



Role of Question Paper Setter in Quality Assessment

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ABSTRACT

Question paper is the primary means of evaluation in a formal system of education. Though basically the aim of question paper is to make the student to recall and present the body of knowledge he has acquired through formal learning. Question paper may contain open ended questions or closed ended questions. In case of closed ended questions the scope is much broad in terms of multiple choice questions, match the following, dichotomous questions, scaling techniques etc. The issue is with open ended questions. Here the paper setter should have clear understanding about the concept and should be able to judge the way question can be posed so that, it can generate the best from the student. Paper setter must be very careful in using the appropriate terminology. Question paper should have lucid terminology and must generate enthusiasm in students to recall their knowledge and make the best presentation of their understanding. One of the widely accepted ways for framing a question paper is by using Blooms Taxonomy.

Key Words : Blooms Taxonomy, Assessment, Quality Assessment, Role of question paper, Role of question paper setter, Question paper setting, etc.

Introduction: Etymologically the word Education is derived from a Latin term 'Educare' which means, to train, to mold, bringing up, to lead etc. Education results in awareness, knowledge, comprehension, application of knowledge, analysis, synthesis of new concepts, creation and innovation. Education can be formal and informal. Education can be structured and unstructured. Education can be with intension and without intension. As said by Swamy Vivekananda Education is manifestation of perfection which is already there in us. Education happens at different levels of human life. Formal education is a structured form of learning which is basically aimed at acquiring knowledge. Formal education is primarily characterized by assessment. Examination based on question paper have been the most popular and widely accepted means of assessing the performance of the students.

Importance of QP setting: Question paper is the primary means of evaluation in a formal system of education. Though basically the aim of question paper is to make the student to recall and present the body of knowledge he has acquired through formal learning. Question paper may contain open ended questions or closed ended questions. In case of closed ended questions the scope is much broad in terms of multiple choice questions, match the following, dichotomous questions, scaling techniques etc. The issue is with open ended questions. Here the paper setter should have clear understanding about the concept and should be able to judge the way question can be posed so that, it can generate the best from the student. Paper setter must be very careful in

using the appropriate terminology. Question paper should have lucid terminology and must generate enthusiasm in students to recall their knowledge and make the best presentation of their understanding. One of the widely accepted ways for framing a question paper is by using Blooms Taxonomy.

Quality of Question Paper: Quality of the question paper is very important to accomplish the primary purpose of the assessment. The required qualities of a question paper differ from level to level. To mention a few qualities of a question paper viz. relevance of the questions, coverage of the question paper concerning the syllabus, correctness and completeness of the questions, difficulty level, and answerability within the stipulated time.

Key factors for question paper quality :

- A. Relevance Assessment
- B. Difficulty Assessment
- C. Timing Assessment

With regard to difficulty level of question paper there is a widely accepted thumb rule 50:20:30. The difficulty (toughness) level of question paper should be such that 50% of it can be answered by even an average student, 20% by a good students and the rest 30% by an intelligent student.

Qualities of Question Paper setter: Question paper setter must attend the assignment with honesty, dedication, commitment, integrity, seriousness etc. While setting a question paper, the paper setter should place himself in the shoes of the examinee and then design the type, level and duration of the questions. The paper setter should never challenge the existence of the examinee, instead they should motivate and help the examinee to express. Appropriate care should be taken by the paper setter that, the students do not lose the faith in examination system in particular and education system in general.

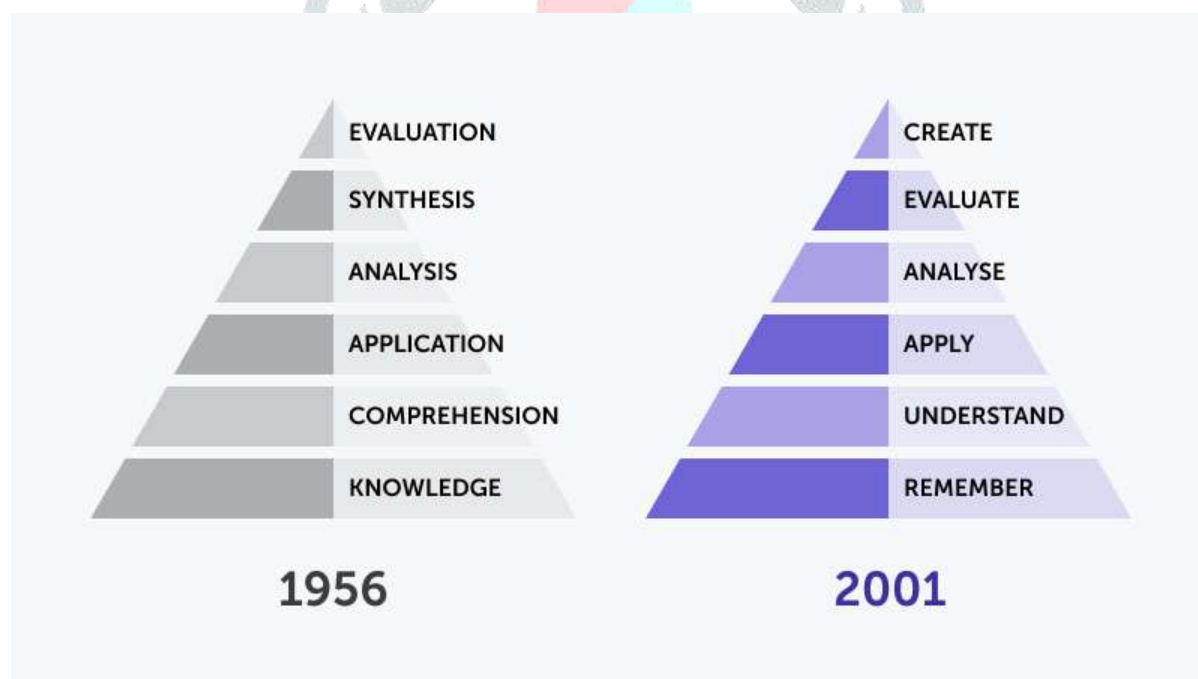
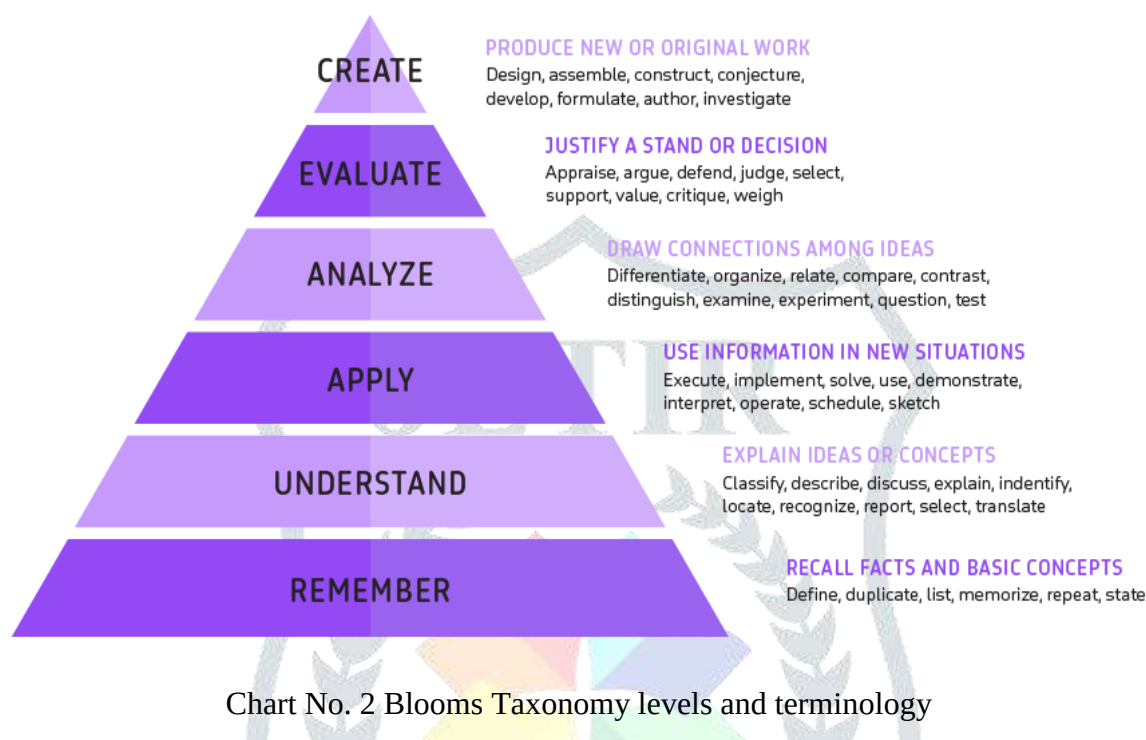


Chart No. 1 Blooms Taxonomy 1956 and 2001

Blooms Taxonomy: American educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom and his co-authors Max Englehart, Edward Furst, Walter Hill, and David Krathwohl first explained the concept of educational taxonomy in their book entitled Taxonomy of Educational Objectives in 1956. It's an attempt made by the authors to classify the learning stages from remembering the facts to the stage of creating new ideas based on the knowledge acquired. A team of researchers led by Bloom's colleague David Krathwohl and one of Bloom's students, Lorin Anderson, revised the taxonomy in 2001.

Impact of BT in QP setting–Blooms taxonomy gives ample scope for the paper setter to prepare a better question paper which could elicit appropriate responses from the student. There are six levels in Blooms taxonomy. The basic level aimed at Remembering the concepts i.e. to recall the facts and basic concepts. The second level is aimed to test the understanding of the presenter by calling for explanation or description about the concepts. The third level speaks about the application part of the concepts in a situation. Fourth level is aimed to make the student to analyse the concept and to create relation between the ideas. The penultimate level is to evaluate the stand of the presenter and the justification for his stand. The final level is aimed to create a new idea or concept from the existing phenomenon.



Conclusion : Question paper setting plays a vital role in deciding the quality of assessment. The paper setter should take utmost care in adhering to the norms and using new techniques of questioning to bring out the application part of knowledge acquired by the student. The paper setter should encourage creativity and innovative ways of presentation. Though other aspects of the education system like designing the curriculum, measuring learning objectives to learning outcomes, evaluation process etc are also important, paper setting decides the dimension in which the student is going to assimilate the domain knowledge and retain it and recall it for presentation.

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