

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ASSESSMENT, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

by Marguerite Clarke, Jessica D. Lee, Emily Elaine Gardner

The latest [global goal for education](#) requires countries to ensure that children are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in life and work. Student assessment is a key tool in these efforts, but many countries are ill-equipped to design the kinds of assessments needed to monitor and support this goal.

This week, we launched a [new course](#) in the World Bank's Open Learning Campus on the topic of [Student Assessment for Policymakers and Practitioners](#). This self-paced course, which is accessible to anyone anywhere in the world, represents the culmination of many months of curating a vast amount of information and resources on student assessment into a user-friendly instructional package. The result is a practical, step-by-step introduction to student assessment for policymakers and practitioners.

The target audience for the course is World Bank staff as well as national policymakers and practitioners who work directly or indirectly on issues of education quality, student learning, and student assessment.

The course is organized into three modules:

1. Why invest in student assessment? This module provides an introduction to the topic and terminology of student assessment. It describes some of the pitfalls of assessments when done poorly, and some of the payoffs of assessment when done well.

2. What matters in student assessment systems? The second module describes the key ingredients that go into effective assessment systems as well as some of the tools and resources that countries can use to evaluate and strengthen their assessment systems.

3. How to design and implement student assessments? The last module explains how to make strategic tradeoffs among assessment options. It also outlines key issues and steps to consider when designing, implementing, or using data from classroom assessments, examinations, and large-scale assessments.

After taking this course, you will be able to:

- (i) Describe different types of student assessment activities, such as classroom assessments, public examinations, and large-scale assessments;
- (ii) Discuss what matters in student assessment systems;
- (iii) Identify tools for pinpointing strengths and areas for improvement in a student assessment system;
- (iv) Understand how to design and implement student assessment activities;
- (v) Make strategic choices among assessment options;
- (vi) Explain key phases and stakeholder roles in assessment activities; and
- (vii) Identify country experiences and resources that can be drawn on to support work on designing and implementing assessment activities.

Currently, the course is available in English, but there are plans to translate it into other languages. We invite you to check it out and let us know what you think!

<http://olc.worldbank.org/content/student-assessment-policymakers-and-practitioners>