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OBJECTIVE AND ESSAY TESTS IN WORLD OF AVIATION

Data are given about the exams and tests as a common practice for many schools and colleges. Modern systems of education in Europe are described in short. Attempts are made to analyze advantages and disadvantages of objective and essay tests not only in the traditional system of education but also in the world of aviation.

It is a common practice for many schools and colleges to assess their student's knowledge through different exams. The first good thing about the exams and tests is that it is a method to test students how well they are learning from the lectures delivered in the class and how successful teachers are in conveying their knowledge.

As aviation remains an integral part of our society, there will be a growing need for qualified personnel for various careers in aviation. The aviation industry offers a wide range of aviation career opportunities to suit many interests, skills, and backgrounds. The aviation careers are not limited to pilots, ticket agents, airport administrators, astronomy, and other related aviation careers. The aviation industry encompasses a variety of careers such as science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, business, law, technology, communications, and many more.

Old quote says: "Knowledge is Power". Few people understand how important knowledge can be. Knowledge in aviation is what allows specialists to guide the aircraft instead of ride horses, it is what helps them survive far longer than they should, and knowledge is even what prevents them from making the same mistakes they made in the past.

Learning is a concept that isn't limited to books or classes. Learning is a skill, in and of itself. It could be the primary skill for the fast changing world we live in today. One problem you may face is trying to motivate yourself when it comes to obtaining knowledge. Sometimes people find themselves completely stumped on what they should learn and why. Finding important goals to set and then reach for learning is a great first step in gaining more knowledge.

Specialists in the field of aviation have to be trained to be able to depart from linear thinking and quickly shift to "thinking outside the box" in order to deal with unexpected and undefined events. They need to be able to develop skill sets that include core, basic, and management skills. Being a professional person now and in the future requires very specific skill sets and competencies. Some of these can be trained, some not. Professionalism can only be created by combining a thorough education with a constant development throughout the entire career of a professional pilot.

The traditional approach of curriculum construction largely influenced by what operators and regulators "think" should be trained and known, is however no longer effective. The world of aviation is one in which technical skills and proficiency are of paramount importance. Because of its high motivational value, aviation education can contribute measurably to the development of skills in the instructional program.

Specialists in the field of aviation and aviation industry must: (1) understand the importance of communications skills in air traffic control: listening, speaking and viewing; (2) develop new and precise focusing skills through listening and viewing; (3) develop skills of record-keeping and observation necessary to communicate findings in a variety of ways; (4) develop curiosity and interest in reading by exploring aviation fact and fiction in literature; (5) develop discriminating and analytical thinking skills in viewing, listening and reading; (6) develop sufficient skill to use the resources of a library or media center for information and individual reading.

What are the ways to check and assess the skills and the knowledge of the students both in the field of aviation and in the traditional system of education?

An exam or examination is an official test that shows your knowledge or ability in a particular subject. Exam is the word most commonly used. Examination is more formal and is used mainly in written English. The word "examination" comes from Latin "examinationem", noun of action from "examinare". In the sense of "test of knowledge" is attested from 1610s; shortened form "exam" first attested from 1848.

Modern systems of education in Europe derive their origins from the schools of the High Middle Ages. For the most part, education of that period was overseen by religious entities. The Church organized the education of youth, established the curriculum, devised testing, and guided students into particular fields of study or work based upon their noted skills and aptitudes. Over time, a standardized course of study was developed. Students studied, at length, seven specific disciplines. Arithmetic, geometry, grammar, rhetoric, logic, astronomy, and music were the seven basic disciplines in which successful students were expected to receive a well-rounded education. Those who displayed a particular proficiency for any particular discipline could continue their studies at university.

In the European universities of the Middle Age, students who were working for advanced degrees had to discuss questions in their field of study with people who had made a special study of the subject. This custom exists today as a part of the process of testing candidates for the Doctor's Degree.

Generally, however, modern examinations are written. The written examinations, where all students are tested on the same questions, were probably not known until the nineteenth century. In the late 19th century, most of West, Central, and parts of East Europe began to provide elementary education in reading, writing, and arithmetic, partly because politicians believed that education was needed for orderly political behavior. The promoters of Sunday schools also became involved in the provision of regular day schools, and in 1811 the National Society for

Promoting the Education of the Poor was formed to try to develop schooling in the growing industrial towns. Elementary schools provided children from poor families with another opportunity to receive some basic learning, usually the ability to read.

Today education is regarded as a right in a civilized country, and an enlightened government appreciates the fact that the illiterate cannot become good citizens. Mental development leads to moral development, and influences physical improvement.

Two types of tests are commonly used in modern schools. The first type is called an “objective” test. It is intended to deal with facts, not personal opinions. To make up an objective test the teacher writes a series of questions, each of which has only one correct answer. Along with each question the teacher writes the correct answer and also three statements that look like answers to students who have not learned the material properly. It consists of a problem, known as the stem, and a list of suggested solutions, known as alternatives. The alternatives consist of one correct or best alternative, which is the answer, and incorrect or inferior alternatives, known as distractors. This type of test has several potential advantages: (1) versatility - can be written to assess various levels of learning outcomes, from basic recall to application, analysis, and evaluation; (2) reliability - defined as the degree to which a test consistently measures a learning outcome; (3) validity - degree to which a test measures the learning outcomes it purports to measure.

For testing student’s memory of facts and details, the objective test has advantages. It can be scored very quickly by the teacher or by the computer. In a short time the teacher can find out a great deal about the student’s range of knowledge.

For testing some kinds of learning, however, such a test is not very satisfactory. A lucky student may guess the correct answer without really knowing material.

For a clearer picture of what the student knows, most teachers use another kind of examinations in addition to objective test. They use “essay” tests which require students to write long answers to broad general questions. The word essay has been derived from a French word ‘essayer’ which means ‘to try’ or ‘to attempt’. Essay test is a test that requires the student to structure a rather long written response up to several paragraphs. The essay test refers to any written test that requires the examinee to write a sentence, a paragraph or longer passages.

Characteristics of essay test are: (1) the length of the required responses varies with reference to marks and time; (2) it demands a subjective judgment; (3) most familiar and widely used.

There are four types of essays: narration, description, exposition, and argument. Each type has a unique purpose: some tell a story, some are descriptive and others prevent viewpoints.

Narration is a message that tells the particulars of an act or occurrence or course of events. The narrator is the person or entity within a story that tells the story to the reader.

Description lists the appearance, smell, mood, or other characteristics of something. Descriptive text might account the appearance of a person or the details

of a location or some other element that lets you immerse yourself into the story.

Exposition is a literary device used to introduce background information about events, settings, characters etc. to the audience or readers. The word comes from the Latin language and its literal meaning is “a showing forth.” Exposition is crucial to any story, for without it nothing makes sense.

Argument is a rationale in which the reason functions as evidence in support of the conclusion. Its purpose is to provide a rational basis for believing the conclusion to be true.

One advantage of the essay test is that it reduces the element of luck. The student cannot get a high score just by making a lucky guess. The essay examination allows students to express their ideas with relatively few restraints. Another advantage is that it shows the examiner more about the student’s ability to put facts together into a meaningful whole. It involves recall and there are no options to select from, therefore, guessing is eliminated. The student must supply rather than select the good response.

Sometimes, though, essay tests have disadvantages, too. Some students are able to write rather good answers without really knowing much about the subject, while other students who actually know the material have trouble expressing their ideas in essay form. Essay questions are time consuming to teachers and students. Students often spend much time answering only one or two essay questions. Teachers, on the other hand, also devote much time reading lengthy responses. In practice, very few essays require originality and most emphasize the lengthy enumeration of memorized facts.

Thus, knowledge in aviation is what allows people to survive and avoid many problems. Learning is a skill for the fast changing the world. Being a professional person in the world of aviation requires very specific skill sets and competences. Exams and tests are official ways to check knowledge or ability in a particular subject. Two types of tests are commonly used in modern schools.

Both of them have their advantages and disadvantages and they can be effectively used not only in the traditional system of education but also in the world of aviation.

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