## Standardized vs. Authentic Assessments

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|  | **Standardized** | **Authentic** |
| **Task Type** | * Tasks take the form of specific questions asking about a single isolated area of content. * Students perceive tasks as detached from real-world application. * Tasks require nothing but the exam sheet and the students’ own brains. * Tasks are limited to the information necessary to come to a correct answer. * Tasks focus on recall of content or limit the application of knowledge and information to a specific set of skills in isolation. | * Tasks are drawn from activities that are carried out in a professional practice and require critical thinking. * Students perceive tasks as relevant and linked to the real world. * Tasks require interacting with the real world, including persons with little or no connection to the classroom. * Both relevant and irrelevant material is presented. Tasks should reveal the interconnection of knowledge. * Tasks require integrating knowledge, skills, and attitudes within a single activity, drawing on ability to *synthesize*, *apply*, and *evaluate* information. |
| **Task Context** | * Assessment is presented as a single evaluative moment in the classroom. * Assessment is administered individually. * Assessment occurs over a typical classroom period. * Assessment is presented as a way to sort and rank students. | * The physical presentation of materials reflects the task at hand, often mimicking the professional world. * Social processes in the real world are considered, which may require students to work individually, with a partner, in a group, or in competition. * Elements of the assessment may be shortened or lengthened to reflect real-world conditions. * Assessment is presented as a way to inform teaching and improve learning. |
| **Answer Format** | * There is one correct answer for each task. * There is one way to achieve a correct answer. * Answers are exclusively directed to the teacher or test. | * Problems may have multiple correct answers that can change depending on the students’ approaches. * Correct answers require multiple stages, each of which can be scored independently. * Final products or responses are geared toward an audience with students presenting their work to others and defending their answers. |