

AN INITIAL DESCRIPTION OF A STRATEGY ADOPTED BY EVALUATION DESIGNERS TO
CUMULATIVELY IMPROVE THE G.C.E. EXAMINATIONS IN SRI LANKA,
EXEMPLIFIED BY THE APPLICATION TO SELECTED SUBJECTS IN THE
G.C.E. A.L. EXAMINATIONS

Jinapala Alles, W. S. Perera and A. Vedamulla
Dept. of Examinations

The action research programme covers most of the Science Papers and a few others. This Report is illustrated with the 1985 Paper in Botany.

The Examiner is invited to prepare "A table of Specifications" - an example is given. This indicates, in general, the manner in which the study area is explored by the Papers.

Each subject such as Botany, has two Papers -: One of two hours duration, with 60 Multiple choice fixed response type test items. - Another of three hours duration, with two sections: - Sect. A with four structured free response test items, compulsory: - Sec. B, with six free response, "open ended" questions of which four are to be answered.

In the example given:- 60 Items in the first paper covers 12 Units - 10 Items in the second paper covers 10 Units out of 14 Units in the syllabus.

In the first, about 45 Items focus on cognitive abilities-Recall Knowledge, Comprehension, & Application(Bloom's Taxonomy). In the second, there are about 43 sub-sections to the questions and these also address the complex cognitive performance area. In the first, the following features are present: 36 Items with Facility Index of about 0.25 & above; - the other items are below 0.25;

In the second, 6 are with Facility Index above 0.35; 4 are in the range 0.20 & 0.34

About 35 Items have Discrimination coefficients in the range approximately 0.2 to 0.5

The performance of the candidates has a Mean of about 43 % and a Standard Deviation of about 14.

Such a monitored approach enables some aspects to be kept deliberately consistent and validity to be examined. It permits a dialogue among designers and moderators on specific aspects. These minimum design features are being continuously improved, so that the best insights of Examiners could be utilized in the preparation of the Examination Paper.