

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Department of Curriculum and Teaching
EXAMINATION PAPER – MAY 2011

TITLE OF PAPER: Educational Assessment: Theory and Practice

COURSE CODE: EDC 612

STUDENTS: MED

TIME: Three (3) Hours

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Answer FOUR questions in all.**
- 2. Questions carry equal marks**
- 3. Number questions appropriately.**

QUESTION 1

- a. Why do we assess learners? (6)
- b. Using appropriate examples drawn from your teaching experience, define the following assessment concepts:
 - i. Reliability
 - ii. Validity
 - iii. Fairness (12)
- c. Explain how you would ensure that the assessment you give to your students is fair. (7)

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QUESTION 2

The parents of the learners in your class will probably be unfamiliar with standards referenced assessment and reporting. Using examples drawn from your teaching specialization, discuss how you would explain the principles, advantages and limitations of standards-referenced assessment to parents.

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QUESTION 3

- a. What is assessment for learning? (5)
- b. How is assessment for learning different from formative and summative assessments? (8)
- c. Discuss how you would use assessment for learning to improve student learning in your class. (12)

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QUESTION 4

- a. What is continuous assessment? (4)
- b. Explain the value of continuous assessment in education. (8)
- c. Discuss the success of the continuous assessment programme in primary schools in Swaziland. (13)

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QUESTION 5

'The individual in contemporary society is not so much described by tests as constructed by them'.

Source: Hanson, A. F. (1994). **Testing testing: Social consequences of the examined life.** Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Discuss the negative impact of external assessments or public examinations and suggest ways in which the negative impact can be alleviated.

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QUESTION 6

Research in classroom assessment suggests that there is need for changes in assessment practices. Using examples drawn from classroom assessment research you have been exposed to in the course, discuss the findings that can be useful to those planning to measure student achievement and set policies designed to encourage best teaching and assessment practices.

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QUESTION 7

- a. What are the benefits of involving students in assessing themselves? (6)
- b. What are the key features of effective feedback? (8)
- c. How can teachers ensure that the feedback they give is having an impact on student learning? (13)

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End of Examination