

Use of Internet resources during secure online testing

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What we will cover

- Open book testing
- Delivery Methodologies
- Some testing considerations

Open book testing

- “more realistic”
- Allows testing of high cognitive skills such as evaluating and analyzing
- Encourages development of richer content but need to ensure such content is ‘construct relevant’
- Need to ensure level playing field
 - “Tests are standardized when the directions, conditions of administration, and scoring are clearly defined and fixed for all examinees, administrations and forms” Cohen & Wollack, 2006

Open book testing from another perspective

- Realistically, especially where the knowledge base is extensive and changing, it makes sense to relieve students of unnecessary information storage.
- It will discourage rote learning, as that will get scant credit.
- It creates an environment more conducive to the exercising of higher-order cognitive skills. For instance, by working at reduced stress level and with reduced burden on recall, students should be better able to devote themselves to more sophisticated demands.
- Examiners will be ‘forced’ to set more thoughtful, thought-demanding questions, since OBEs make pointless questions that test simple recall.
- By reducing or eliminating purely knowledge items from the material to be examined, more time is left for more mentally challenging items.
- By allowing access to computer-based resources, more complex questions can be set.
- More accurate and in-depth answers can be expected because students have access to ‘chapter and verse’.

Delivery Methodologies

- Small attachments such as tables, documents etc.
- PDF Files
- Reference databases with search capability
- Printed material
- BYO
- Web Sites

Some testing considerations

- Security
- Connectivity
- Latency
- Updating of reference material
- Timing of exam
- Exam navigation
- ADA accommodations
- Language support

Parting Thought

- At the end of the day it all comes down to content!

“The teachers also think the nature of the questions make it harder to cheat in exams. Students are no longer required to regurgitate facts and figures. Instead the emphasis is on their ability to sift through and analyze information,”