

8 BENEFITS OF TESTING



Created by Evidence Based Education.
Based on the work of Henry L. Roediger et al. 2011.

Testing is usually thought to serve only the purpose of evaluating pupils. Yet tests themselves can greatly improve performance



1 RETRIEVAL AIDS RETENTION

THE act of retrieval involved when a student engages in an assessment task aids long-term retention (a key indicator of effective learning). This is known as the 'testing effect'



2 IDENTIFIES GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

ASSESSMENT can identify gaps in students' knowledge. High-quality information about what students know and don't know is a vital component of effective feedback.



3 IMPROVES ORGANISATION OF KNOWLEDGE

ASSESSMENT produces better organisation of knowledge than simply reading or revising material does.

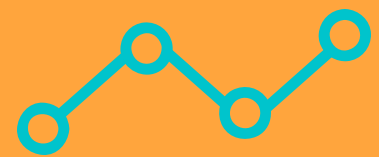
4 IMPROVES TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE TO NEW CONTEXTS

ASSESSMENT improves transfer of knowledge to new contexts (another key component of learning), so that students are adaptable as circumstances demand.



5 IMPROVES METACOGNITIVE MONITORING

ASSESSMENT improves metacognitive monitoring by providing feedback to students on what they know and what they have not yet learned.



6 ENHANCES FUTURE LEARNING

ASSESSMENT can cause students to learn more from the next learning episode by generating increased need and focus.



7 ENCOURAGES STUDY

FREQUENT high-quality assessment encourages students to study.

8 PROVIDES FEEDBACK TO INSTRUCTORS

HIGH-QUALITY assessment provides useful feedback to teachers. Effective feedback - particularly that based on high-quality assessment - has the potential to improve student learning outcomes dramatically.

