Module 3: Writing Items for Quizzes and Tests

Goals for this Module

- Introduce item types for quizzes and tests.
- Introduce and apply steps for writing item stems/answer choices for selected response items.
- Introduce and apply steps for writing short answer and extended response items.
- Introduce and apply the concepts of item difficulty and cognitive complexity.

A Quick Overview: Item Types
Selected Response
• These items ask a question and provide a set of response choices (3 or 4), one of which is clearly the correct or best answer

Short-answer
• These items are answered by a phrase or a few sentences

Extended Response
• Students construct a lengthy response to a question or problem. Essay questions use an open-ended response format.

Performance Assessment
• Students produce a product or demonstrate a process, solve a problem involving several steps, or carry out an activity that demonstrates proficiency with a complex skill.
  • On-demand performance—obtained at the time of the assessment
  • Performance Event—a rehearsed performance developed over time

Pause to Think

* Of the item types presented, which types do you use with your students? Why?