

## Rules for writing good linear test items:

- Each item should measure a single, clearly defined objective
- Items should be written in language that is at or below the average reading level of the students targeted by the assessment
- Items should be clearly written, unambiguous and free of cultural bias
- Responses should be of equivalent length and arranged in a logical order (by length, alphabetically, etc.)
- Avoid true/false items or multiple-choice items with responses such as “All of the Above,” “None of the Above,” “A and C,” etc.
- Distractors should all be plausible and of equivalent plausibility
- Avoid trick questions
- Multiple response items should indicate the number of answers in the stem
- Exhibits should relate directly to the test question and not provide distracting or extraneous information
- Avoid items that may disclose answers to other items in the same test
- **Recommendation:** Primarily use multiple-choice items with four responses or multiple-response items with five responses

More information at: <http://degreeoffreedom.org/creating-effective-assessments/>