Viva Voce – Oral Examination

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Objectives

At the end of this lecture, the learner should be able to:

1. List the abilities that can be tested by viva
2. Discuss the merits and demerits of viva
3. Describe the approaches towards viva
4. Describe the strategies to improve viva

Introduction

➢Viva Voce or oral examination:

➢ An ancient method of evaluation of the learners

➢A face to face interview of the learner taken by the examiner

Viva as a tool for evaluation

Abilities tested by viva:

- All the levels of knowledge

- Attitude

- Professional competence

- Interactive skills

- Ability to take decisions

- Ability to discuss and defend

Viva as a tool for evaluation

Abilities tested by viva:

- Alertness

- Ability to keep presence of mind

- Ability to develop an answer

- Presentation skills

- Ability to perform under stress

Merits

- Gives opportunity to test the <u>knowledge from all the 3 domains</u>

<u>Cognitive domain</u> of the student at various levels

-By virtue of **recall** (memory)

-**Level of understanding** of the subject

-mode of understanding / concepts / pre-concepts

-power of reasoning / analytical capability

<u>Psychomotor domain (skills)</u> : along with practical and clinical examination

Merits

Interactive skills and Affective domain

-Communicating skills

-Convincing skills

-Personality and confidence

-Listening skills

-Attitude

-Spontaneity / adaptability / ability for logical decisions

Merits

- Can be used for pre-clinical, para-clinical or clinical levels and for formative or summative assessment
- Direct contact with the learner
- Gives opportunity to test interactive skills
- Exhibits personal characteristics of learner

      - personality

      - attitude

      - approach

      - confidence

      - command over the language

Merits

- Permits flexibility in questioning
- Provides a chance to the learner to justify or defend
- Provides valuable feedback to the learners
- Learner can express views & ideas without any external help or influence

Merits

- Opportunity for simultaneous assessment by two examiners
- Less scope for cheating / unfair practice by the learner
- Can be used for quick assessment
- Can provide judgment of the problems in T/L process

Demerits

1. Influenced by the knowledge & bias on the part of the

examiner – Subjectivity

2. **Student** related factors: Anxiety / fatigue / stress /

Language / expression

3. Judgment influenced by external factors
4. Time consuming
5. Expensive

Demerits

- <u>Lack validity, reliability, objectivity</u>

Validity ?: (did it cover relevant domains qualitatively and quantitatively and check what it was supposed to? Excess of recall questions?)

Reliablity ?: (does it check consistently with respect to each student ? Uniformity : in time / question content / marks allotment)

Objectivity ? : (Intimidative examiner , subject / topic bias / preference/ personality bias?)

Demerits

- Lack of consistency in the performance of the examiners

- Non-availability of trained examiners

- Possible abuse of personal contact with examiner and probable cueing

- Inadequate standardization

- May just evaluate for the trivial factual information recall ability

Approaches Towards Viva

1.The 'Traditional Approach'

2.An 'Objective Structured Approach'

Traditional Approach

➢Conventional

➢No prior planning

      Areas to be tested

      Types of questions

      Marking Pattern

      Difficulty Level

➢Lacks validity, reliability, objectivity

Objective Structured Approach

- Systematic
- Pre-planned
- Organized
- Minimizes subjectivity
- Effective & efficient approach for proper assessment

Improving viva voce

- ✓ Advanced Planning

- ✓ Organizing

- ✓ Controlling

- ✓ Re-planning

Steps in improving viva-voce

- Define the content according to the 'must know' area

- Prepare the list of tasks & abilities to be tested

- List the usual questions asked

- Review their validity

- Prepare examples & reach an agreement on the correct answer

- Prepare 2 levels of questions on each topic:

    - Easy & Difficult

    - General & Specific

- Discuss the qualities of questions and pre-validate them

Steps in improving viva-voce

- Give a standard set of questions to all the examiners
- Prepare a standard marking pattern rating scale
- Questions should come in proper sequence
- Questions should test all the levels of knowledge in different domains

Improving Consistency in Scoring

1. Subdividing tasks into a series of sub-tasks

2. Preparing a list to assess each sub-task

3. Preparing a rating scale with agreed examples and agreed criteria of correct answers, with a classification into (a) inadequate, (b) adequate, and (c) satisfactory

Steps in improving viva-voce

- Isolate already examined students from the students yet to be examined
- Record the orals – can be used later to comment upon good or bad points
- Take help of self criticism & feed-back from peers, students, teachers

Steps in improving viva-voce

- Modify the system considering group discussions, role play, and feed-back
- Prepare the plan to take individual viva as well as group viva as a part of internal assessment system

Examiner's role

Examiner Should

- be courteous

- find out **"What the student knows"**

- make the student comfortable and relaxed

- ask questions in clear and simple language

- avoid careless attitude

- avoid disagreement of the views

- stick to the time schedule

Examiner's role

Examiner

- Should not distract the student by deliberate or inadvertent attempt
- Should not cut the jokes at the expense of the student
- Should not contradict the student
- Should not show impatience
- Should not wait for long while altering the question

Take Home Message

- Viva voce is an important tool of evaluation

Very **I**mportant **V**erbal **A**ssessment

- Conventional approach has poor validity, reliability, objectivity

Take Home Message

- An Objective Structured Approach can make it as an effective & efficient tool of evaluation
- Improvement in current system can be done by advanced planning, qualitative pre-validation, quantitative post-validation & feed-back
- Innovations can be implemented by the committed teachers with sincere efforts