

# **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



# Testing terminology

Stem	Question
Option	An answer choice
Key	The correct answer choice
Distractor	An incorrect answer choice
<b>Item</b> (Assessment Object)	The Stem and options
Passage	The Reading or Listening text
Examinee	The test taker, student



## 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)



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#### What does a good test item look like?

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# 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.



# Editing from the top down (example)

#### 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)

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Emiglian-Rumagnot эрэний Багетейн Боедbe Fiji Hindi अ Inuktinu क्रश्निती अध्यक्ष Kongo Kaprasya lojban M Ming-deng ngu Мокшень Молдовельскі Doterin Naoero Neh Искунава Afam Oromoo पंत्रवी अध्यक्ष Papiamentu Qaraqalpaq Kinyarwanda Gaguna Samoa Sardu Caxa Tama Seeltersk Sets Soomaali SiSwati Sranantongo Reo Tahiti Taqbaylir Tetun T

# 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.)



### Editing from the outside in

# 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.

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Emiglian-Rumagnol эрэвгэ Easternehu Eneube En Hindi उर्ज Buktinu क्रिमिटी अस्ति Коми Kongo Kuptusus lojban M Ming-deng-ngg Mokinenis Mokinensenseks Doterin Naoero Neh Huxuuis Afaan Oromoo अस्मिडी अस्ति Papiamentu Qaraqalpaq Kinyarwanda Gagana Sāmoa Sardu Caxa Tuna Seeltersk Sets Soomaali SiSwati Sranantongo Reo Tahiti Taqbaylir Tetun Ta

# 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.



### Cause and effect

#### **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.





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# Editing from the bottom up



## Editing from the bottom up

#### Avoid test-taking tricks (testwiseness)

- Grammar cues
- Repetition of word or phrase from the Stem
- Opposites
- Option length
- Qualifiers



#### Grammar cues

- 1. Important in feeling pain are
- a. bone.
- b. ear.
- c. muscle.
- d. nerves.



# Repetition of word/phrase OR association

- 1. When did the revolution of the Four Hundred place?
- a. Before the unfortunate and long-lamented death of Theramenes.
- b. After the Sicilian expedition by the Four Hundred swordsmen of Alcibiades.
- Before the desperately sought peace of Nicias.
- d. After the death of Alcibiades.



# Opposites OR only one different

- 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.



# Option length and/or complexity

- 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.



#### Qualifiers

(specific determiners or absolutes)

- 1. What is the reason patients suffering from strugleum 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.



#### Qualifiers

(vague frequency or careful qualifiers)

#### 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.



# Assessment Editing Quiz

### 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 . . .

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