

Day One Question Pool
Comprehensive Exams

Curriculum and Assessment

How do you explain the intense controversy and conflict that sometimes surround evaluations of educational programs?

How do you explain the difficulties that often are associated with implementing even well-designed program changes? More particularly, what conditions in schools today often contribute to some teachers' reluctance to embrace change? What can be done to lessen or alleviate such reluctance?

What does research say about the appropriateness of making evaluations related to the impact and worth of an innovation that are made after it has been in place for one year? What political realities lead to evaluations of new programs being made relatively soon after they have been initiated?

Outline five quality criteria you might use as guidelines in preparing new curriculum documents and in critiquing existing ones?

To what extent does the interest in holding schools accountable drive curriculum specialists to favor some curriculum designs over others?

Six key design principles are used to guide decisions related to selecting and organizing the content to be included in instructional programs. They include: scope, sequence, continuity, articulation, balance, and spiraling. Provide a definition and rationale for each.

How reasonable is it to judge the quality of individual schools based on how well their students do on standardized tests? What are some arguments used to support and oppose this practice? If all standardized testing were to cease, what impact do you think there would be on the kinds of curriculum designs found in most schools?

Diversity

Residents of rural areas may argue that schools do not need to spend time teaching diversity as the population is homogenous and time should not be taken away from the important things students need to know. Respond to these issues as a professional educator in charge of

educational planning for such a district; include theoretical and research support for your position.

Describe what you consider to be an optimal instructional program for an elementary classroom that is considered to be inclusive for all children of that district. Include the philosophical basis, instruction model, teaching and assessment strategies; justify your choices with theory and research.

Imagine you are invited to give a presentation to your school faculty on diverse needs in a classroom. How would you go about finding information and resources for your presentation? What elements/components would you cover? How would you assess the success of your presentation? Justify with current research and theories.

Identify one learning theory that provides insight to teaching diverse learners. How could you use this theory to guide pedagogical decision to enhance student learning? What would a classroom based on the use of these theories look like in terms of curriculum, teaching and assessment?

Research

Explain why qualitative, historical, and descriptive studies cannot have control as a goal of research.

Identify then outline a research plan or design based upon one of the models discussed in your research classes. Explain why researchers must make systematic decisions about each item in the process to obtain valid and reliable data.

Develop a proposal for a research study. You could also draw upon your own study (or one with which you are familiar) for this questions. Please be sure to include the following items:

- Title
- Statement of the Problem
- Research Questions and/or Hypotheses
- Importance of the Study
- Delimit the Scope of the Study
- Outline the Methods of Procedures

Think about what would be included in the first three chapters.

Describe four of the various types of research. Indicate a situation where you could use each type.

- Ethnographic Research
- Historical Research
- Descriptive Research
- Correlational Research
- Action Research
- Evaluation Research
- Casual-Comparative Research
- Experimental Research/Quasi-Experimental Research

Theories of Learning

Compare and contrast the positions of individuals subscribing to essentialism, progressivism, perennialism, and reconstructionism. Which of these four educational applications of philosophy are most alike? Most different? Which is most compatible with your own position, and why?

Cite the work of at least three theorists who have outlined developmental stages for student learning. Provide an explanation of the stages and a rationale for the theory. What is the relevance of such theory on curriculum development, student learning, and assessment?

Identify three major learning theories. Compare and contrast these theories. Include in this description what a classroom based on the use of these theories would look like in terms of curriculum, teaching and assessment. Are these theories mutually exclusive, or is it possible to apply multiple theories to the classroom.

Identify one learning theory that provides insight to teaching diverse learners. How could you use this theory to guide pedagogical decisions to enhance student learning? What would a classroom based on the use of these theories look like in terms of curriculum, teaching and assessment?

Technology

To realize more of the potential benefits of technology in education, a school district must invest considerable time and effort in technology planning. A long-range technology plan is essential to make more effective use of technology in K-12 education and to implement technology cost effectively. Outline the major topics for a comprehensive technology plan and your argument in support of each topic.

Select a grade level and describe five ways that specific technologies might be used to plan, design, deliver, and evaluate effective learning experiences. Include a definition of technology and ways to use it to engage and facilitate thinking and knowledge construction.

It has been argued by David H. Jonassen et al “that students cannot learn from technology, but that technologies can support meaning making by students” (Learning with Technology, p 12). Provide a definition of technology for the classroom and describe at least five specific technologies and how each might be used to support meaning making by students.

Name three important technological developments applicable to classroom teaching and learning that have occurred over the last ten years. Describe in detail the specific application of the technologies for the improvement of student learning.