

FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT





FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Assessment refers to the wide variety of methods or tools that educators use to evaluate, measure, and document the academic readiness, learning progress, skill acquisition, or educational needs of students. Assessment is designed so that students understand their progress towards course goals and modify their behavior in order to meet those goals. Assessment allows instructors to monitor progress towards achieving learning objectives.

Types of Assessment

Formative assessment provides teachers with the necessary data to adjust the learning process while it is happening. It can be considered as a tool that identifies misconceptions and learning gaps along the way and



assesses how to close those gaps. It includes effective tools for helping to shape learning, and can even bolster students' abilities to take ownership of their learning when they understand that the goal is to improve learning, not apply final marks (Trumbull and Lash, 2013).

Aims of the formative assessment is to;

monitor student learning

help students identify their strengths and weaknesses and target areas that need work

improve teaching and learning

provide ongoing feedback

recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately





Examples of Formative Assessment



If you're looking to use online formative assessments tools, here are some platforms you may want to consider.



Kahoot https://kahoot.it/

Mentimeter https://www.mentimeter.com/

Pear Deck https://www.peardeck.com/googleslides

Poll Everywhere https://www.polleverywhere.com/

Wooclap https://www.wooclap.com/

Quizlet https://quizlet.com/tr

Go conqr https://www.goconqr.com/

Socrative https://www.socrative.com/

Quiziziz https://quizizz.com/

Summative assessment measures what students have learned at the end of an instructional unit, end of a course, or after some defined period (Hargreaves, 2008). It can also refer to ascertaining that the desired goals of learning have been met or



certifying that the required levels of competence have been achieved (Challis, 2005).





Summative assessments can help instructors in two ways:

- Evaluate what your students have learned during the course,
- Understand how prepared your students are for the next academic year.

Examples of Summative Assessment



Figure 1 below shows the comparison between formative and summative assessment, exemplifying the means of assessing students.

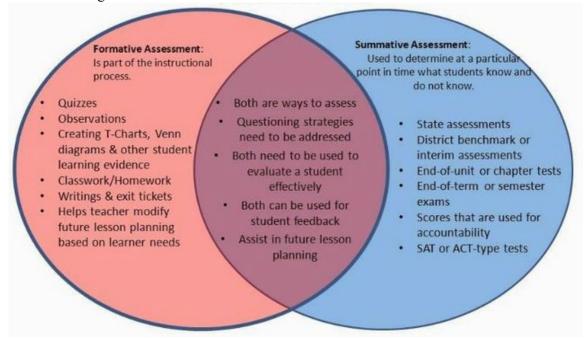


Figure 1. Comparison of Formative and Summative Assessment

(Taken from Mahmud et al., 2019)





Formative Assessment Recommendations

Below are attributes that have been identified from the literature as critical features of effective formative assessment (Council of Chief State School Officers, 2008).

- Learning Goals and Criteria for Success: Learning goals and criteria for success should be clearly identified and communicated to students.
- Descriptive Feedback: Students should be provided with evidence-based feedback that is linked to the intended instructional outcomes and criteria for success. For further information, please refer to Giving Effective Feedback.
- Self and Peer-Assessment: Both self and peer assessment are important for providing students with an opportunity to think meta-cognitively about their learning.
- Collaboration: A classroom culture in which teachers and students are partners in learning should be established.

Summative Assessment Recommendations

- ❖ You can use a rubric to provide expected performance criteria for a range of grades. Rubrics will describe what an ideal assignment looks like, and "summarize" expected performance at the beginning of the term. For further information, please refer to Developing Rubrics.
- Instructors can ensure that parameters are well defined such as length of the final assessment, depth of response, time and date, and grading standards. For further information, please refer to Designing Assignments.
- You may consider assessing comprehensiveness. Summative assessments should enable students to take into consideration the totality of course content, demonstrate synthesized skills and make broad connections.
- If instructors want to give a genuinely unbiased summative assessment, they can also consider a variety of anonymous grading techniques. For example, you can use student personal identification numbers, or ask students to write their names on the back of the last page of their exam paper.







Both formative and summative assessments are essential. They are used simultaneously in educational settings. You need to create a balance between formative and summative assessment strategies to drive maximum results from your students.

References

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- Hargreaves, E. (2007). The validity of collaborative assessment for learning. *Assessment in education:* principles. Policy & Practice, 14(2), 185–199.
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- Trumbull, E., & Lash, A. (2013). Understanding formative assessment: Insights from learning theory and measurement theory. San Francisco: WestEd.





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What Makes Summative Assessment a Powerful Tool for Teachers (2022). Splash Learn. https://www.splashlearn.com/blog/what-makes-summative-assessment-powerful-tool-for-teachers/

Types of summative assessment and formative assessment on Promethean Blog: https://resourced.prometheanworld.com/types-of-summative-formative-assessment/

Further Reading and Resources

- A Collection of Simple Assessment Strategies You Can Use Every Day, by Saga Briggs.
- Fisher, M. R., Jr., & Bandy, J. (2019). Assessing Student Learning. Vanderbilt University,
 Center for Teaching.
- Assessment Strategies. MIT OpenCourseWare
- Understanding Different Types of Tests and Assessments. Advance Consulting for Education.

