IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE – IF-AT

What Is It?
Innovative multiple-choice assessment tool that gives students immediate affirmation and/or corrective feedback on their knowledge, ensuring that a student’s last response is the correct one. It also allows instructors to give partial credit for proximate knowledge. IF-AT can be used for formative feedback and testing. We are happy to talk with you about applications in your course context: mailto:gabriele.bauer@villanova.edu

How Does It Work?
- Students read the multiple-choice question and the series of answer options. They then select the rectangle (marked A, B, C, or E) corresponding to their answer choice and scratch off the covering. If the answer is correct, a star or other symbol appears. Students may receive full credit (if using the IFAT for a test rather than formative feedback).
- If the student selects an incorrect answer (empty rectangle, student cannot change the answer), the student re-reads the question and all of the remaining options, and tries again. If the second choice is correct, a star appears and the student may earn partial credit. The student knew enough to be able to narrow the options, distinguishing him or herself from another student who was simply guessing. If a student’s second choice does not uncover the star, he/she re-reads the question and the remaining options, and tries again.
- The process continues until the student uncovers the correct answer, even if it requires that the student scratch off all possible boxes. On a test, the faculty determines the number of points allocated for correct responding on first and later attempts. Students leave a quiz or examination knowing how well or poorly they did and they are aware of the gaps in their knowledge.

What Are the Benefits?
- Because the student “exits” each question knowing the correct answer, the IF-AT process provides a learning experience. Misconceptions are immediately replaced with knowledge.
- Immediate feedback guides students to correct answers and improves their retention.
- Students identify gaps in their knowledge.
- Students become active participants in error analysis and correction.
- Increases students’ performance on subsequent tests of related material.
- Scoring system allows faculty to allocate partial credit for proximate knowledge, supporting the struggling learners.

Taking IF-AT as a Group: “Not only helpful but FUN!”
The group quiz format allows students to discuss their choices, to learn from each other, to be guided to the correct answer. For example, students answer the questions individually on a separate sheet first, then, in small groups, they discuss their answers and take the quiz as a group. In the group setting, knowledge is reinforced, errors are analyzed and corrected.

How to Get It?
VITAL makes IF-AT forms available to Villanova faculty at no cost for one semester. To ensure maximum use, VITAL kindly asks the follow:

- Use IF-AT forms for group testing only.
- Request IF-AT forms for one course per semester.
- Use the IF-AT forms until all items on the form have been scored.

To request IF-AT forms, please send an email to VITAL: vitalinfo@villanova.edu or call us at Ext. 9-5627.

Reference:
Epstein Educational Enterprises (and published research): http://www.epsteineducation.com/ifat.php
Phone: 609-915-1229