

Glossary of Terms used in Assessment

Norm-Referenced Tests

A test in which the pupil's performance is compared with the performance of a specified group e.g. Irish children of his/her age

Criterion Referenced Tests

In this case, the pupil's performance is not compared with that of others but with a pre-specified standard or criterion

Parallel Forms

Some tests have two forms, often identified as Form A and Form B, which have been developed to be of equivalent difficulty

Individual or Group Administration

Some tests have instructions and procedures which require that they be administered to only one person at a time. Other tests may be administered simultaneously to a group

Screening

A process in which a measure or measures are applied to a group of pupils in order to identify a sub-group who will require more extensive examination

Raw Scores

The original score yielded when a subject's test is corrected before this score is transformed into another form such as a scaled score

Standard STEN Scores

This score allows the subject's test performance to be related to that of the group on whom the test concerned was standardised. Thus, a standard score of 101 on a Drumcondra Reading Test indicates that the subject is just above average compared with Irish children of his/her age

Percentile Rank

This is another way of indicating how the subject's test performance relates to that of the group on whom the test was standardised. It records the percentage of this group whose scores were lower than that obtained by the subject

Diagnostic Tool

An instrument such as a test or an observation schedule which is designed to yield evidence on the particular aspects of learning in which the pupil is having difficulty

Curve of Normal Distribution

A bell shaped graphical representation of the results which emerge when certain factors are measured in a large, randomly selected sample.

Standard Deviation

A unit which is used to measure the spread or scatter of measures around the mean of those measures. The mean and standard deviation are important elements in understanding the outcome of norm-referenced tests.