

Effective Assessments: Determining the Purpose

	Diagnostic	Formative	Interim	Summative
Purpose	To gauge students' knowledge and skills before a unit of instruction	To monitor student learning and adjust ongoing instruction	To measure student progress relative to an academic goal	To measure student mastery of standards at the end of a unit of instruction
Examples				
When administered				
How students use results				
How teachers use results				

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Examples	Pre-Assessment, Performance in previous related coursework, discussions with students	Checks for understanding, quizzes	Chapter Test, Performance Assessment, Project, Portfolio review, presentation, etc.	Common assessments (School/District), End-of-Unit Tests, State Tests
When administered	Prior to a unit of instruction	Ongoing throughout unit	At the conclusion of a unit of study	End of course
How students use results	To determine starting point and identify growth areas	To self-monitor understanding / identify areas for continued growth/ modify study practices	To self-assess progress toward mastery of standards, course- and grade-level expectations	To gauge progress toward course- or grade-level goals and benchmarks
How teachers use results	To identify readiness levels/grouping/plan instruction	To check for growth and understanding and provide additional instruction accordingly	To gauge progress toward course- grade-level goals and benchmarks, adjust instruction, inform program/policy decisions	For grades, promotion, curricular modifications, PD plans, inform program/policy decisions

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