

Assessment in Higher Education: Professional Development for Teachers

Preparing a Correction Model

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Preparing a Correction Model

Guide for teachers

When you are developing exams with open questions that are graded by several assessors, a correction model is an essential instrument for quality assurance. A correction model aims to ensure that (different) assessors grade students' answers in the same way. The following step-by-step plan can be used to create a correction model and show which elements are important in this respect:

1. *Model answer*: Formulate a complete model answer, the ideal / correct answer with which a student would earn the maximum number of points.
 - a. Determine which parts of the answer are essential. Underline these sentences or phrases in the model answer. When possible, mention the generally applicable assessment criteria.
 - b. Indicate the number of points to be earned for these (correctly formulated) sections of the answer. Is there a sub question? Indicate how many points can be achieved per sub question.
 - c. Create some alternative formulations for (parts of) the model answer. Indicate to what extent these are complete, partial or incorrect and how many points can be earned.
2. Instructions for the assessors: Indicate how deviations in the answers are handled (longer answer than desired, spelling and grammar errors, etc.). You can do this in a general sense and possibly per question. If the sub questions depend on each other, then think about the "trickling down-effect" of an error. List these guidelines for dealing with deviations at the bottom of the model answer under the heading 'details'. Guidelines for the assessors' working methods can also be added to the correction model, such as the instruction to examine horizontally (per question instead of per student) in order to promote consistency in the assessment.

Tips:

- Write the answer model and develop the test questions simultaneously. This is a useful tool to (self) check whether the question is sufficiently clear and specific.
- Check the answer model the next day by formulating the correct answer to a question. Afterwards, grade yourself using the answer model. Then let colleagues do the same.