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ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SUMMATIVE AND FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT IN EDUCATION

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Abstract. Summative assessments, which have been ingrained into teaching models for years, evaluate how much a student has learned at the end of a block of teaching. Summative assessments can include papers, exams, and final projects. Each student's learning is compared against a standard or benchmark.

Formative assessments, which are gaining popularity in teaching, evaluate in "real time" how much a student has learned. Formative assessment can include strategic questioning (of one or all students), quizzes, tests that asks students to explain their thinking, and group projects.

Keywords: Summative assessments, Formative assessments, SATs and ACTs, Higher Education.

ПРЕИМУЩЕСТВА И НЕДОСТАТКИ СУММАТИВНОГО И ФОРМАТИВНОГО ОЦЕНИВАНИЯ В ОБРАЗОВАНИИ

Аннотация. Суммативное оценивание, которое уже многие годы внедряется в модели обучения, оценивает, сколько студент усвоил в конце блока обучения. Суммативное оценивание может включать в себя сочинения, экзамены и итоговые проекты. Обучение каждого учащегося сравнивается со стандартом или эталоном.

Формативное оценивание, набирающее популярность в преподавании, оценивает в «реальном времени» то, сколько усвоил ученик. Формативное оценивание может включать в себя стратегические вопросы (одного или всех учащихся), викторины, тесты, в которых учащихся просят объяснить свое мышление, а также групповые проекты.

Ключевые слова: Суммативное оценивание, Формативное оценивание, SAT и ACT, Высшее образование.

Summative assessments can be helpful for students who are motivated by scores and grades and benefit from comparing themselves to other students. These types of assessments can also be helpful for teachers, because the collective scores of a group of students can indicate whether the teaching was effective. Summative assessments can also prepare students for tests that they'll need to take throughout their lives, including standardized testing, SATs and ACTs, and even employment tests.

The main drawback to summative assessments is that they often compel teachers to "teach to the test." With the increase in standardized testing that's being required by many states and districts, testing has gotten a bad name, and for good reason. Summative assessments, at their worst, encourage memorization, rather than an understanding of the subject matter.

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Formative assessments provide instant feedback for teachers, allowing them to see how well students have grasped the material and to immediately adjust their teaching styles and curriculum.

Formative assessments also can encourage students to participate and can increase cooperation among students. For students who "test poorly," this type of assessment gives teachers a more accurate view of what students are actually learning, not just what they're able to recount in a test. Best of all, formative assessments are effective tools in personalized learning.

The disadvantage of formative assessments is that they can take time, more time than teachers might perceive that they have. To repeatedly check students' learning takes more time than to administer one test at the end of a lesson or unit. The more time the formative assessments consume, the less time there is for teaching. Also, some students don't respond to formative assessments as well as they do to summative assessments. Students accustomed to earning points and grades might not be as motivated if their "achievements" aren't measured.

Advantages:

- 1. Clear Evaluation of Learning: Summative assessments provide a comprehensive evaluation of students' learning. By assessing their knowledge and skills at the end of a unit or course, educators can gauge the overall effectiveness of their teaching methods and curriculum. This information helps identify areas of improvement and enables educators to make necessary adjustments for future instruction.
- 2. Standardized Comparison: Summative assessments offer a standardized way to compare students' performance. By using the same assessment for all students, educators can objectively measure their understanding and rank them accordingly. This allows for fair comparisons among students, which can be useful for identifying high achievers and those who may need additional support.
- 3. Preparation for Higher Education or Job Market: In many educational systems, summative assessments play a crucial role in determining students' eligibility for higher education or job opportunities.

These assessments simulate the type of evaluations students may encounter in college or the professional world, helping them develop the necessary skills to succeed in these contexts.

Disadvantages:

1. Limited Feedback: One key drawback of summative assessments is that they provide limited feedback to students. Since these assessments are typically administered at the end of a learning period, students may not receive timely feedback to help them understand their mistakes or areas of improvement.

This lack of immediate feedback can hinder their learning progress and limit their ability to make necessary adjustments.

2. High-Stakes Pressure: Summative assessments often carry high stakes, as they can significantly impact students' grades or future opportunities. This pressure to perform well can lead to increased stress levels, which may hinder students' ability to demonstrate their true understanding of the subject matter.

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Furthermore, some students may experience test anxiety, further exacerbating the negative effects of high-stakes assessments.

3. Incomplete Picture of Learning: While summative assessments provide a snapshot of students' overall performance, they may not capture the full extent of their learning journey.

Students' understanding and growth may not be adequately represented by a single assessment, as it may not consider their progress over time or their ability to apply knowledge in real-world scenarios. This limitation can result in an incomplete picture of students' true capabilities.

Advantages of formative assessment:

- 1. Gaining insights: Formative assessment allows teachers to continually monitor and evaluate student understanding and progress. This helps them understand if the instructional strategies are effective and if students are grasping the content.
- 2. Immediate feedback: Formative assessment provides immediate feedback to both students and teachers. Students get real-time information on their performance, which allows them to track their progress and identify areas for improvement. Teachers can use this feedback to modify their teaching methods and provide additional support as needed.
- 3. Identifying learning gaps: Formative assessment helps to identify areas where students are struggling or have misconceptions. This allows teachers to address these gaps in understanding before moving on to new content, helping to prevent future learning difficulties.
- 4. Engaging students: Formative assessment methods, such as quizzes, group discussions, and self-assessments, actively engage students in the learning process. This helps to promote a deeper understanding of the material, as well as foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for their own learning.

Disadvantages of formative assessment:

- 1. Time-consuming: Implementing formative assessment can be time-consuming, especially for teachers who have large class sizes or multiple subjects to teach. It requires careful planning, frequent assessments, and timely feedback, which can be challenging to manage alongside other teaching responsibilities.
- 2. Standardization challenges: It can be difficult to ensure consistency and standardization when using different formative assessment methods across different classrooms or schools. This can make it challenging to accurately compare the progress of students or evaluate the effectiveness of instructional strategies.
- 3. Pressure and stress: Frequent assessment can create added pressure and stress for students, especially if they feel that their performance is constantly being evaluated. This can hinder their ability to learn and may create a negative classroom environment.
- 4. Limited scope: While formative assessment provides valuable insights into student understanding and progress, it may not fully capture all aspects of learning, such as creativity, critical thinking, or problem-solving skills.

This limitation may result in a narrow focus on content knowledge rather than holistic learning outcomes.

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