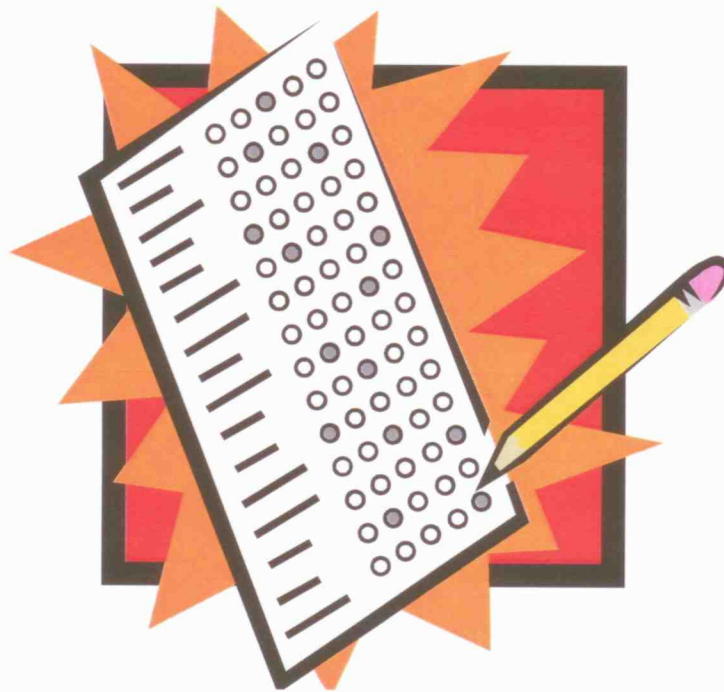


How to Build a Better Test

St. Francis Episcopal Day School
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BUILDING A BETTER TEST

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INTRODUCTIONS

- Who are you?
- What do you want?
- Why?



PURPOSE OF TESTING

- Provides feedback to you about student learning
- Provides feedback to students about their learning
- Provides feedback to you about your teaching via student learning
- Mechanism for assigning grades
- Can demonstrate competencies



TIPS FOR CREATING EFFECTIVE TESTS

- Make up test items throughout the term
- Ask students to submit test questions
- Borrow items from colleagues/test banks
- Prepare clear instructions
- Include a few words of encouragement
- Put some easy items first
- Challenge your best students
- Try out the timing



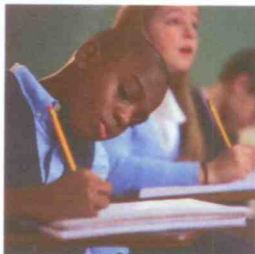
CONSTRUCTING THE TEST

- List your course goals
- Determine the number of test items for each category of objectives
- Consider the type of knowledge you want to assess
- Create a Behavior Content Matrix
- Validity
- Reliability



VALIDITY

- Results must be useful about making decisions about a students' achievement – Does the test measure what you want it to measure?
- Focus on content validity: does the content of the test represent an accurate sampling of the knowledge and skills taught?



RELIABILITY

- Does the test accurately and consistently evaluate a student's performance?
- Do students you predict to score high do so? Do students you predict to score low do so?



THREATS TO VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

- Too few difficult test items
- Ambiguous questions
- Unclear directions
- Vague scoring criteria
- Too short a test
- Unbalanced coverage in proportion to emphasis in class

