

UNIT (1): BASIC ASSESSMENT CONCEPTS

(Part 4)

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How do we assess?

There are a variety of techniques and modes of assessment that are commonly used for language assessment, the most prominent ones are the following:

- (State the modes of assessment?)
- (State the differences between them?)

Formal	Informal
Formative	Summative
Direct	Indirect tests
Discrete point	Integrative
Decontextualized	Contextualized
Receptive	Productive

Table 1: Contrasting Modes of Assessment

1. Formal vs. Informal Assessment

Formal assessment: large-scale test administered in controlled environments typically once a year and prepared either by the school teacher or by professional testing services (administerial examinations)

What are the aims of using formal assessment?

1. To determine the level of academic achievement reached by individual students
2. To compare students' performance with other students'
3. To assist institutions in the selection, placement and evaluation of students

Informal assessment: is a test conducted by the teacher to track the ongoing progress of students.

What are the aims of using Informal assessment?

1. To track the ongoing progress of students
2. To obtain reliable insights about the students' ability and state of development.
3. To measure how well students are mastering the content
4. To reveal whether further practice is needed.