Objective

Subjective

Math and Science

Fine Arts and Literature

Open-Book and Take-Home

Online Test

Comprehensive Exams

Tests and test questions come in different forms and types. But the most important thing about them is also perhaps the simplest thing and that is their function. Function of tests is to systematically evaluate how much information we have learned/retained by attending a lecture or class. It doesn’t always have to be administrated by a third party very often we administer tests to ourselves (when we play a game, do a crossword puzzle, tell a friend about a book we have read, talk about a vacation we took, … ).

Now that we established that tests are about measuring data or knowledge about a given subject it is easy to see the two major classifications of tests and test question:

Objective

Subjective

An objective test or test question is trying to evaluate a fact retention. This type of question typically only has one correct answer. What is the atomic weight of helium? Who was the first US president? What is the square root of 1?

A subjective test or test question is trying to evaluate understanding the subject. There may be more than one correct answer where we look for the best answer. This involves critical thinking on our part. The parking shortage question on last week’s assignment is good example of this. Redrawing the slips in the existing parking lot and paving the baseball field both give us more parking spaces, the question is what is the better answer. So it all depends what better means. Does better mean cheaper, more expedient, sustainable, …?

The form of the questions on the test maybe:

Multiple choice:

Capitol of Virginia is A)Alexandria B)Richmond C)Winchester D)Manassas

Matching:

Cardiologist Performs heart surgery

Oncologist Helps cancer patient

Dermatologist Works on skin conditions

Removes tattoos

True/False: If you have to guess your chances are 50/50.

One pound of led is heavier than one pound of popcorn.

Fill-In-The-Blank/Short Answer:

In baseball a referee is called a umpire.

In martial art an instructor is called a sensei.

Problem solving:

Take in a bunch of little information and solve a problem. The dimensions of a rectangular courtyard is x and y. Cost of tiles is z. what should my budget be?

Essay:

It is to learn how well you can analyze data and draw conclusions from a given set of data. You can demonstrate deeper understanding of the subject. The basic information maybe Columbus sailed to the new world in 1492 and his sponsors were catholic monarchs. And the essay may expand on or zoom into one part of event. Was he infect a Christian missionary or was he trying to gain funding?

Another classification that the book makes for test types is by what it takes to be successful in them:

Math and since

Fine arts and literature

Work through he simple questions first and leave time for more complex questions.

Open-book and take home

Don’t leave it for the last minute

Online test

Do the sample test if possible

Work out you answers on the worksheet

Comprehensive exams

Stay organized

Practice and review previous material regularly