

WHAT COGNITIVE LEVELS DO MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS IN SELECTED SUBJECTS IN 2007 WASSCE TEST?

ABSTRACT

This study examined the cognitive levels of multiple choice items in selected WASSCE papers in Nigeria. The survey design with cross-sectional procedure was used. Stratified and purposive sampling techniques were employed. For the study, the 2007 WASSCE question papers in ten subjects were purposively selected. The subjects were Agricultural Science (Agric Sc.), Chemistry (Chem), Commerce (Comm), Economics (Econs), Financial Accounting (F/Acct), Further Mathematics (F/Maths), General Mathematics (Maths), Home Management (H/Mgt), Islamic Studies (IS) and Technical Drawing (TD). Stratified sampling procedure was used to select members of the subject panels. Data was collected through Document Analysis of the WASSCE questions in subject panels using Bloom's Taxonomy to categorize the items into different levels of thinking. It was found that the multiple-choice items in the selected subjects covered the different levels of thinking although to varying degrees and that there was conformity between the experts' view on the cognitive levels of the items and the tables of specifications. The result also showed that there was significant correlation between the cognitive levels of the items in the May/June and November/December 2007 WASSCE in most of the subjects investigated. The findings were discussed and it was recommended among others that there should be regular training programmes for Subject Officers, Item Writers and Moderators.