

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM & TEACHING
MAIN EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER
MAY 2014.

TITLE OF PAPER: EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

COURSE CODE: EDC 612

STUDENTS: M. Ed. Education

TIME ALLOWED: Three (3) Hours

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. There are five questions in this paper.

2. Answer questions 1 and 2 and any other two questions

3. All questions have a total of 25 marks each

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR TO DO SO.

Question 1 and 2 are compulsory.

QUESTION 1

- a. Identify five basic principles of Philosophy of educational assessment (5marks)
- b. To what extent do you think your teaching subject curriculum caters for each of the principles stated in (a)? (15marks)
- c. Discuss two factors that may constrain the achievement of the principles of philosophy of educational assessment for secondary school learners in Swaziland. (5marks).

QUESTION 2

Standardized tests are better tools to diagnose and evaluate students' progress (MacMillan, 2004).

You have been appointed to be the chairperson of a committee to develop a standardized test for IGCSE in your teaching subject. Discuss the procedure you will follow to develop the test using specific example. A sample test is required. (25mks).

Answer any two questions from the questions below.

QUESTION 3

- a. Distinguish between assessment and evaluation. (4mks)
- b. Three main purposes of assessment as outlined by Black (1998) are:
Assessment for learning
Assessment as learning
Assessment of learning

Discuss how assessment has been used to serve each of these purposes in Swaziland.(21marks)

QUESTION 4

- a. Describe how assessment can promote individual and institutional learning.
(6mks)
- b. Discuss the four broad dimensions which structure the relationship between assessment and learning. (16mks)
- c. Use specific examples to explain what is meant by "alternative assessment".
(3marks)

QUESTION 5

Quality assurance refers to the processes and procedures that systematically monitor different aspects of a service, process or facility to detect, correct and ensure that quality standards are being met.(Webster dictionary, 2014)

- a. Critically summarize the process of quality assurance employed by the Examination Council of Swaziland (ECOS) (10marks)
- b. Discuss the challenges facing ECOS in the process of ensuring quality assurance and suggest practical ways to overcome the challenges.(15marks).

END OF EXAMINATION!!!