

Handout 2.2: Assessment Scenarios

Read each scenario and then answer the corresponding question(s). Be ready to defend your answers.

- A high school band teacher selected a pretest and a posttest that were nearly identical to each another. He administered a district-created high school pretest at the beginning of the school year to his Introduction to Music class. Student scores ranged from 55 to 97, with the average score being 89. More than one third of the students scored 85 or higher on the pretest.
 - What should be the next steps for this teacher?
 - Should the teacher use the same assessments next year? Why or why not?
- The ninth-grade social studies teacher is reviewing a pretest and a posttest. The tests are aligned with the content of the curriculum and the state content standards. The test questions are written at a 12th-grade reading level, and the teacher decided that these tests are appropriate assessments.
 - Is this assessment appropriate? Why or why not?
- A team of art teachers in the school district created preperformance and postperformance assessments for their students. They developed the assessments in consultation with a special educator, an English language learner specialist, and the district art coordinator. The performance assessments are aligned with the standards. An expert in the district's curriculum and instruction department also reviewed the assessments.
 - What should be the next step(s) for this team of teachers to ensure that their assessments are appropriate?
- The fifth-grade science curriculum contains three curricular units: cycles and patterns in the solar system; light, sound, and motion; and interactions within ecosystems. Throughout the year, students are expected to develop inquiry skills in accordance with the state standards.
 - Given this information about the curriculum and the fifth-grade state standards for science, what types of questions or prompts should be included in an assessment to ensure that it is aligned to the correct standards and content?
 - A fifth-grade teacher found that the available assessments consist mostly of multiple-choice questions that require basic recall, such as "Which of the following is NOT true about Venus?" Recommend some options to this teacher for ensuring that the assessment is appropriate given the scope and the depth of the course.