**Transcript How to construct MC questions? – the alternatives**

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Hello there. In this video on constructing multiple choice questions, I will focus on how to construct the answer alternatives.

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If you want to know more about concern on the stem. The video dealing with the stem provides you with a details you need. Having formulated a good question stem, the next challenge is to come up with the answer alternatives. A quick reminder, if you want to use multiple choice questions with three answer options, a total number of 60 questions is needed for a reliable assessment. If you want to construct an assessment with multiple choice questions consisting of four answer options, 40 questions is sufficient. So let's start.

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First of all, of course, mind the language. The alternatives should be formulated clearly, unambiguously and should be concise. Also, make sure the question and answers are grammatically compatible. As with the stem, face alternatives positively. Whenever negations are unavoidable, underscore the negative words. Next, all the answer options should provide an equal answer to the questions. In all cases, an alternative that stands out content wise or grammatically is suspicious. For example, two off of the longest answer options in the list is actually the correct one. Make sure there is minimal or no overlap between the alternatives. For example, if you ask which kind of animal is affected by a certain fertilizer, the answer options insects, flying insects, bees, honey bees are overlapping.

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While formulating the answer options, avoid repeating an important concept of the question in one of the alternatives. That confuses a learner because it might be a give away, or a deliberate trick of the teacher. Regarding the answer alternatives, we also advise you to avoid none of the above and all of the above answers. Research shows that these questions have complex effects on discrimination and difficulty. So they should be avoided by novice item writers. This wraps up our short video about constructing the answer alternatives. As you might have already discovered, we provide you with any checklists discussed in both videos. I'm convinced that as from now on, constructing multiple choice questions and their answer options will be a more enjoyable process. And if you have any questions, don't hesitate to join the discussion forum. Good luck.