



نشره رقم (4)

Formative Assessment

What is formative assessment?

The formative assessment is to monitor student learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning.

Formative Assessment Is Feedback!

Learning without feedback is like learning archery in a darkened room.

(Cross. 1996)

What is the importance of formative assessment?

for students

- ✓ to identify and then remediate group or individual deficiencies or gaps.
- ✓ to improve students' awareness of how they learn.
- ✓ to become more motivated to learn and take responsibility for their own learning.
- ✓ to become users of assessment alongside the teacher.
- ✓ to learn valuable lifelong skills such as self-assessment

for teachers

- ✓ to determine what students already know and to what degree.
- ✓ to assess how their current instructional strategies are working with students.
- ✓ to decide what modifications or changes in instruction they need to make so that all students can succeed
- ✓ to identify the students who need to work individually with them.

What are the characteristics of the formative assessment?

- Feedback is the central function of formative assessment
- It is essentially positive in intent (it is directed towards promoting learning; it is therefore part of teaching).
- Validity and usefulness are principals in formative assessment and should take priority over concerns for reliability.
- Students have to be active in their own learning (teachers cannot learn for them) and unless they come to understand their strengths and weaknesses, and how they might deal with them, they will not make progress.
- While formative assessment doesn't have to be graded, teachers have the option to include formative assessment as a part of the grade (it is advisable to be of low grade).



What is the difference between formative and summative assessment?

Basis For Comparison	Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
What is it?	It is an assessment for learning.	It is an assessment of learning.
Meaning	refers to a variety of assessment procedures that provides the required information, to adjust teaching during the learning process.	refers to a standard for evaluating learning of students.
Nature	Diagnostic	Evaluative
Frequency	Monthly or quarterly	Term end
Aims at	Enhancing learning	Measuring student's competency.
Goal	Monitor student learning.	Evaluate student learning.
Weight of grades	Low or now	High

How do We determine what type of formative assessment strategy to use?

This depends on:

- what aspect of student learning the teacher wants to measure (written test tools are appropriate to measure students' knowledge while students clinical competency could be measured using assessment tools of "show how" and "Does" levels of Miller s pyramid)
- learning preferences of the students (e.g. formative assessment strategies can be given to students individually, as partners, in small groups, or as a class).
- a variety of individual and group formative assessment strategies should be used (as individual strategies allow teachers to get a clear picture of each student learning while group strategies provide teachers with general information about student learning that can be used to plan instruction).

Some formative assessment strategies in classroom (You may need to explore more about them)

Discussions, One Sentence Summaries, Open-Ended Questions, Peer-Assessments, Problem Solving, Questionnaires, Questioning, Think-Pair-Share.