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Constructing Achievement Tests

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Constructing Achievement Tests is a comprehensive, practical guide in planning and developing achievement tests for beginning vocational education teachers. The text could also be used by teacher educators as a resource for teacher preparation.

The text is divided into nine chapters and begins with an explanation of the different types of tests and their appropriate use. The author takes the reader through five specific steps for effective development of achievement tests: (a) planning the test by clearly defining the purpose of the intended learner outcomes; (2) constructing objective, essay and performance tests; (3) assembling the representative sample of test items into a well-organized and efficient form; (4) administering the test and carefully interpreting the results; and (5) using the test results to improve learning. Although four chapters describe methods for constructing various types of test items, the organization of the book is such that it is readily understood that writing test items is only one part of the total process of planning and developing tests.

Strengths of the text include clearly stated principles of test construction with good examples to illustrate these principles with multiple examples of interpretive exercises to measure higher levels of knowledge.

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