

Formative Assessment

English Class - IX

Formative assessment is an assessment that goes along with the classroom teaching. It is not ‘after learning’ but ‘with learning’. It aims at assessing students’ level of learning and understanding while they are studying so that the teacher gets a feedback about the effectiveness of the teaching strategies involved. Hence he can adjust his lesson plan to cater to the need of the class, resulting in better understanding. Formative assessment goes hand in hand with the classroom teaching and therefore a lot helpful to improve the teaching-learning process. It makes the learning joyful and enhances students’ involvement.

The activities or techniques used to assess the learning level are called tools and techniques of formative assessment. Some tools are –

- Listening comprehension
- Debate/ speech/ group discussion/ role play
- Reading comprehension
- Story writing/ poem writing/ completing the narrative/ dialogue writing
- Grammar exercise
- Quiz
- Article writing/ reporting incidents/ letters/application/ emails
- Data analysis/describing the visual-verbal input
- MCQs

Points to remember

- English being a language subject both have to be assessed:- the knowledge of the lesson and the level of linguistic skills.
- A number of tools and techniques have been suggested. **Teachers have to choose the most suitable tools or techniques as per the nature of the topic, availability of time and resources and of course the need of students. Teachers can devise their own creative ways for assessment.**
- The marks or grades given on assessment activities are only for getting and providing feedback. They have no role in examination results.
- A record of assessment activities and their outcomes must be maintained in the teachers diary to track the progress of students.
- The good students must be appreciated and further motivated while the weaker ones must be gently encouraged to improve. Harsh and discriminatory remarks must not be used.

Suggested Tools and Techniques for Assessment

S. N.	Lesson/Topic	To assess lesson based learning	To assess linguistic competencies (listening, speaking, reading, writing); creative and critical thinking.
1-	Beehive Prose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fun They Had • The Sound of Music – I,II • The Little Girl • A Truly Beautiful Mind • The Snake and the Mirror • My Childhood • Reach for The Top – I,II • Kathmandu • If I Were You 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short/very short comprehension questions based on silent reading of the text • Word meanings • Quiz on events/ personalities in the lesson • MCQs • Short oral/written tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article on relevant topics • Describing a scene /character/ event/ personal views on some issue • Role play • Letter(personal/impersonal) • Loud and silent reading • Dictation of a short paragraph with comprehension questions • Lesson based questions-answers • Pronunciation drill
2-	Poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Road Not Taken • Wind • Rain on the Roof • The Lake Isle of Innisfree • A Legend of the Northland • No Men Are Foreign • On Killing a Tree • A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short/ Very Short comprehension questions based on silent reading of the poem • Word meanings • Central theme of the Poem • MCQs • Cultural and traditional background of the poem • Literary form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recitation • Choral Recitation • Framing rhyming sentences • Identifying use of figurative language. • Pronunciation drill
3-	Supplementary Reader Moments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lost Child • The Adventures of Toto • Iswaran the Storyteller • In the Kingdom of Fools • The Happy Prince • The Last Leaf • A House is Not a Home • The Beggar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short/ very short comprehension questions • MCQs • Quiz on events/ incidents • True/ False 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing some other story/event • Role plays, Role reversal • Conversation • Debate • Story Summarising • Skits
4-	Grammar & Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz • MCQs • Fill in the blanks • Oral Translation • Finding errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowchart of grammar topics • Translation of short paragraph • Short-piece of dialogue (oral/written)
5-	Reading	-----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loud and silent Reading • short excerpts from newspapers and magazines. • Reading exercises from Words and Expressions

6-	Writing	-----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant and suitable topics with clues for article, report paragraph, letter/application , etc. • Pictures, charts, graphs, diagrams as visual input • Short interesting exercises for creative writing
7-	Listening and Speaking	-----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling • Audio exercises • dictation • Comprehension question based on audio text • Extempore • Debate, Speech

Record Keeping

It is essential to keep a record of the activities. Teachers must decide the parameters on which the students have to be judged so that it's clear to assess the learning level. Then only the teachers can take remedial steps. Remarks must be self-explanatory. Here is an example of the record sheet:

Date –

Lesson – The Adventures of Toto

Name of Activity/Tool – Speak about your pet

S. No.	Name of Student	Criteria				Total marks	Remark
		Systematic arrangement of thoughts (2.5 marks)	confidence (2.5 marks)	vocabulary (2.5 marks)	imagination (2.5 marks)		
1-	A	1	1	1	1	4	Very shy, Lack of vocabulary
2-	B	2.5	2.5	2	2	9	Excellent presentation and confident speaking
3-	C	2	2	1.5	2.5	8	Good in imagination , confident speaking, needs better vocabulary
4-	D	0.5	2	1.5	2.5	$6\frac{1}{2}$	Good in imagination but lack of coherence in thoughts.