knowledge especially in a restricted subject matter area.
- It does not encourage guessing and cheating during testing.

Disadvantages of Essay Questions

- ❑ Scoring is not reliable because different examiners can grade the score answer differently. In fact, the same examiner can grade the same question differently at different times.
- ❑ Grading of essay tests is time-consuming.
- ❑ Subjective scoring of essay questions.
- ❑ Essay questions do not cover the course content and the objectives as comprehensively as possible.

Disadvantages of Essay Questions

- ❑ Evaluating essay questions without adequate attention to the learning outcomes is just like **“three blind men appraising an elephant”** .
One teacher stresses factual content, one organization of ideas, and another writing skill.

Suggestions For Constructing Essay Questions

- ❑ Restrict the use of essay questions to those learning outcomes that cannot be satisfactorily measured by objective items.
- ❑ *State the question clearly and precisely and make clear what information the answer should contain.*
- ❑ Indicate the approximate time limit for each question.
- ❑ Avoid the use of optional questions.



Suggestions

Suggestions For Constructing Essay Questions

- Construct question that will call forth the skills specified in the learning standards.

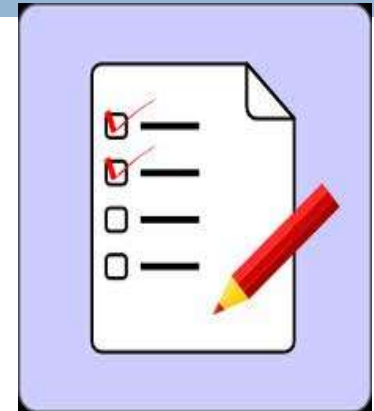
Example:

Write a two page statement defending the importance of conserving our natural resources?

(Your answer will be evaluated in terms of its organization, comprehensiveness, and relevance of the arguments presented.)

Suggestion For Scoring Essay Question

- Chose either the analytical or holistic (global-quality) method.



Analytical Scoring:

This scoring method requires that the instructor develop an ideal response and create a scoring key or guide. The scoring key provides an absolute standard for determining the total points awarded for a response. Student responses are compared to the scoring standard and not to the responses of their classmates.

Suggestion For Scoring Essay Question

Holistic Scoring:

The reader forms an impression of the overall quality of a response and then transforms that impression into a score or grade. The score represents the quality of a response in relation to a relative standard such as other students in the class.

Suggestion For Scoring Essay Question

- Score the responses question-by-question rather than student-by-student.
- Disassociate the identity of students from their responses during the grading process.
- Determine in advance what aspects of the response will or will not be judged in scoring.

Know what
to look for
before
starting to
grade papers

Bluffing-A Special scoring Problem

It is possible for students to obtain higher scores in essay questions than they deserve by the mean of clever bluffing. This is usually a combination of writing skill, general knowledge and use of common tricks like;

- ▣ Respond to every question.
- ▣ Stressing importance of topic.
- ▣ Agreeing with teachers opinion.
- ▣ Name dropping.
- ▣ Write on a related topic and “make it fit”.
- ▣ Writing in general terms that fit many situation.

Suggestion for Constructing Multiple Choice Items

- The stem of the item should be meaningful by itself and should present a definite problem.
- The item stem should include as much of the item as possible and should be free of irrelevant material.
- Use a negatively stated stem only when significant learning outcomes require it.
- All the alternatives should be grammatically consistent with the stem of the item.
- An item should contain only one correct or clearly best answer.
- Items used to measure understanding should contain some novelty, but beware of too much.

Suggestion for Constructing Multiple Choice Items

- All distracters should be plausible. The purpose is to distract the uninformed from the correct answer.
- Verbal associations between the stem and the correct answer should be avoided.
- The relative length of the alternative should not provide a clue to the answer.
- The correct answer should appear in each of the alternative positions an approximately equal number of times but in random order.
- Use sparingly “none of the above” or “all of the above.”
- Do not use multiple-choice items when other items are more appropriate.