

Bloom's Taxonomy

Benjamin Bloom created this taxonomy for categorizing level of abstraction of questions that commonly occur in educational settings. The taxonomy provides a useful structure in which to categorize test questions, since professors will characteristically ask questions within particular levels, and if you can determine the levels of questions that will appear on your exams, you will be able to study using appropriate strategies.

| Competence | Skills Demonstrated |
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| Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ observation and recall of information▪ knowledge of dates, events, places▪ knowledge of major ideas▪ mastery of subject matter <p><i>Sample Performance Verbs:</i> list, define, tell, identify, label, collect, tabulate, quote, name</p> |
| Comprehension | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ understanding information▪ grasp meaning▪ translate knowledge into new context▪ interpret facts, compare, contrast▪ order, group, infer causes▪ predict consequences <p><i>Sample Performance Verbs:</i> summarize, describe, interpret, contrast, associate, distinguish, estimate, discuss</p> |
| Application | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ use information▪ use methods, concepts, theories in new situations▪ solve problems using required skills or knowledge <p><i>Sample Performance Verbs:</i> apply, calculate, complete, illustrate, solve, modify, relate</p> |

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| <p>Analysis</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ seeing patterns ▪ organization of parts ▪ recognition of hidden meanings ▪ identification of components <p><i>Sample Performance Verbs:</i> separate, order, explain, classify, arrange, divide, compare, select</p> |
| <p>Synthesis</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ use old ideas to create new ones ▪ generalize from given facts ▪ relate knowledge from several areas ▪ predict, draw conclusions <p><i>Sample Performance Verbs:</i> combine, integrate, modify, rearrange, substitute, plan, create, design, invent, compose, formulate, rewrite</p> |
| <p>Evaluation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ compare and discriminate between ideas ▪ assess value of theories, presentations ▪ make choices based on reasoned argument ▪ verify value of evidence ▪ recognize subjectivity <p><i>Sample Performance Verbs:</i> assess, choose, rank, grade, recommend, select, judge, support, conclude</p> |

Adapted from: Bloom, B.S. (Ed.) (1956) Taxonomy of educational objectives: The classification of educational goals: Handbook I, cognitive domain. New York; Toronto: Longmans, Green.