

Student Assessment Resources

What is Assessment?

Assessment is an important part of learning. As a student in Trinity you are likely to encounter many different types of assessment. We typically think of assessment as exams or essays. However, assessments come in many forms and fulfil a range of purposes. As a university student, one of the most important roles of assessment is to enhance your learning and prepare you for your life and work as a graduate.

Purposes of Assessment

Assessment is often broken down into two main types: **Summative** and **Formative**. Summative assessment is used to test whether you have learned the material being taught; they are more evaluative and generally graded, such as end-of-semester exams. Formative assessment, however, seeks to provide feedback on your work to help you improve. They are less formal in that they are typically not marked (or may have a small value towards a grade).

To make the most of your assessment, it is helpful to understand the various purposes assessment can serve. Assessment has three main purposes: Assessment OF, FOR and AS learning:

Assessment of learning

Is used to test whether you have learned the material being taught
Tends to be summative assessment - generally graded (e.g. exams) and counts towards your end of year mark/your degree.

Assessment for learning

Seeks to help you learn by providing feedback from peers or teachers thus tends to be more formative
Can be graded or ungraded (e.g. in a group project using comments from your fellow classmates to improve your performance)

Assessment as learning

Aims to involve you in the learning process where you practice monitoring your own progress and to help you evaluate your own work
Usually ungraded (e.g. work done for a tutorial) or given a small grade (e.g. completing a reflective journal)

College is encouraging a wider range of teaching, learning and assessment methods to improve student learning and responding to student diversity.

For a glossary of terms used around assessment click here to see the [TEP Glossary of Terms](#)

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Forms of Assessment

As a Trinity student, you will experience many different forms of assessment addressing the one, two or all of the above purposes of assessment. Every degree programme and module in Trinity has set learning outcomes. Your performance is assessed against these objectives.

Your lecturer will prepare you for whatever assessment type they are using in their modules. But here at SLD we are also keen to provide support in the area of assessment.

We have developed a series of resources focused on the most common forms of assessment. For more information, click on the following links:

- Essays
- Exams
- Group work
- Online Blogs or wikis
- Presentations
- Reflection
- Self-Assessment