

ASSESSMENT IN BIOLOGY INSTRUCTION

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Assessment is often equated and confused with evaluation, but the two concepts are different. Assessment is used to determine what a student knows or can do, while evaluation is used to determine the worth or value of a course or program. Assessment data effects student advancement, placement, and grades, as well as decisions about instructional strategies and curriculum. Evaluations often utilize assessment data along with other resources to make decisions about revising, adopting, or rejecting a course or program.

Assessment is evidence gathering conducted purposefully, systematically, and continuously and is used to evaluate students' competencies. The assessment process includes the following: 1) Providing an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their competencies, 2) Gathering and recording evidence of students' demonstrated competencies, 3) Using evidence to conduct a thorough assessment of the students' performance in those competencies. Assessment provides feedback on students' progress to the students themselves, teachers and parents. Assessment also helps teachers to make decisions based on the students' needs, and the learning program planning guidelines.

Evaluation is the stage of evaluating the information gathered, namely when the teacher makes conclusion on student learning progress and the learnt plan effectiveness.

REFERENCES:

1. <http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/docs/biology/asevbio.html>
2. <http://mbeproject.net/training3-6.pdf>
3. <http://specialed.about.com/od/assessment/a/AandE.htm>
4. <http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/docs/midlsci/asevmc.html>

TASK

Discuss what is the difference among measurement, evaluation and assessment

QUIZ

1. Functions performed by teachers to make wise decisions about their instruction and about their students are called _____ and _____.
2. The type of data that is usually gained during the beginning part of the lesson and helps the teacher find out students' prior knowledge on the concepts and information of the lesson is called _____.

3. The type of information that is collected during instruction and is used to inform teachers about their students' learning process in order to make judgments about lesson effectiveness is called _____.
4. The type of information that is collected after instruction and is used to summarize how students have performed and to determine grades is called _____.
5. The ability of a test or measurement device to produce consistent scores or information for people who take the test more than once over a period of time is _____.