# Assessment for distance learning

Learning outcomes

After completing this activity you will be able to:

* Describe the different purposes of assessment
* Identify different methods of assessment
* Explain the role of feedback in assessment
* Evaluate an assessment

Activity components

This activity is divided into two sessions.

**You need to do some preparation ahead of the activity which involves reading some example teaching material and an assessment question.**

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| Session A1 | What is assessment for distance learning?Why is assessment important?Evaluate an assessment question | Group discussionPresentationWorking in pairs and group discussion |
| Session A2 | The role of guidance and feedback in assessmentAssessment guidance activity and tutor feedback activity | PresentationWorking in pairs and group discussion |

### Session A1: What is assessment and why is it important?

Session 1 starts with an opportunity for the group to discuss what assessment means and to share experiences of assessment as a teacher, as a student and in other roles.

This is followed by a presentation that gives an overview of some principles for assessment in distance learning. You will then put some of these principles into practice in the following activity.

Working with another member of your group, you will evaluate an example assessment question. The assessment question is based on the following resources which you should read before the session. The resources are adapted extracts from an OU environment module.

* A student facing activity called *Your water use*
* Teaching text called *Reports and how to write them*

You will be provided with prompt questions for the evaluation and at the end the whole group will share their thoughts about the assessment.

The session will close with a review of the key learning points and an opportunity for questions.

### Session A2: Assessment guidance and feedback

Session 2 looks at assessment guidance and the role of feedback in student learning.

You will consider what specific guidance could be given for the assessment question (the same question you worked on in Session A1) and compare this to the actual guidance given to OU students.

You will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of an example student answer and tutor feedback. You will consider how well the answer has followed the assessment guidance. You will be provided with some prompt questions to help you consider what aspects of the tutor feedback are helpful for developing learning and what could be improved.

The session will close with a review of the key learning points and an opportunity for questions.