

Traditional Online Tests	Authentic Online Assessments
Prioritize the product of learning and the articulation of knowledge and facts.	Prioritize the process of learning and the application of knowledge and skills.
Learner’s “supply” responses and select answers from predetermined options.  There are correct or incorrect answers.  All responses provide the same information.	Learner’s “construct” responses and create their own solutions.  There are a variety of correct solutions.  Each response is unique.
Questions isolate individual skills or facts.	Integrated challenges require coordination of a range of skills and knowledge.
Provide a snapshot of what learners know at one moment in time.  Learners have one chance to demonstrate their learning.	Provide an examination of learning over time.  Learners have multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning through drafts and recurring tasks.
Generally written at the same time by all learners.  There is a fixed time limit for the test.	Must be completed by a certain date.  Learners work at their own pace.
Questions must be unknown in advance to maintain validity.	Learners are given the task or problem in advance.
Include easily scored items.  Automated grading is possible within the LMS.	Rely heavily on scoring rubrics, as there may be no right answer.  Manual grading is required.
Provide a score.	Provide usable diagnostic information to instructors and learners about what learners can do.
Dependent upon learner access to technology, including a stable high-speed internet connection and possibly a webcam.	Allow for more flexibility around technology requirements.

Adapted from (CITL, n.d.) and (Lombardi & Oblinger, 2008)

