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### **TEST-BASED ASSESSMENT IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS**

Computer-based testing serves as a convenient tool for pedagogical assessment and monitoring. It enables the identification not only of knowledge levels but also of gaps in the learning material, common errors, and the individual ways in which each learner assimilates information. Test items designed according to a specific algorithm help the instructor understand which topics and terms present the greatest difficulties and where teaching methods need adjustment, while also highlighting the material that is mastered most effectively.

Monitoring and verifying learning outcomes is an essential component of the educational process. Testing plays a significant role among the most effective methods for assessing the academic achievements of higher education students. While this method is employed at all stages of study, it is particularly important following the completion of a specific section of a course syllabus or the course as a whole. Unlike traditional oral questioning, testing ensures uniform conditions for all participants, minimizes the influence of subjective factors, and yields quantitative data suitable for statistical analysis.

Testing can be administered using computer-based assessment programs or online services (such as Google Forms) and is widely used in modern educational institutions. The main difference between standard assessment tasks and tests is that the latter always employ a specific scoring scale. Consequently, the grade obtained through testing is more objective and less susceptible to the potential subjective bias of the instructor.

Systematic testing during class sessions creates a sort of motivational accountability schedule for students. Knowing that their knowledge will be assessed at specific intervals encourages regular class preparation, the systematization of material, and frequent review. Faced with ongoing interim and final tests throughout the course of study, students are motivated to avoid procrastination and to work through the material in a timely manner. Furthermore, the process of completing test tasks itself can serve as an engaging challenge that stimulates the student's intellectual curiosity.

Test items must meet the following requirements: reliability, validity, and objectivity. A test is considered reliable if its results are consistent upon re-administration and, at the same time, consistently align with the results of an independent assessment. Validity means that a test item identifies and measures the level of mastery of the specific knowledge the developer intended to assess.

Computer-based testing performs several key functions: diagnostic (analyzing students' knowledge, skills, abilities); instructional (motivating students to engage actively in learning and master the material); discipline-building (the periodic and mandatory nature of testing instills discipline, helps guide students' learning activities, and makes it possible to identify gaps in knowledge). The use of computer-based testing enhances the efficiency of the educational process, stimulates students' cognitive engagement, and enables rapid feedback for the instructor.

Test-based assessment also reveals the effectiveness of the chosen teaching strategy. If the majority of students struggle with specific types of test questions or material related to a particular topic, this can signal to the instructor that they should adjust their approach, employ different methods, or provide additional explanations. Thus, testing serves not only as a means of assessing students but also as a way to monitor the quality of instruction.