

## Tool: Using the ACID Test to Evaluate a Common Formative Assessment

**Instructions:** Use the following questions to evaluate the overall quality of a common formative assessment written by your learning team.

<b>A</b>	<p>Is the assessment <b>aligned</b> to the context, content, and rigor or complexity of the standards?</p> <p>Look at the language of the standard and the learning targets (from the unwrapped standard) in comparison to the task. Are the thinking types on the assessment aligned to those targets?</p> <p>Do the various items target the various levels of rigor or application (for example, Depth of Knowledge; Webb, 1997) represented in the learning targets? For example, is the difficulty of the task or questions at the same level as the target?</p> <p>Examine any exemplars related to your targeted level of complexity. Is the level of scaffolding or cueing appropriate?</p> <p>Is the designated level of mastery or proficiency appropriate and aligned?</p>	<b>Your Response:</b>
<b>C</b>	<p>Are the items on the assessment <b>clearly written</b>?</p> <p>Read the prompt and any distractors provided. By completing this task as written, will students be demonstrating the skills and concepts you are targeting?</p> <p>Will students understand what you want them to do?</p>	<b>Your Response:</b>
<b>I</b>	<p>Will this assessment be <b>informative</b> about student learning and produce meaningful data?</p> <p>Will teams benefit from gathering data on these learning targets in this fashion?</p> <p>Will specific information on learning targets steer teams toward meaningful interventions and support?</p> <p>Will this assessment be an opportunity to provide feedback to students?</p>	<b>Your Response:</b>

<p><b>D</b> Is the assessment <b>designed</b> to reflect and support the demands of the standards?</p> <p>Will the items ask students to show what they know in a way similar to high-stakes assessments?</p> <p>Are students asked to provide reasoning for their answers?</p> <p>Are students looking for evidence?</p> <p>Are students digging into information in a variety of texts and sources?</p>	<p><b>Your Response:</b></p>
<p><b>Questions for Reflection</b></p> <p>What are the strengths of this assessment?</p> <p>What are the weaknesses of this assessment?</p> <p>What changes, if any, do you need to make to this assessment?</p> <p>What strategies from this assessment can be easily integrated into future assessments?</p>	

## Reference

Webb, N. L. (1997). *Research monograph number 6: Criteria for alignment of expectations and assessments in mathematics and science education*. Washington, DC: Council of Chief State School Officers.

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