


Considerations for Designing High-Quality Assessment Items

Problem	Weaker	Stronger
1. Un-Related Stimulus	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: 20px;"> <p>Solve the following:</p> <p>$2,348 + 1,172 =$</p> <p>$5,222 + 8,799 =$</p> <p>$9,411 + 1,993 =$</p> </div>	<p>Solve the following:</p> <p>$2,348 + 1,172 =$</p> <p>$5,222 + 8,799 =$</p> <p>$9,411 + 1,993 =$</p>
2. Vague Stem	<p>Ohio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. has a cardinal on its state flag. B. is the 3rd largest state. C. was a key stop on the Underground Railroad. D. became a state in 1812. 	<p>What is one reason Ohio was a key stop on the Underground Railroad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The state constitution did not address slavery. B. There were many active abolitionist in the state. C. It was conveniently located. D. Industry was booming in Ohio during this time period.
3. Negatively-Worded Stem	<p>Which of the following was NOT a surrealist painter?</p>	<p>Which of the following is a surrealist painter?</p>
4. Wordy Stem	<p>Langston Hughes, an American poet who became famous during the Harlem-Renaissance, uses which of the following poetic devices in his poem "A Dream Deferred?"</p>	<p>Which of the following poetic devices does Langston Hughes use in his poem "A Dream Deferred?"</p>
5. Cueing Stem	<p>An example of a fruit is an</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Carrot B. Bean C. Potato D. Orange 	<p>Which of the following is an example of a fruit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Carrot B. Bean C. Potato D. Orange

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6. Repeated Phrases in Answer Options	Every organism is made of cells and every cell comes from another cell. This is A. The theory of relativity B. The theory of chaos C. The theory of heat D. The theory of cells	Every organism is made of cells and every cell comes from another cell. This is the theory of A. Relativity B. Chaos C. Heat D. Cells
7. Non-Plausible Answer Options	Who was the 21 st President of the United States? A. The War of 1812 B. George Washington C. Chester Arthur D. Nemo	Who was the 21 st President of the United States? A. Andrew Johnson B. Millard Fillmore C. Chester Arthur D. Franklin Pierce
8. Lack of Distractors in Answer Options	Which angle would be complementary to 82°? A. 8° B. 41° C. 11° D. 59°	Which angle would be complementary to 82°? A. 8° B. 18° C. 78° D. 98°
9. Answers Options Not the Same Length	Something that is <i>opulent</i> is A. Plain B. Transparent C. Thick D. Ostentatiously rich and luxurious or lavish	Something that is <i>opulent</i> is A. Plain B. Transparent C. Thick D. Lavish
10. All of/None of the Above” options	The season of Winter occurs during A. December B. January C. February D. All of the Above	The season of Winter occurs during A. April B. January C. November D. June