TEA WORKBOOK:

ASSESSMENT IN THE ONLINE CLASS

In this Workbook we will be going through:

- **How to link assessment to learning outcomes**

- **A variety of Online Assessment Methods**

- **Teaching tools that marry up with assessment methods**

- **Quick and easy assessment tools.**

I am often asked, "What is the point of assessment?" Assessment is crucial. Let's face it, it's as crucial as Teaching or Learning, hence the phrase "Teaching, Learning and Assessment". It is unfortunately, often an 'after thought' when planning and delivering our classes, the sort of 'Cinderella' of our teaching practice which is such a shame. Let me start this workbook by asking you:

What do you understand by the term Assessment?

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You want to know what progress your students are making towards their learning goal or what level they are at, at any given point in their course of learning with you.

When you are teaching your students, you want them to walk away from your session or course feeling they have achieved and reached their learning goals. This will encourage them to come back to you for more lessons and more courses. It will also encourage them to talk to their friends and relatives, which in turn means even more students for you to teach!

Think about the students you will be or are teaching, what would it mean to them and to you to show them they are progressing. (Think about retaining your students for other courses, helping and supporting them further, showing them you care how far they have come. Think about the pride, confidence and engagement they will have with you).

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The 3 types of Assessment

The three types are Initial, the Formative and the Summative assessment.

The **Initial assessment** does as it says on the tin, assesses a student from their initial meeting with you or in some cases if it is completed by questionnaire, before they have met or spoken with you.

The **Formative assessment** is the on-going assessment. You will need to assess your students throughout their time with you either in a lesson, via homework or on a whole course. This type of assessment is often referred to as '***Assessment for Learning***' where you decide where the learners are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there.
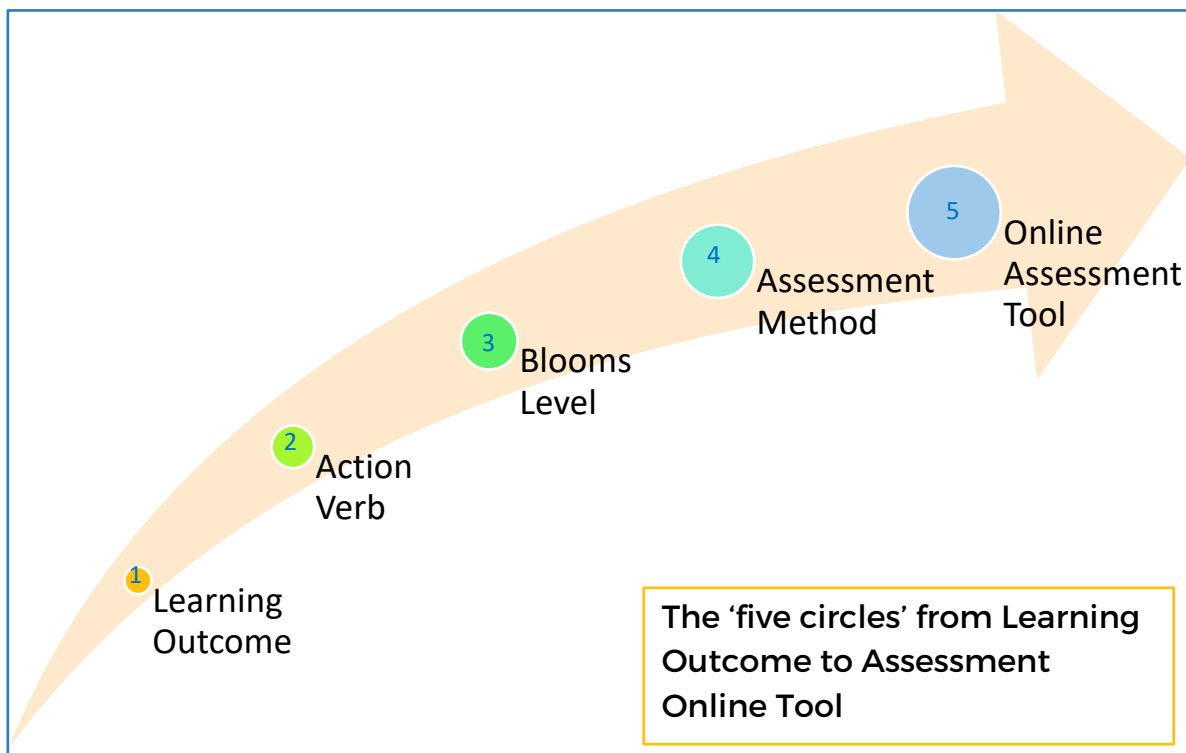
Summative Assessment comes at the end of a course of learning. It is rather like the end of a module, or the end of a term of semester of work where all learning comes together and is assessed. This is referred to as ***'Assessment of Learning'*** where you decide whether students have achieved the learning outcome(s) of the session, module or course with you.

When would you use an initial, a formative and a summative assessment when you are teaching a course?

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It is really important that you link your Assessment to your Learning Outcomes in order that you are then able to use the best assessment method and then the right Online assessment tool in order to support your students in their progression to ultimately achieve their learning goals.

Let's look at the **5 'Circles'** that you need to go through to get from the Learning outcomes to the appropriate Online Assessment Method.

5 — Online Assessment Tool

4 — Assessment Method

3 — Blooms Level

2 — Action Verb

1 — Learning Outcome

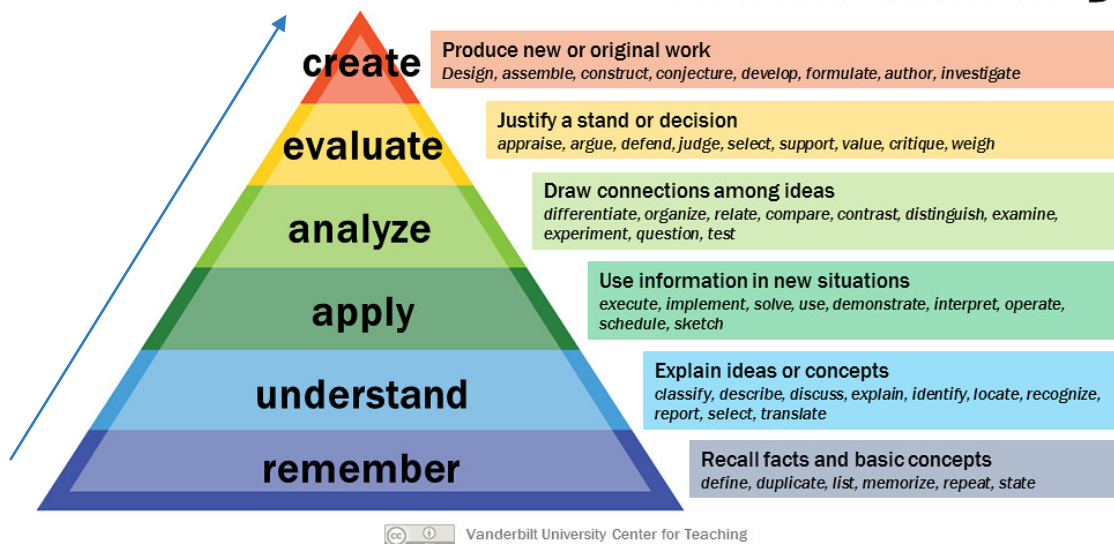The 'five circles' from Learning Outcome to Assessment Online Tool

The first 'Circle' in the Diagram above is to all about Learning Outcomes. You need to ensure they are SMART and in order to write SMART Learning Outcomes we need to use Bloom's Taxonomy.

Benjamin Bloom, the theorist, came up with the idea that learning can be broken down into 5 stages. These are:

1. **Remember**
2. **Understand**
3. **Apply**
4. **Analyse**
5. **Evaluate**
6. **Create**

When a student is learning something, Bloom says that they go through these 6 stages, to enable them to become completely competent in not only understanding something but using that new learning to produce new or original work as shown in the diagram below.

Bloom's Taxonomy

create — Produce new or original work
Design, assemble, construct, conjecture, develop, formulate, author, investigate

evaluate — Justify a stand or decision
appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, critique, weigh

analyze — Draw connections among ideas
differentiate, organize, relate, compare, contrast, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, test

apply — Use information in new situations
execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch

understand — Explain ideas or concepts
classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate

remember — Recall facts and basic concepts
define, duplicate, list, memorize, repeat, state

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The best bit about Bloom is that he came up with a whole list of active verbs that by using them, we automatically make our Learning Outcomes SMART!

'Circles' 1-3, From Blooms Action Verbs List to Level and Stage

Look first at the **Action Verbs** to the right of this table and **exactly what you want your students to be able to do** and then look at the relevant Level.

Level/Stage (Circle 3)	What do I want my students to do?	Relevant Action Verbs (Circle 2)		
Knowledge	Recall and regurgitate knowledge	List Recall Name	Memorise Define Relate	Repeat Record Tell
Comprehension	Understand what has been taught	Restate Discuss Describe Operate	Recognise Explain Express Schedule	Identify Locate Report Sketch
Application	Apply what they have learnt in other situations	Translate Interpret Apply Employ Use Examine	Demonstrate Dramatise Practise Illustrate Criticise Solve	Debate Diagram Inspect Inventory Question Relate
Analysis	Understand why things work the way they do by breaking them down	Distinguish Analyse Differentiate Design Organise	Appraise Calculate Experiment Setup Manage	Test Compare Contrast Create Prepare
Evaluating	Create something fresh from the given information in a new way.	Compose Design Formulate Assess Estimate	Plan Arrange Assemble Measure	Propose Collect Construct Choose
Creating	Judge the value of someone else's material	Judge Rate Revise	Appraise Compare Score	Evaluate Value Select

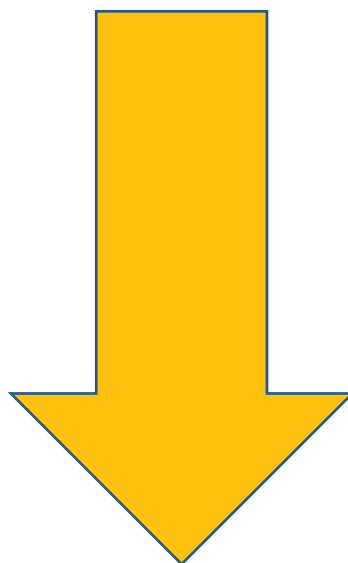# Circle 4 Linking Blooms Action Verbs to Assessment Methods

Below are some ideas of how levels in Blooms Taxonomy link to Assessment methods. You can add more in yourself. I find keeping this illustration close by when writing my Learning Outcomes helps with both teaching/learning activities and assessment.

Knowledge	Comprehend	Application	Analyse	Evaluate	Create
Fill in the Blank	Mind maps	Simulations	Case Studies	Journals/Diaries	Films
Matching Pairs	Assignments	Matching Pairs	Graphs and Charts	Comparisons	Assignments
Multi Choice Questions	Presentations	Short Answer Questions	Diagrams/ Illustrations	Discussion	Websites
Short Answer Questions	Simulations	Case Studies	Experiments	Essay	Games
Games	Animations	Assignments	Mindmaps	Portfolio	Presentations
Quizzes	Tutorials	Games	Debate	Critique	Rewrite

Circle 5 Linking the Assessment method to the Online Assessment Tool.

Now you know exactly which Assessment method you are going to use and it links back to your Learning Outcomes, you can pick out the appropriate Online Tool to support you with this.

There are literally hundreds and hundreds of tools out there that you can use to support you with Assessment in your online class and below I have given you a summary of some that I have used. You will need to have a go with a few tools, find which one suits you, your students and your budget and then go 'deep' to learn one or two of them. Remember not only will you have to learn how to use it, but you will probably have to teach your students how to use it too. It needs to be easy for them to use and potentially to mark the work for you and create a report on a class, student and even subject area.

Online Assessment Tools

Here is a list of tools that you might find useful and there are some comments about each tool and the cost of them.

Tool (Caveat here! TEA does not receive any fees for sharing these with you and does not recommend one tool over any other).	About the tool	Cost (Another caveat here! Correct at time of creating this document).
Socrative.com	Great for quizzes, quick answer questions, multi choice, true or false and short answer, and you can use them time and time again. Will create reports and is compatible with google.	Has a free plan up to 50 students
Google Forms	Easy to use, quick and simple to create. Automatically grades quizzes, Multiple-choice quizzes, Short answer quizzes Easy answer key with point assignment for each question. Can view graphs and summaries of frequently missed answers for quick birds-eye view of the class as a whole. Share grades with students at click of a mouse. Easy for students to use. Easy for students to answer questions by clicking a drop-down, typing a fast text answer, or posting YouTube video.	Free

Tool (Caveat here! TEA does not receive any fees for sharing these with you and does not recommend one tool over any other).	About the tool	Cost (Another caveat here! Correct at time of creating this document).
Polleverywhere.com	Teachers ask their students a question. The students answer the question using their mobile phones, Twitter, or web browsers. Both the question and the students' responses are displayed live in Keynote, PowerPoint, and/or on the web. You can ask a question of a student eg Which planet is furthest from the sun and the teacher can set a pool to collect responses, to compare and contrast answers.	Free for classes up to 40 – make sure you get the educator account not the free business one.
Edulastic.com	Quickly identify learning gaps with diagnostic and formative assessments. Monitors progress, but mainly used for maths.	Free for teachers some things you have to pay for.
Nearpod.com	Students can actively participate in their education while teachers get valuable feedback, on students' learning. Some features may not work on all devices. I really like this one as it is great for teaching, learning and assessment.	Some activities are free however, to have all of them is a small fee of about £5 a month.

Tool (Caveat here! TEA does not receive any fees for sharing these with you and does not recommend one tool over any other).	About the tool	Cost (Another caveat here! Correct at time of creating this document).
Edpuzzle.com	Choose a video, add your questions and track your students' comprehension. Check if students are watching your videos, how many times they're watching each section, and if they understand the content. You can use videos from Youtube, Khan Academy, Crash course and you and upload your own videos. You can also add audio.	Free or upgrade to Pro Teacher for around £10 a month
Flipgrid.com	Video discussion tool for learners. Start a discussion and engage your learners. View and share their video responses	Free
Go.playposit.com	Classroom Basic programme is perfect for individual teachers with just a few learners and a limited number of assignments per month. Can enrich video content with lots of quizzes and fill in the gap exercises and you receive immediate data to track progress and marks/grades.	100 free learners per month.
Spiral.ac (Part of Discovery Education)	Collaborative, can be used both synchronously and asynchronously. Post an assignment and you can review, grade and feedback offline. Can ask verbal questions and students can respond from any device. Tutors can use a range of question formats including polls, drawings and audio responses. Quick and easy to use.	Currently free, but normally around £5 a month

Classkick.com (app)	Very collaborative, you can see your students working as they do it. Can see who needs help and you can provide instant feedback. Easy to create and share assignments and great for formative assessing.	Basic is free but Pro you have to pay for.
LessonUp.com	Share slides, chose an interactive element and the share it with your students. You can then check progress, test your students and receive a report on their results.	Free or Pro is around £60 per teacher per year.
Mathswatch	This one is for those teaching Maths (from Functional skills to AS level). Questions are set, students can answer and ask for support. Report on Answers, their activity and exam results. Thousands of questions that are automatically marked.	£100 to £375 per year.
Kaizena.com (app)	Quick and Easy to use, google compatible and excellent for giving feedback. You can give audio feedback, save reusable comments and students can too. Students can even give feedback on each other's work.	Free
Otter.ai	This tool is great for students to speak rather than write. It records voices and turns them into written documents.	Free but if used more than 600 minutes per month there is a fee.

Some questions to ask yourself:

Is your learning outcome Measurable, ie can it be assessed?

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How do we know if students have achieved the intended learning outcomes: is there a good match between learning outcomes and assessment?

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How can we improve assessment so that it tests the intended learning outcomes?

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Is the online assessment tool easy to use, and easy for your student to use?

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Can you use just the free version to assess students?

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Have you learnt one or two tools in depth, and not loads of tools just a little?

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