CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD TEST

by:

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According to Malcolm X, an American Muslim minister and human rights, that “Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.” In preparing the children to the future they should be assessed in terms of tests and these tests should be good.

A test to be good must possess the following characteristics in order to truly measure the intelligence, skills and competencies of the learners.

Being valid. This means that the test is valid. It shows that the items in the test are already taught by the teacher and the competencies being tested are included in the coverage of the lesson. In other words, the test should be relevant to the learners’ knowledge and understanding.

Being reliable. This connotes that the test should be proven reliable. This means that a group of students had already taken the test at the same condition. This further explains that the test is reliable and worthy to serve as an assessment.

Being objective. This means that the test is impartial and does not involve a person’s personality and intention to favor specific others. The test should be fair and not bias and that the test is made in order to evaluate the abilities of all the given learners.

Being comprehensive. This means that the test covers the range of teaching. The test should cover all the lessons taught by the teacher. In longer test, all the lessons within a particular period should be covered to test the learning of the students.
Being simple. To be more understandable and clearer to the learners, the test should be simple. This entails good and clear instructions and contains organized and understandable items and questions.

Being measurable. This means that the test may derive scores from the items given. Through this test, the pupils may have a score to be attained or achieved which may reflect learning.

Being practical. The test that is practical is that it is useful in gauging the learning of the students. It also shows the skills and competencies as of the students are taught by the teacher.

Being child-friendly. The test should not only measure the learning of the students but should also be friendly to them. This means that the test is gently checking the range of learning of these students.

Validity, reliability, objectivity, comprehensiveness, simplicity, measurability, practicality and child-friendliness best describe a good and ideal test.

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