

ASSESSMENT VARIETY

A PARTnerships Collaborative Project

This resource has been designed to assist academics in addressing some of the common challenges they face in their teaching. It guides and supports collaborative evaluation of current practices by encouraging individual and peer reflection, with a view to action.

This resource is comprised of three parts.

1. Assessment variety: A brief guide
2. Assessment variety: Individual reflection
3. Assessment variety: Peer discussion

This project will take between 1 and 2 hours to complete.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

For more information, contact the Centre for Teaching and Learning

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Assessment variety: A brief guide

Having students engage in a variety of different types of assessment activities:

- Increases the validity and reliability of assessment schedules;
- Allows students to demonstrate learning in a variety of ways;
- Caters for diversity in student cohorts; and
- Increases student interest and engagement in learning activities.

Assessment activities for different types of thinking

Type of thinking	Assessment activity	
Thinking critically and making judgements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay Report Journal Letter of advice to... Present a case for an interest group Prepare a committee briefing paper for a specific meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book review (or article) for a particular journal Write a newspaper article for a foreign newspaper Comment on an article's theoretical perspective
Solving problems and developing plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem scenario Group work Work-based problem Prepare a committee of enquiry report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft a research bid to a realistic brief Analyse a case Conference paper (or notes for a conference paper plus annotated bibliography)
Performing procedures and demonstrating techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration Role-play Make a video (write script and produce/make a video) Produce a poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab report Prepare an illustrated manual on using the equipment, for a particular audience Observation of real or simulated professional practice
Managing and developing oneself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal Portfolio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning contract Group work
Accessing and managing information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annotated bibliography Project Dissertation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied task Applied problem
Demonstrating knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written examination Oral examination Essay Report Comment on the accuracy of a set of records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise an encyclopaedia entry Produce an A–Z of ... Write an answer to a client's question Short answer questions: True/False/ Multiple Choice Questions (paper-based or computer-aided assessment)
Designing, creating and performing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Hypothetical

Assessment variety: Individual reflection

Use this table to reflect on the assessment types you currently use (½ – 1 hour).

Use the left hand column to list the types of assessment activities your students engage in, and the right hand column to comment on the possible alternative, or variations you might consider.

Assessment activities used	Possible alternatives, or variations

