Enhancing Multiple-Choice Questions

Strategies to Increase Cognition

A. Ranking Multiple-Choice Responses
   - Rank responses from 'correct' to 'somewhat correct' to 'most incorrect'
   - Provide written explanation for ranking
   - Discuss and debate rankings among peers

B. Interacting with All Responses
   - Use available responses to complete the following inquiries:
     - Why might someone choose this incorrect answer?
     - Rewrite the question to make this answer the correct response.
     - Provide a memory aid or illustration related to this response.

C. Confidence Weighted Multiple Choice Format
   - Select either the correct answer, indicating complete confidence or
   - an intermediary point between two answers indicating uncertainty.

Research to Improve Questioning

- Avoid complex item types or answering procedures
  - Can allow for strategic guessing
  - Difficult to construct
  - May confuse learner

- Create Items that Require the Engagement of Specific Cognitive Processes
  - Only address specific content
  - Assess single cognitive process (Define, Explain, Synthesize, etc.)

- Avoid 'All of the Above' and 'None of the Above'
  - Reduces discriminability among items
  - Increases likelihood of clueing

- Use Three Plausible Response Options
  - Best balance between psychometric quality and efficiency of administration
  - Avoids the negative suggestions effect


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