

A. Define the following.

1. Proficiency tests

Are designed to measure people's ability in a language, regardless of any training they may have had in that language.

2. Diagnostic tests

Are used to identify learners' strengths and weaknesses.

3. Placement tests

Are intended or used to provide information that will help to place students at the stage of the teaching programme most appropriate to their abilities.

4. Achievement tests

Are directly related to language courses, their purpose being to establish how successful individual students, groups of students, or the courses themselves have been in achieving objectives.

B. Mention the difficulties with multiple-choice items.

- a) The technique tests only recognition knowledge.
- b) guessing may have a considerable but unknowable effect on test scores.
- c) The technique severely restricts what can be tested.
- d) It is very difficult to write successful items.
- e) Backwash may be harmful.
- f) Cheating may be facilitated.