

# Objective Testing for Qualifications

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**Best Practice User Group**

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Portfolio, Programmes, Projects

- Back ground to Objective testing
- Changes in the PRINCE2™ and MSP Exams

# Objective Testing a history

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- 1948 Benjamin Bloom led a group of educators for the American Psychological Association in the task of classifying educational goals and objectives
- The three learning processes or domains
  - The cognitive - knowledge based consisting of six levels
  - The Affective – attitudinal based consisting of five levels
  - The Psychomotor – skills based consisting of six levels

## Bloom's Taxonomy a history continued

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- In 1956, the handbook commonly referred to as Bloom's Taxonomy was published
- Since then it has become the de facto standard for curriculum planners, administrators, researchers and teachers at all levels of education

# What is Bloom's Taxonomy

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- It is a multi-tiered model of classifying Cognitive thinking
  - Knowledge: of terminology
  - Comprehension: of meaning of informational materials
  - Application: the use of learned information to solve problems
  - Analysis: braking down of informational materials
  - Synthesis: creatively applying prior knowledge
  - Evaluation: judging the value of materials

- The taxonomy has evolved
  - *Knowledge* Remembering: Recalling relevant knowledge from long term memory
  - *Comprehension* Understanding: Constructing meaning from oral, written and graphic messages
  - *Application* Applying: Carrying out or using a procedure
  - *Analysis* Analyzing: Determining how parts relate to each other and to an overall structure
  - *Synthesis* Evaluation: Making judgements through checking and critiquing
  - *Evaluation* Creating: Putting elements together to form a coherent whole

- Remember: Describe where Goldilocks lived
- Understand: Summarise what the Goldilocks story was all about
- Apply: Construct a theory as to why Goldilocks went into the house
- Analyze: Differentiate between how Goldilocks reacted and how you would react in each story event
- Evaluate: Assess whether or not you think this really happened to Goldilocks
- Create: Compose a song, poem or rap the story in a new format
- From Omaha Public Schools Teacher's corner

## Change in the examination style

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- What was it before
- A three hour open book written essay style paper with a scenario and delegates answering 3 questions
- Testing knowledge of 3 out of 11 areas in PRINCE2™
- Results took up to 12 weeks

## Why Change the examination

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- PRINCE2™ with 210,000 qualified practitioner has become an internationally recognised standard and a three hour essay is not the best way to assess people internationally
- With PRINCE2™ available in 15 languages each language would require specialist examiners
  - To set exam questions
  - To mark papers

The new objective test format is open book 3 hours  
Blooms taxonomy standard examination based on  
mini case studies consisting of 9 question worth 40  
marks each with a pass mark of 180 out of 360

## Benefits of the new style exams

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- Easier to translate questions into other languages
- Marking can be automated
- Less danger of misinterpretation of exam questions and answerers
- Wider coverage of the syllabus leads to more robust qualification
- The answers are provided not a test of memory
- No writing more analysis and application
- Results turnaround to 4 weeks

## What type of questions can you expect?

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- Classical multiple choice
- Yes/no
- Multiple response
- Matching
- Sequencing
- Assertion/reason

## Multiple choice

Q: What is the colour of the sky?

- Brown
- Blue
- Green
- Yellow

## Blooms Taxonomy standard

From the following, what colours may the sky appear to be?

- Brown
- Blue
- Grey
- Red

## Further information

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- Maven Training Web site examination pod cast
- [www.maventraining.co.uk](http://www.maventraining.co.uk)
- APM Group pod cast
- [http://www.prince2.org.uk/Qualifications/PractitionerO  
TEwebcast.asp](http://www.prince2.org.uk/Qualifications/PractitionerO<br/>TEwebcast.asp)

- Thank you very much
- Any Questions?
- Lunch