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**Level:** LMD 3

**Module:** Research Methodology

**Course Title:** Testing as a Research Tool

Tests are very impressive research instruments for primary data collection especially that they are evaluative in nature. Accordingly, testing refers to assessing and evaluating knowledge, abilities, performances, and competences. It is essential to make the distinction between assessment and evaluation in the sense that to assess is to rate and measure while to evaluate means to judge or give value to a particular behaviour.

While constructing the test, the researcher has to pay attention to:

* The **purpose** of the test: evaluative vs. experimental
* The **type** of the test: placement vs. baseline
* The **content** of the test: including reference to the program, clarity of the task, level of item difficulty, fairness of evaluation.
* The **format** and layout: mode (written or spoken), arrangement (length and order), scoring (weighting each item).
* **Piloting** the test: structure, language, presentation, reliability and validity