



Support for English, maths and ESOL

Module 10

Approaches to the formative and summative assessment of problem solving for functional skills

Aims



To explore a range of approaches to assessment for learning that help identify learners' progress in relation to solving complex problems independently

Outcomes



By the end of the session participants should be able to:

1. Identify a range of approaches for assessing problem solving
2. Formatively assess learners' abilities to problem solve independently using maths, English and ICT
3. Identify approaches that help learners understand how well they can solve everyday and work-related problems using maths, English and ICT
4. Understand the requirements of functional skills summative assessments

A problem solving process



1. Identify and understand the problem / task
2. Identify possible solutions
3. Plan how to tackle the problem / task
4. Carry out the plan
5. Monitor and reflect on progress
6. Decide whether the problem has been solved
7. Review the problem solving process

Assessment for learning



“Much of what teachers and learners do... can be described as assessment. That is, tasks and questions prompt learners to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills. What learners say and do is then observed and interpreted, and judgements are made about how learning can be improved. These assessment processes ...involve both teachers and learners in reflection, dialogue and decision making.”

(Assessment Reform Group, 2002)

Have you got time to make these drawers?

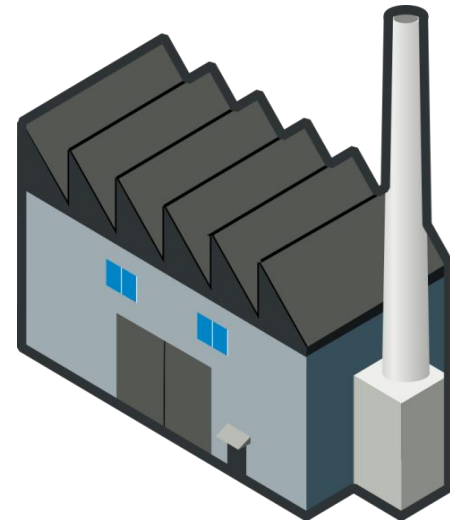
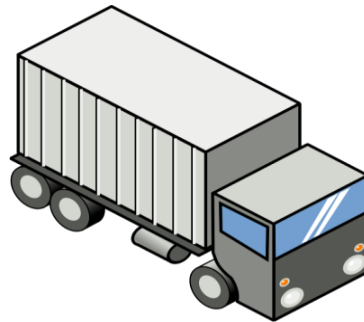


Role play activity

Instructions:

1. Allocate 3 roles:
 - Learner
 - Assessor / teacher
 - Observer (s)
2. 'Assessor' shows the 'learner' the image on one side of the card and uses the prompt questions on the back to draw out how they would solve the problem.
3. 'Observer(s)' are prepared to lead a discussion after the role play using the questions on your question slip.

There are plans to build a recycling plant close to your home. You are not sure if you are 'for' or 'against' this...



In the newspaper, you read that your local council will answer written questions about the plans.

Sharing assessment approaches



Edmodo functional skills assessment approaches group

www.edmodo.com

Share your resources / approaches to contribute to a collaboratively-designed 'assessment approaches' list