Assessment Editing

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Assessment Editing
Types of tests

- End of Chapter
- Multiple Choice
- True-False
- Math and Science Problems
- Short Answer
- Essay
- Open Book
<table>
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<th>Stem</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Key</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Item (Assessment Object)</td>
<td>The Stem and options</td>
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Assessment editing

Looking at multiple-choice test questions from all directions:

• editing from the top down (straightforward)
• editing from the outside in (veneer)
• editing from the inside out (pull it apart, analyze)
• editing from the bottom up (avoid test-taking tricks)
What does a good test item look like?
Editing from the top down
Editing from the top down

What you already know . . .

• Is the grammar correct?
• Is the spelling correct and consistent?
• Is the punctuation in place?
• Etc.
What is the reason the project was delayed?

a. The mayor of the city disapproved of the changes  (missing period)

b. Lesser paid colleagues contested the agreement.  (missing hyphen)

c. An Environmental impact statement had yet to be filed.  (miscap)

d. Funding was cancelled due to budget restraints.  (spelling)
Editing from the outside in
Editing from the outside in

Veneer

- length of options
- presence of proper nouns (capital letters)
- presence of possessives (’s)
- use of hyphenated words
- initial words (articles or nouns) or phrases, repeated words or phrases, and final words or phrases
- verb form (present, past, conditional, etc.)
What is the one special service provided by this business?

a. Valet parking for season ticket holders.
b. Free radios for the first 150 customers.
c. A meal comes with the price of admission.
d. A discounted price is offered for the late show.

Explanation: Structure not parallel: 2 options are noun phrases, 2 are sentences.
Editing from the inside out
Editing from the inside out

Pull it apart, analyze, substantive editing

- logic
- ambiguity
- cause-effect
- partial truths
Logic

What did the woman do to the driver?

a. She threatened him with a knife.
b. She damaged his car.
c. She reported him to the police.
d. She stole his car.

**Explanation:** Strictly speaking, options a, b, and c do not answer the question.
Ambiguity

What problem with the government does the speaker discuss?

a. It fails to prevent money laundering.

Explanation:

Does *it* refer to the problem or to the government?

Consider rewording the Stem OR begin the options with the noun.
Example:
What was one result of the avalanche?

a. The historic hotel was damaged.
b. The search helicopter ran out of fuel.

Explanation:
Be sure the relationship is expressed logically. Be sure Key and distractors are a direct result of an incident, rather than a later outcome in a sequence of developments.
Partial truths

Examples:
Proper care from society can *cure* children’s problems.
Smoking *causes* heart disease.

Explanation:
Both of the examples show distractors that are not appropriate because they overstate the case, or are only a partial truth.
Editing from the bottom up
Avoid test-taking tricks (testwiseness)

• Grammar cues
• Repetition of word or phrase from the Stem
• Opposites
• Option length
• Qualifiers
1. Important in feeling pain are

a. bone.
b. ear.
c. muscle.
d. nerves.
1. When did the revolution of the Four Hundred take place?

a. Before the unfortunate and long-lamented death of Theramenes.

b. After the Sicilian expedition by the Four Hundred swordsmen of Alcibiades.

c. Before the desperately sought peace of Nicias.

d. After the death of Alcibiades.
1. If more items are added to a test, what effect is most likely?

a. Decreased reliability.

b. Decreased cost of administration.

c. Increased reliability.

d. Increased standard error of measurement.
2. Along the eastern coast of Maine, what are the cases of huestoolduds most often secondary to?

a. Poor nutrition.
b. The moisture of frocklesters.
c. The abundance of greezies.
d. An oversupply of fhoulsteens that occur directly as a result of kjuoost, djurts, and bhespernets.
1. What is the reason patients suffering from struguleum frequently undertrosi the grufreit?

a. All patients with struguleum have krodncurz.
b. Struguleum always presents with qugruestful.
c. Patients with struguleum commonly have grizzlehorst.
d. No fuegroois results in struguleum.
1. The lungs
   a. are solid and immobile.
   b. are the organs that use insulin.
   c. function primarily in respiration.
   d. possess the sphincter of Oddi.
Find secondary cues, including:
1) grammar
2) repetition of word from Stem
3) options opposite OR only one different
4) option length and/or complexity
5) qualifiers: careful qualifiers usually correct
OR absolutes usually incorrect
6) other . . .
Bibliography

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