



IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE - (IF-AT)

What Is It?

Innovative multiple-choice assessment tool that gives students immediate affirmation and/or corrective feedback on their knowledge, ensuring that a student's last response is the correct one. It also allows instructors to give partial credit for proximate knowledge. IF-AT can be used for formative feedback and testing.

How Does It Work?

1. Students read the multiple-choice question and the series of answer options. They then select the rectangle (marked A, B, C, or D) corresponding to their answer choice and scratch off the covering. If the answer is correct, a star or other symbol appears. Students receive full credit (if using the IF-AT for a test rather than formative feedback).
2. If the student selects an incorrect answer (empty rectangle, student cannot change the answer), the student re-reads the question and all of the remaining options, and tries again. If the second choice is correct, a star appears and the student can earn partial credit. The student knew enough to be able to narrow the options, distinguishing him or herself from another student who was simply guessing. If a student's second choice does not uncover the star, he/she re-reads the question and the remaining options, and tries again.
3. The process continues until the student uncovers the correct answer, even if it requires that the student scratch off all possible boxes. On a test, the instructor determines the number of points allocated for correct responding on first and later attempts. Students leave a quiz or examination knowing how well or poorly they did and they are aware of the gaps in their knowledge.

What Are the Benefits? (emphasized by group quiz format)

- Because the student "exits" each question knowing the correct answer, the IF-AT process also serves as a learning experience. Misconceptions are immediately replaced with knowledge.
- Immediate feedback guides students to correct answers and improves their retention.
- Students identify gaps in their knowledge.
- Students become active participants in error analysis and correction.
- Increases students' performance on subsequent tests of related material.
- Students' thought processes and response patterns are recognizable with the IF-AT, and the scoring system allows instructors to allocate partial credit for proximate knowledge: boosts the struggling learners.

Taking IFAT as a Group: "Not only helpful but FUN!"

The group quiz format allows students to discuss their choices, to learn from each other, to be guided to the correct answer. For example, students answer the questions individually on a separate sheet first, then, in small groups, they discuss their choices and take the quiz as a group. In the group setting, knowledge is reinforced, errors are analyzed and corrected.

How to Get It?

The Center for Teaching Effectiveness makes IFAT forms available to UD faculty at no cost. In order to achieve maximum use, CTE requests the following:

- Use IF-AT forms for **group testing** rather than individual testing.
- Request IF-AT forms for **one course per semester**.
- Use the IFAT until **all 50 items** on the form have been **scored**.

To request IF-AT forms: email Mary Jo DeCampi, CTE staff assistant maryjo@udel.edu or call 831-2027.

Reference:

Epstein Educational Enterprises (and published research): <http://www.epsteineducation.com/ifat.php>

Phone: 609-915-1229