



CENTRE FOR
TEACHING AND
LEARNING

CTL 100 SERIES >
Faculty
Development

UNIT 1 >
Identify
an essay test

UNIT 2 >
**When should
an essay test
be used?**

UNIT 3 >
Write an
effective
essay test
question

RELATED
RESOURCES

Writing essay tests

Unit 2 of 3

When should an essay test be used?

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REVIEW UNIT 1    START UNIT 2



Deciding when essay tests should be used takes 4 steps

1

ILO
and
Action
Verb

2

Bloom's
Taxonomy

3

Words
matter

4

Writing skills,
time and
resources





Intended learning outcome (ILO) are students' achievements

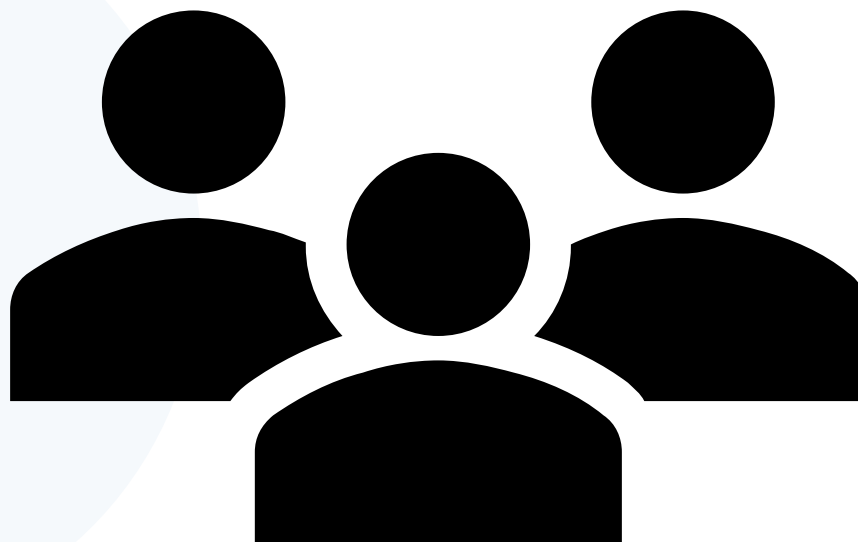
STEP 1





Action verbs are based on the intended learning outcome

STEP 1



“Match...” **X**
“Show...”

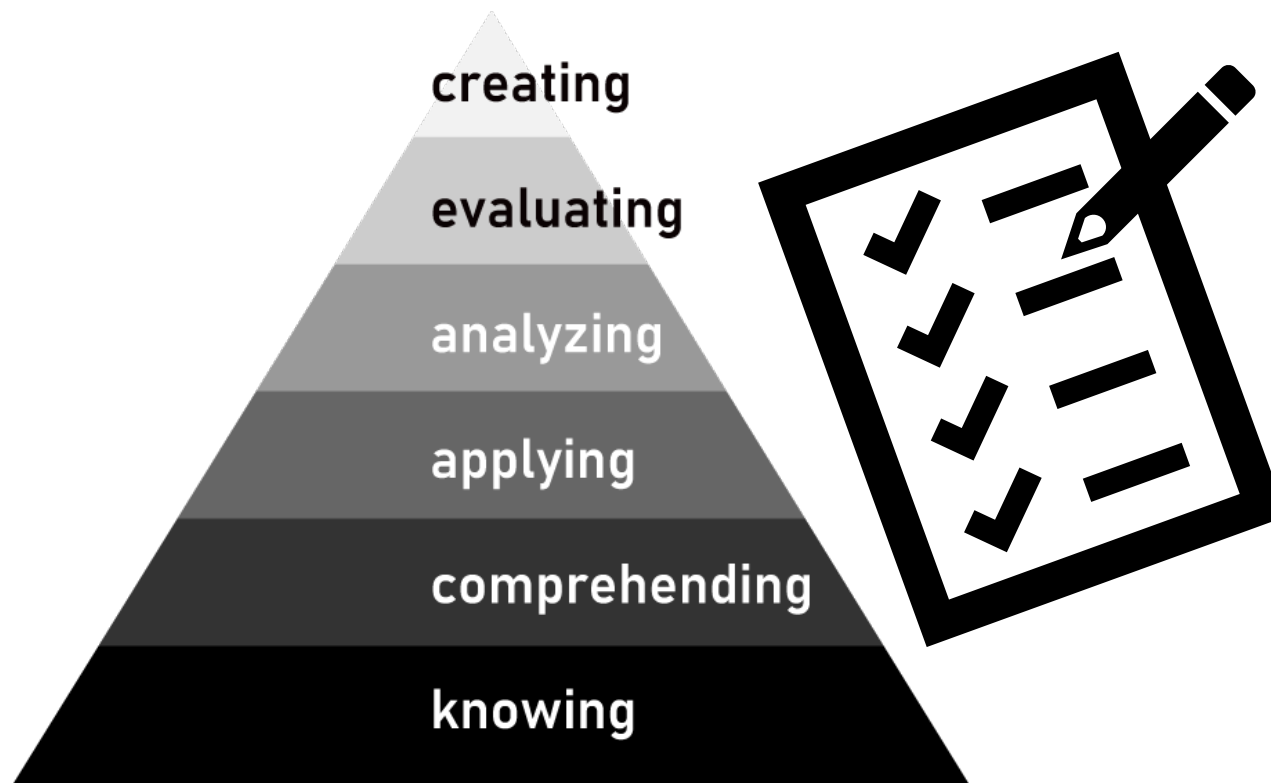
“Justify...” **✓**
“Construct...”





Bloom's taxonomy is a teaching tool used to test students learning

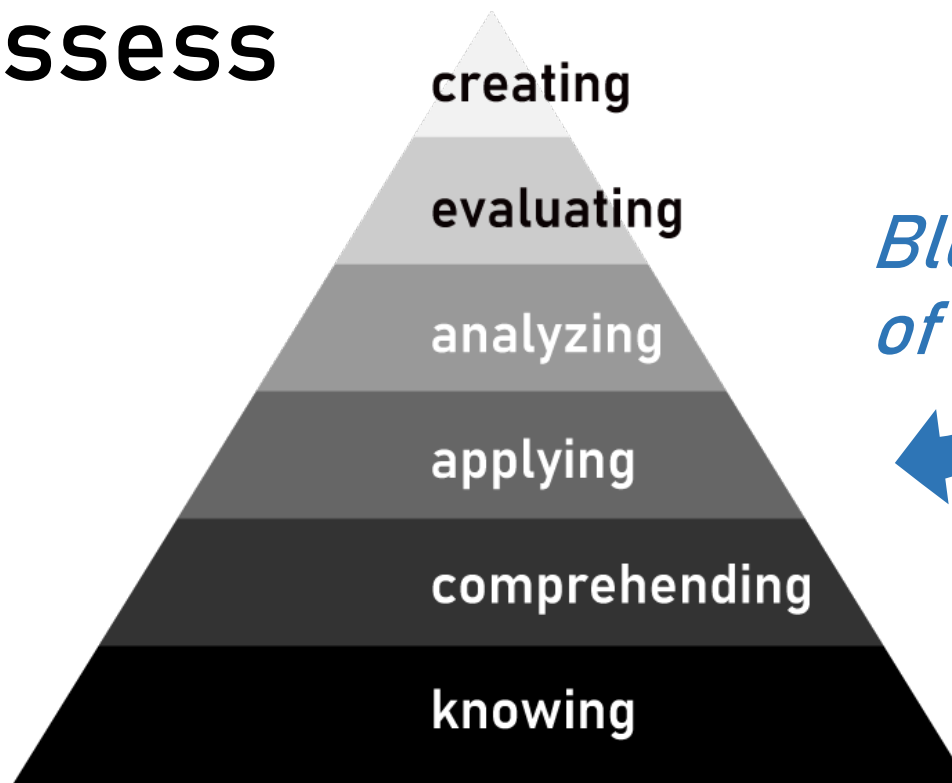
STEP 2





Bloom's taxonomy: Action verbs illustrate what kind of an activity a test item might assess

STEP 2



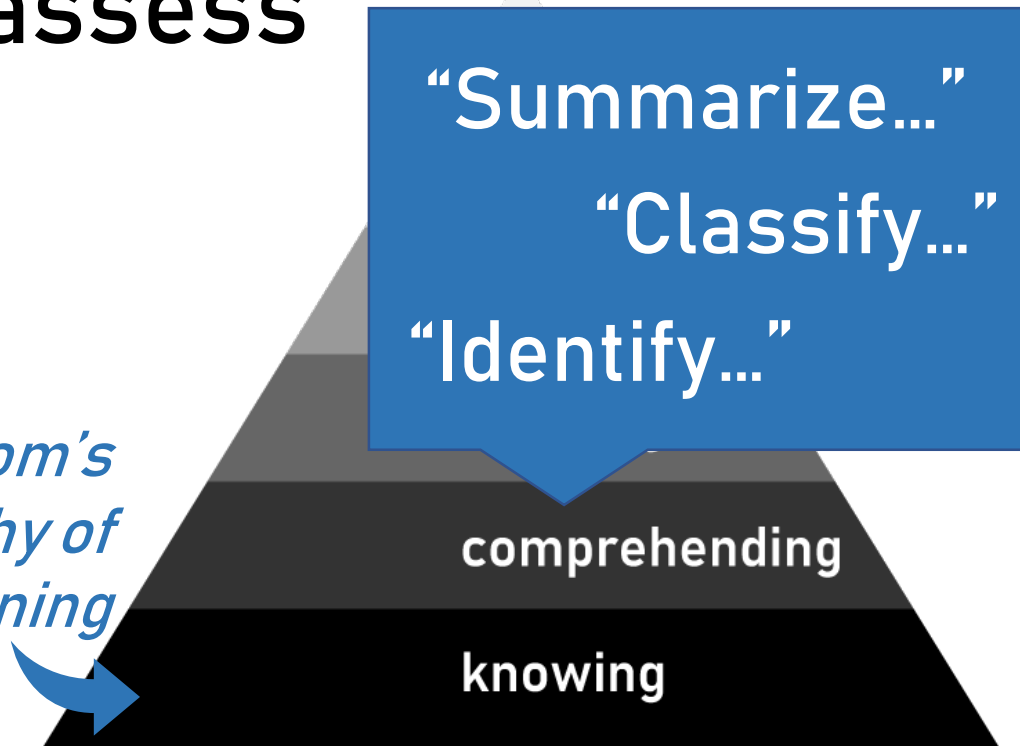
Bloom's hierarchy of learning



Bloom's taxonomy: Action verbs illustrate what kind of an activity a test item might assess

STEP 2

*Bloom's
hierarchy of
learning*

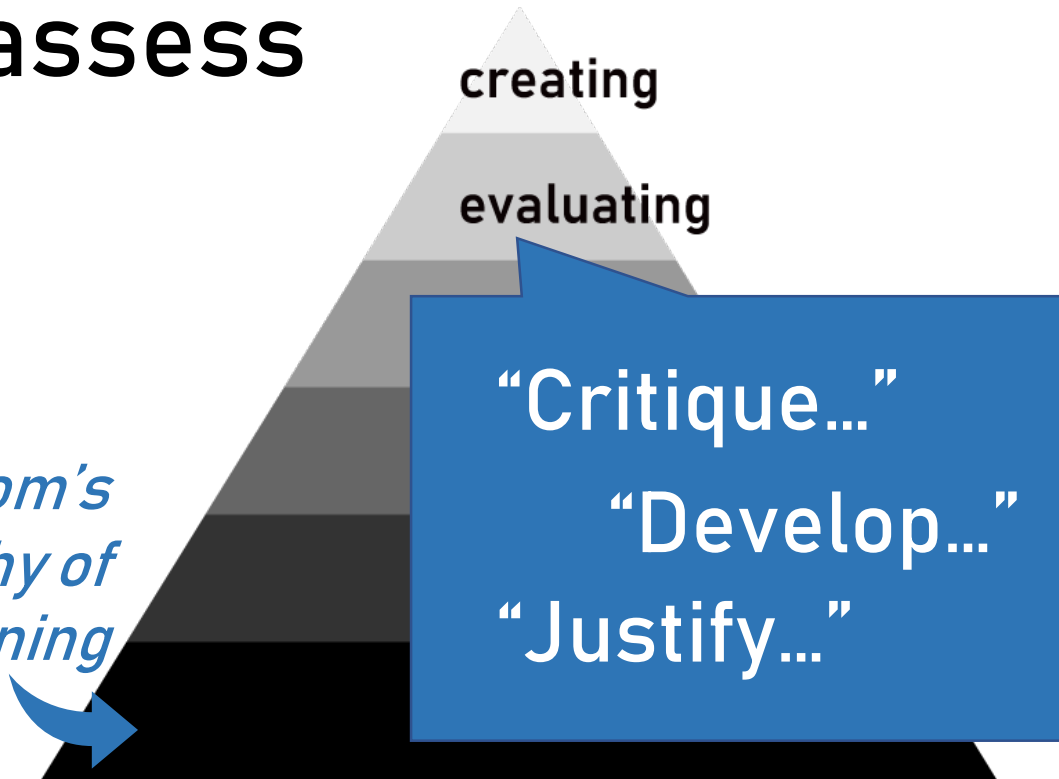




Bloom's taxonomy: Action verbs illustrate what kind of an activity a test item might assess

STEP 2

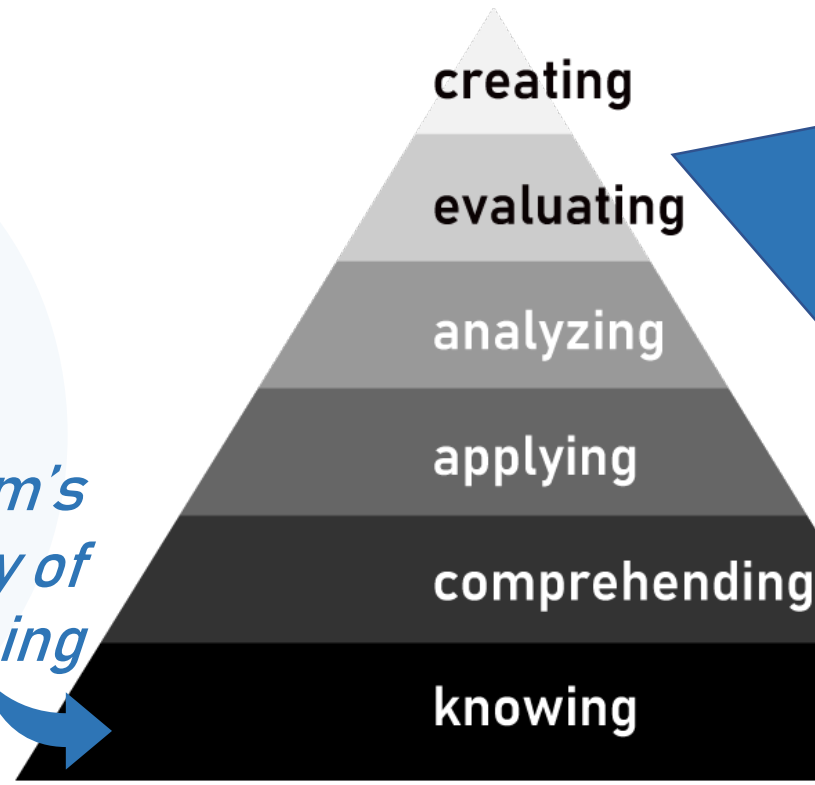
Bloom's hierarchy of learning



Interpretation Words require students to defend their ideas

STEP 3

Bloom's hierarchy of learning



criticize , evaluate , support
 compare , decide
 discriminate , recommend
 assess , defend , estimate
 critique , debate
 justify , persuade , design
 compose , combine ,
 formulate invent , construct ,
 develop , integrate , modify ,
 adapt , devise , justify ,
 propose , structure , support





UNIT 2 > Step 3: Interpretation words

Interpretation words are often used in an essay test

STEP 3

HIST 101 – Canadian History

< Evaluate how the position
of women changed in
Canadian society between
1900 and 1960. >

MORE WORDS 

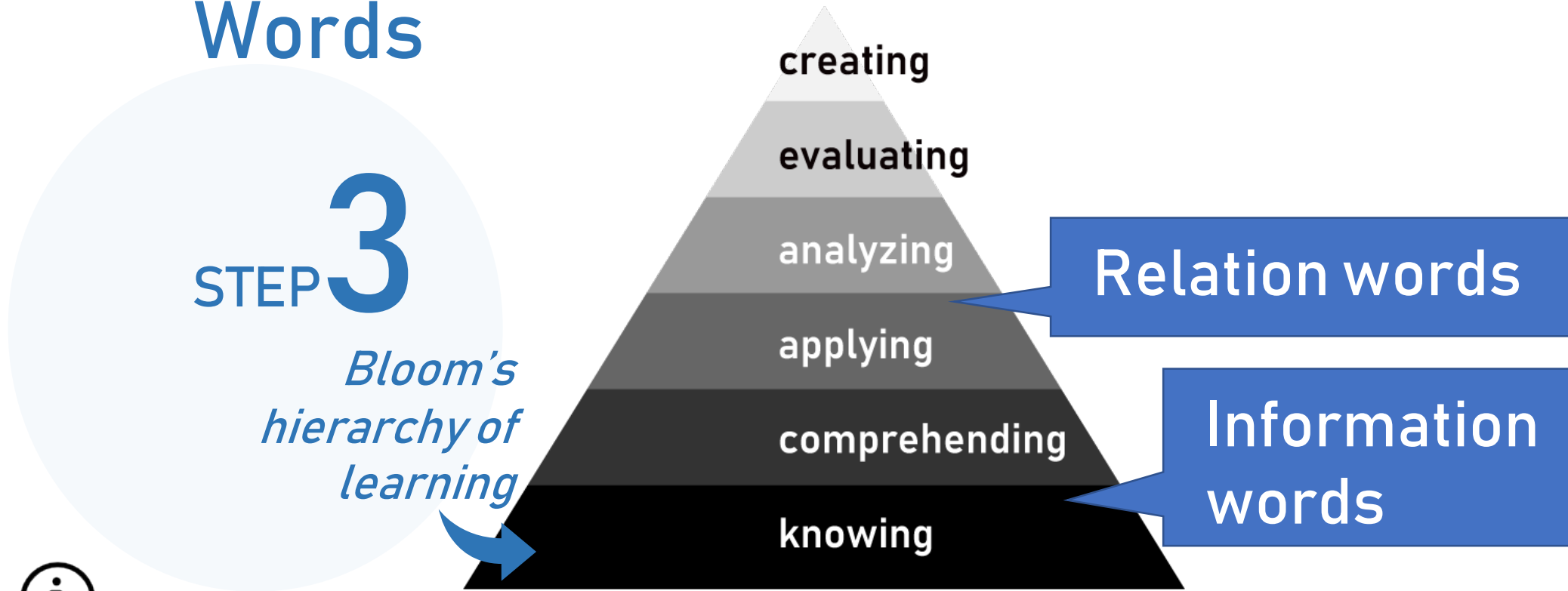


CTL101: Writing essay tests



10 of 24

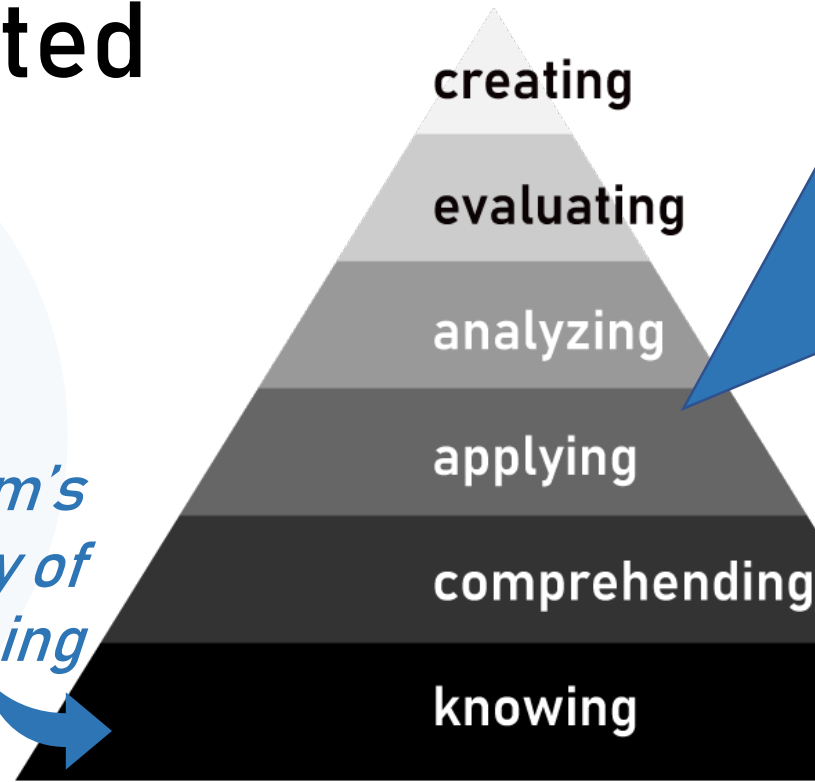
Action verbs lower on the hierarchy are called **Relation Words** or **Information Words**



Relation Words require students to demonstrate how things are connected

STEP 3

Bloom's hierarchy of learning



analyze , compare , classify ,
contrast , distinguish ,
categorize , differentiate ,
order , prioritize , correlate ,
organize , outline ,
solve , apply , modify ,
calculate , change ,
demonstrate , relate , show ,
sketch , interpret , employ ,
explain , predict , simulate





Relation Words can be used in essay tests but also for objective tests

STEP 3

SOC 101 – Feminist theory

< Compare and contrast Frye's and Bartky's accounts of oppression >

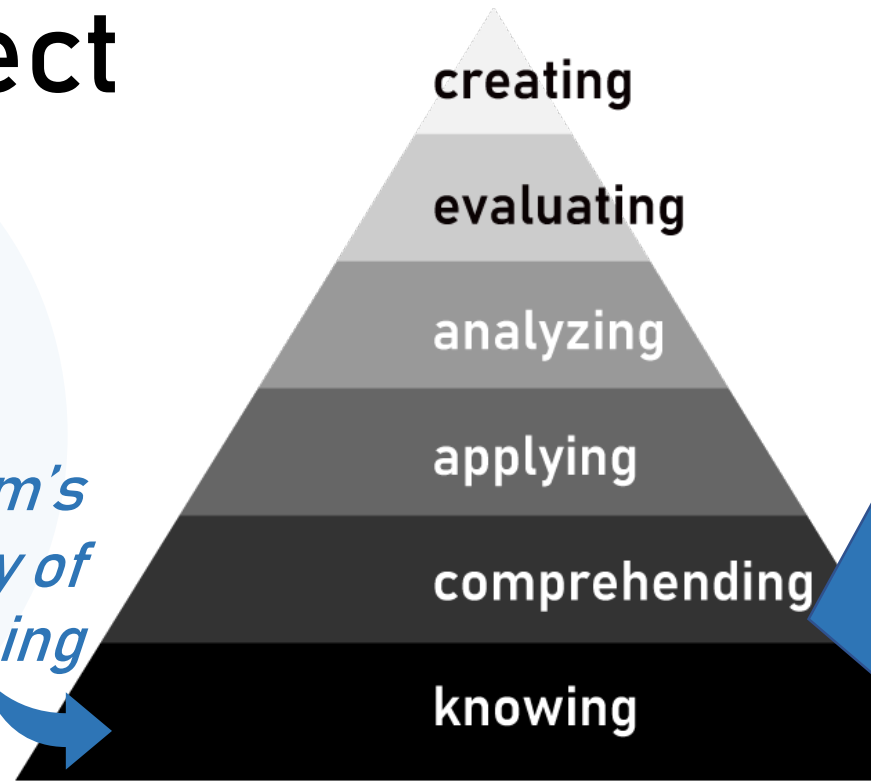
MORE WORDS 



Information Words require students to demonstrate what they know about a subject

STEP 3

Bloom's hierarchy of learning



Define , identify , label , list , match , recognize , select , locate , recall , tabulate , summarize , classify , differentiate , distinguish , convert , estimate , infer , relate , restate , generalize , show , trace





UNIT 2 > Step 3: Interpretation words

Information words are best used in objective tests requiring selection

STEP 3

BIO 101 – Biology

< Match each type of biological polymer with its appropriate type of residue. >

MORE WORDS 

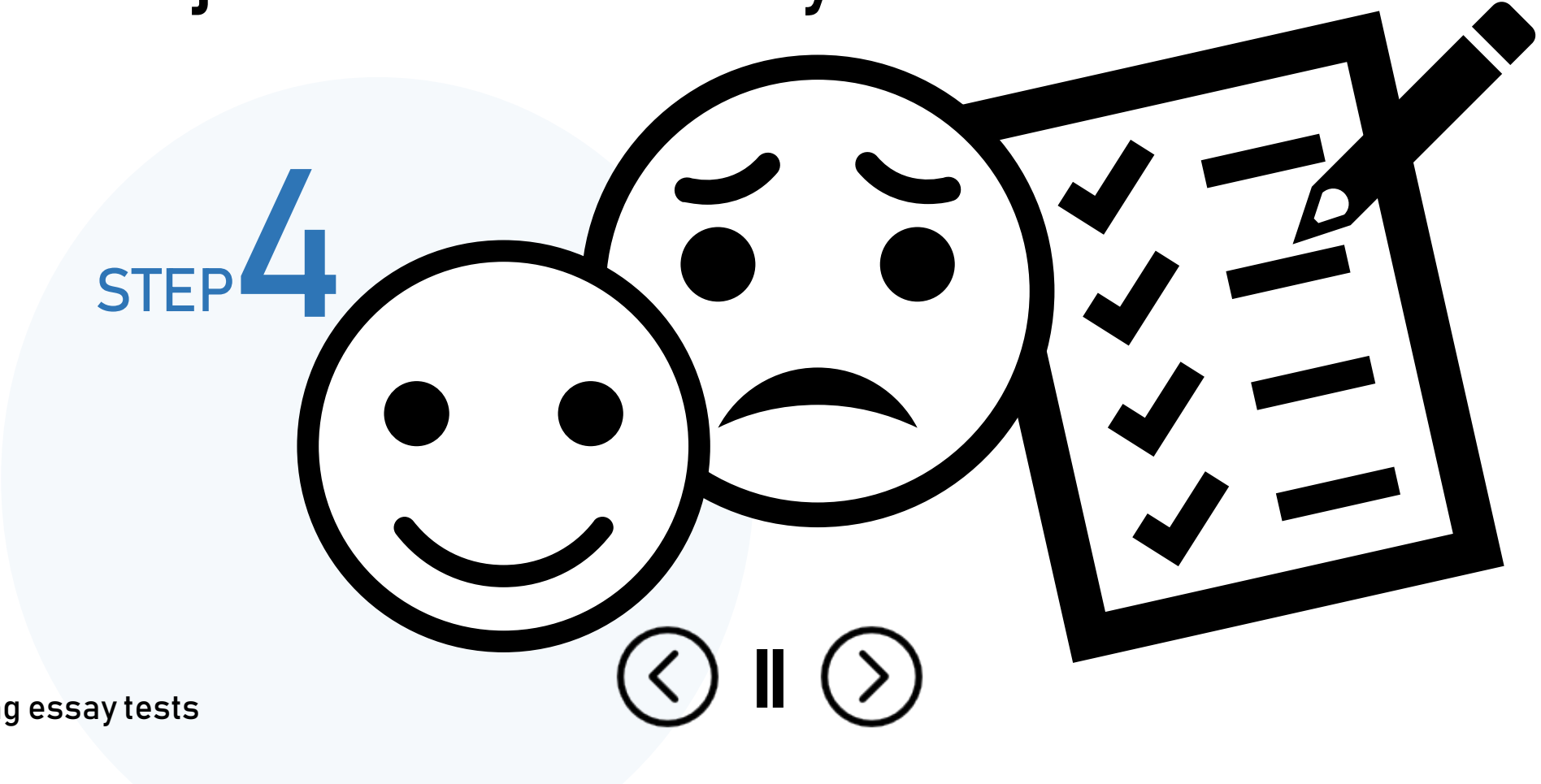


CTL101: Writing essay tests





Consider your skills at writing objective and essay tests





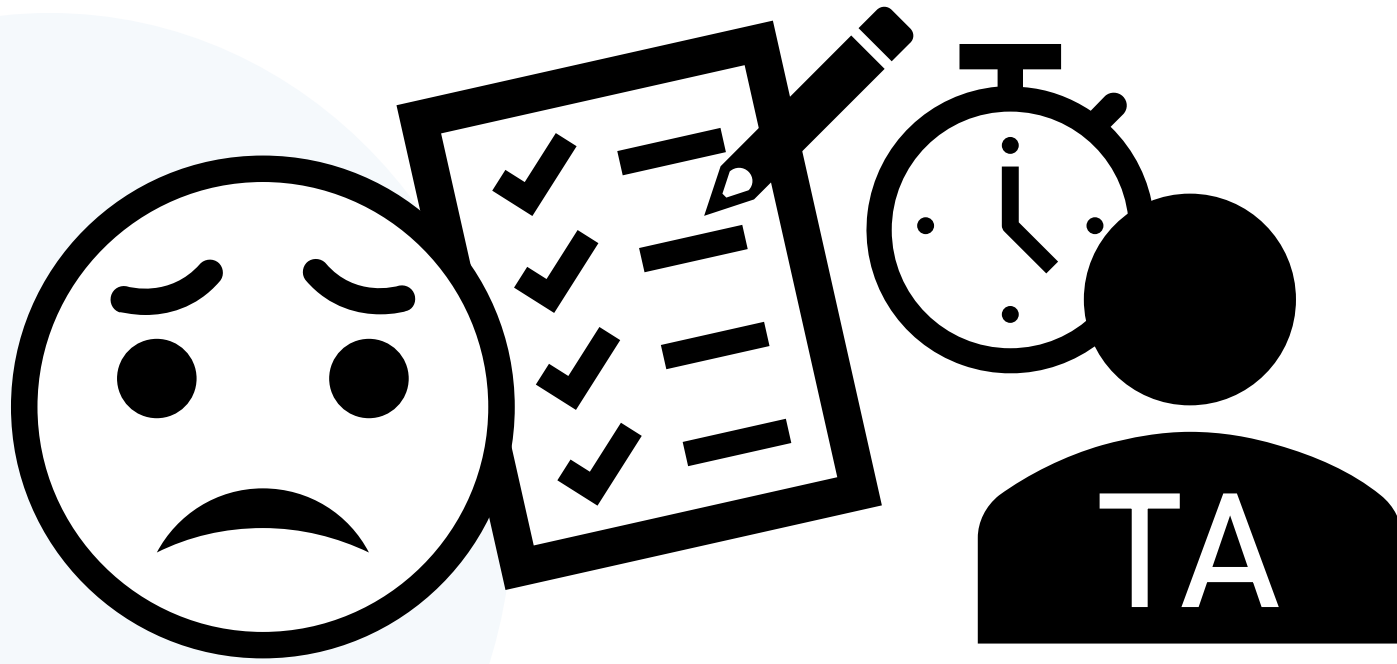
Consider your time and resources in writing and grading essay tests





Consider essay tests if you are not confident in writing objective tests, and have resources and time for grading

STEP 4





SUMMARY:

1

ILO and
Action
Verb

2

Bloom's
Taxonomy

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Words
matter

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Writing skills,
time and
resources

- Hover for a summary of each step number
Click on a number to repeat that step





UNIT 2 of 3 > When should essay tests be used?

UNIT 2 QUIZ >

What is the intended learning outcome?

Click on all correct answers

- A. An observable knowledge or skills that you expect students to be able to demonstrate as a result of their work in the unit
- B. The final step in writing essay tests
- C. It is the result of using Bloom's Taxonomy and Testing model
- D. Student's performance or achievement at the end of the course





UNIT 2 QUIZ >

Match the phrases on the left with appropriate phrases on the right

Drag and match

- A. Interpretation words...
- B. Relation words...
- C. Action verbs...
- D. Information words...

...are used to evaluate “Applying” and “Analyzing”

...require students to demonstrate what they know about a subject

... require students to defend their ideas about the subject

...should also be interpretation words for them to be used in essay tests





UNIT 2 QUIZ >

Match the following action verbs with the appropriate evaluation on the right

Drag and match

- A. Select, List, Locate, Classify
- B. Criticize, Develop, Justify
- C. Debate, Compose, Persuade
- D. Prioritize, Calculate, Modify

Assess using essay test

Assess using open or objective test

Assess using essay test

Assess “knowing” & “comprehending”



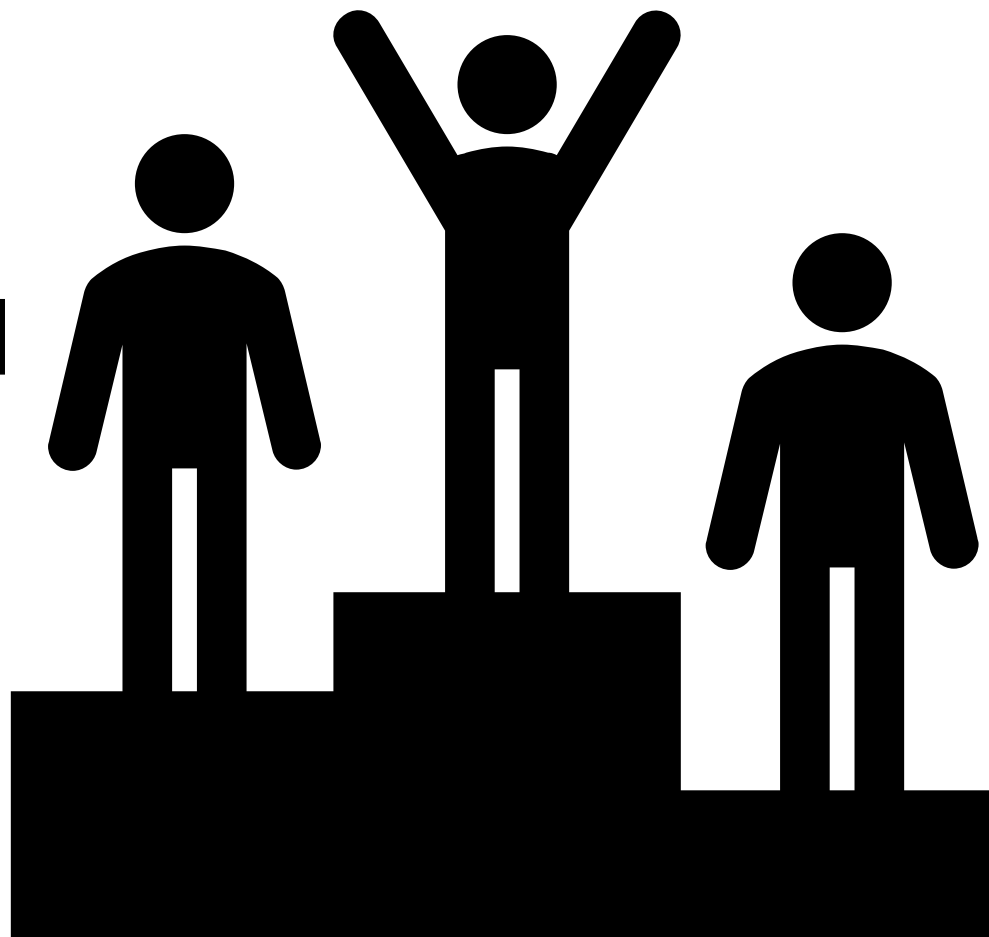


UNIT 2 of 3 > When should essay tests be used?

UNIT 2 QUIZ >

Well done!
Please proceed
to the next unit

3 out of 3 quiz
questions correct!



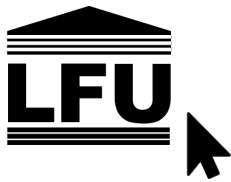
CTL101: Writing essay tests

REVIEW UNIT 2



NEXT UNIT 3

23 of 24



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RELATED RESOURCES >

More about Bloom's Taxonomy and Testing Model

List of interpretation words to use in essay test questions

- criticize, evaluate, support, compare, decide, discriminate, recommend, assess, defend, estimate, critique, debate, justify, persuade, design, compose, combine, formulate, invent, construct, develop, integrate, modify, adapt, devise, justify, propose, structure, support

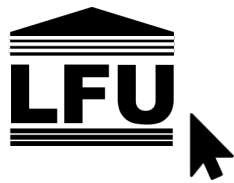
List of relation words and information words

Sources and citations

Other online courses in the CTL 100 series for faculty development

Resources available from the Centre for Teaching and Learning





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