

UNIT (1): BASIC ASSESSMENT CONCEPTS

(Part 1)

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This chapter introduces the basic assessment concepts as raised by the following questions:

- **What is assessment?**
- **Why do we assess?**
- **How do we assess?**
- **What do we assess?**
- **When do we assess?**

What is assessment?

Assessment: in general means measuring students' performance. It is any means of checking what students can do with the language and what they cannot do.

One kind of assessment is **testing**

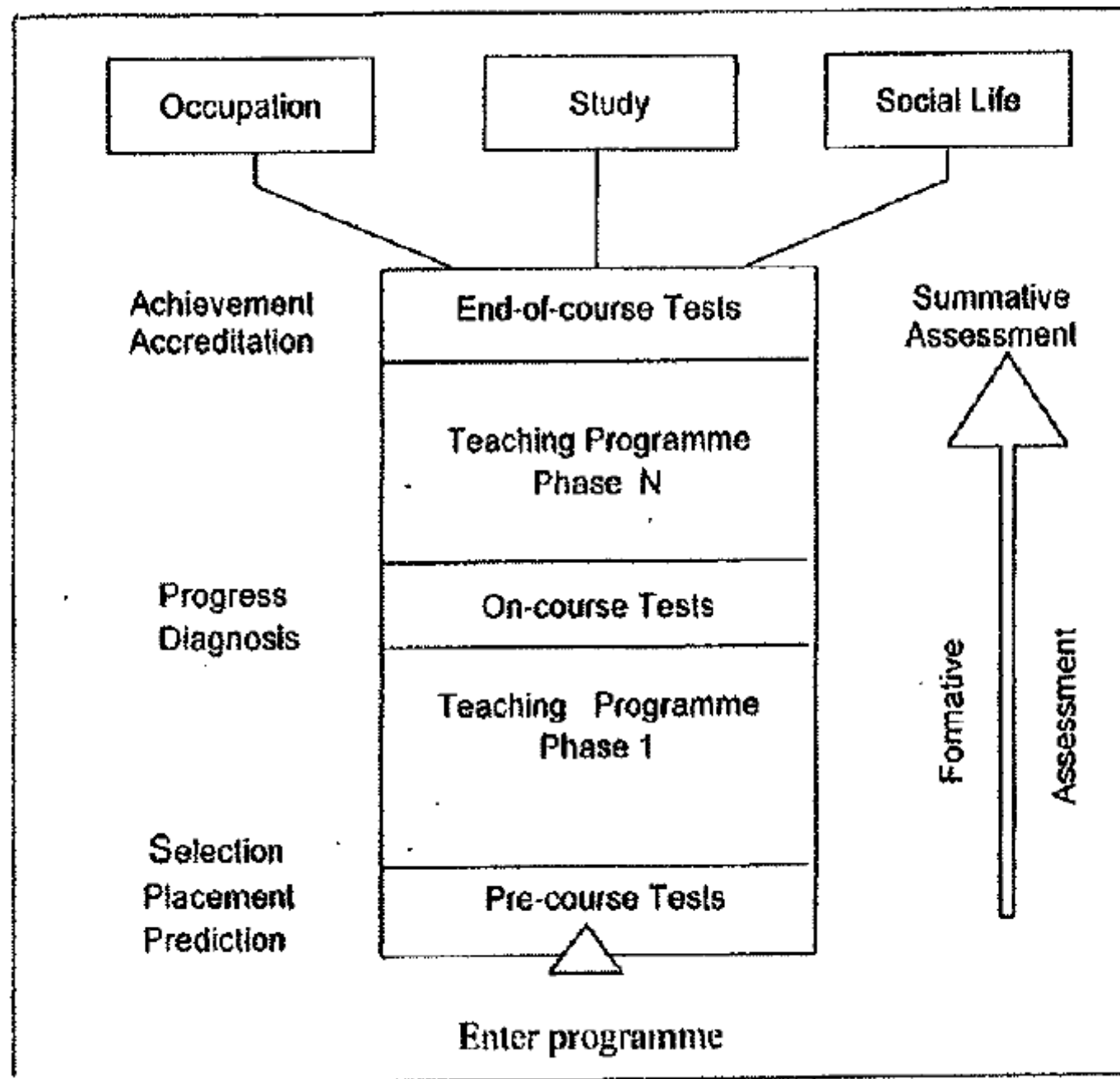
Testing: means presenting the students with a set of questions or tasks in order to obtain a measure of performance often represented by a score.

Why do we assess?

- How you assess depends on your purpose

- The most common purposes of assessment are:

1. Placement: to place or classify students on a suitable course.
2. Diagnosis: to specify the student's particular strengths and weaknesses.
3. Selection: to select as fairly as possible the best candidates for a limited number of places or jobs or for higher education.
4. Evaluation: to evaluate the effectiveness of the syllabus as well as the method of teaching so as to make adjustments when needed.
5. Progress: to assess what the students have learned of the specific syllabus and what progress they have made.
6. Prediction: to discover potential abilities and aptitudes and to predict probable future successes whether in school or outside.
7. Accreditation: to provide evidence that the student has undergone a course of training or study and is qualified to practise his profession.



Formative Assessment & Summative Assessment

Formative Assessment → is given before and during a course of study. (serve the first six purposes)

Summative Assessment → represent the end of the road, and is given at the end of a course of study. (serve the last purpose)