

GUIDE: Types of assessment

Topic Purpose:

This topic provides an overview of different types of assessment focusing on the categories of norm-referenced assessment, criterion-referenced assessment, and dynamic assessment. The information covers key characteristics and definitions of each type of assessment, as well as what distinguishes these three types of assessment from each other. The content reinforces the purposes of assessment topic in reviewing the purposes for using each type of assessment. The information does not get into detail about how to administer and score each type of assessment, but does provide a foundation for introducing the types of assessment as a starting point for understanding how to choose assessments.

Video and Slides:

Length of video: 27 minutes

Content:

The video provides an overview of three types of assessment listed below. Definitions and what distinguishes these three types of assessment are discussed along with the purpose of using each type of assessment.

- Norm-referenced assessment (1:25 – 5:15 minutes in video)
- Criterion-references assessment (5:15 – 11:10 minutes in video)
- Dynamic assessment (11:10 – end in video)

Activities:

This activity presents seven brief clinical vignettes (short paragraph per vignette). After reading each vignette, the student is asked to identify the type of assessment that would be most useful in this situation using the terminology provided in the video and slides, and to describe why they are choosing that assessment. This activity would lend itself well to a learning check in a classroom session. Note that for most of the scenarios, more than one answer (more than one type of assessment) could be the correct answer depending on additional nuances that could be added to the cases. There are not necessarily clear-cut correct or incorrect answers for most of the cases, but instead considerations about which type of assessment would be more appropriate in different variations of the situation. For this reason, these vignettes / items may be best used as a platform for classroom discussion to engage students in conversation about when and why some assessment types would be chosen over others.

There is some overlap in the vignettes between the purposes of assessment topic and types of assessment topic, which sets up the opportunity to carryover discussion of some of the cases starting with exploring the purpose of the assessment and continuing to discuss which type of assessment would serve that purpose.

Resource:

The resource is a one-page graphic summarizing the content in this topic. This may be helpful for quick reviews/ reminders for students.