Understanding Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Section 1

Assessments play an important role throughout your journey as a learner. As well as helping the teacher to determine your success, they can also help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses in learning. Understanding the assessment process is thus essential for any learner.

You can extend your learning from assessments—whether they confirm progress and achievement or indicate areas where you need to focus your efforts. Assessment can also be a key mechanism for developing particular knowledge and abilities.

So, what can you do to make the most of the opportunities assessments present? This infographic offers some key pointers.

Section 2

Learning outcomes and the assessment task

- Learning outcomes:
  - A set of statements that indicate what you will learn, and by doing so, help to provide guidance on the assessment task.
  - They are the starting point for assessing your understanding and skills.

- Assessment task:
  - The task you undertake to demonstrate your learning outcomes.
  - It is a means of confirming your achievement.

- How they connect:
  - Your assessment task should directly relate to the learning outcomes and help you to identify how well you have understood and applied them.

Section 3

Understand what the task is asking you to do

Review the task a couple of times and think about:

a. What are you being asked to do?
b. What skills will you need to complete the task?

c. How will completion of the task support you to achieve the learning outcomes?

Section 4

How to complete the assessment task

Always plan:

- Using your own words, create a plan for your assessment that details the task or problem presentation, how you are going to address it, and why you have chosen to address it in this way. Then use this as a focus point throughout.

Plan your time to accommodate the reading and research needed, and the production of a final assignment, and have a chance to review and update before submission.

For more advice on understanding learning outcomes, assessment and feedback, explore our Unpacking Assessments Student Guide.

Section 5

How to make use of feedback

Think honestly about how you approached the work, what went well and what you might like to do differently next time. It can be helpful to create an action plan that will feed forward to future work.

Remember to respond to your feedback before you start a new piece of work.