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STUDENTS' SOCIETY  
— EST 1889 —

# How The University Ensures Quality in Your Assessments

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# How is quality monitoring and assurance maintained for assessments?

The University of Adelaide priorities creating high-quality, reliable, and fair assessments to ensure they reflect your knowledge and skills. Here's how they maintain and monitor **assessment quality assurance**:

<b>1. Standard Setting: 'Keeping Things Fair'</b>	<p><b>What is Standard Setting?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a structured process used to define the minimum performance level required to pass an exam. Accredited Australian Medical Schools are required to adopt Standard Setting Processes (AMC Standard 3.1.5).</li> </ul> <p><b>Why This Matters to You:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjusts exam pass marks based on difficulty to ensure fairness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For instance, a test paper made up of more difficult questions, relative to the expected level, will have a lower percentage pass mark.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ensures consistency across different cohorts and exams.</li> <li>Reflects your competency, rather than arbitrary cutoffs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scaling Scores:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raw scores are converted to scaled scores, by applying a formula. This translates the standard set passing mark ("cut score") into a University pass mark of '50%'. This can be thought of as like a currency conversion transaction, where AUD 1.00 is equal to NZD 1.11, and although the numerical values are different the conceptual values are equal.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Question Review = Constant Improvement</b>	<p><b>Before the Exam:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every question undergoes academic peer review for accuracy, relevance, and clarity.</li> <li>Alignment with curriculum objectives is verified ("blueprinting").</li> </ul> <p><b>After the Exam:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance metrics of all questions are assessed. Those questions which are flagged as 'high difficulty' or 'low discrimination index' are further reviewed. Should an issue be identified upon review. The question may be removed, or multiple answers may be accepted as correct.</li> </ul> <p><b>How It Benefits You:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces errors, ambiguity, and bias in assessments.</li> <li>Questions that are unreasonable or problematic are removed or adjusted.</li> <li>Ensures that students are appropriately credited for their achievement against the learning outcomes and improves the overall quality of future exams.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Evidence-Based Practices</b>	<p><b>Using Data to Improve Exams:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistical analysis (e.g., item difficulty, discrimination index) ensures questions perform well and reflect your knowledge.</li> <li>Faculty and external reviewers work together to maintain high standards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Why This Matters to You:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helps the faculty collaborate to ensure assessments are valid and reliable.</li> <li>Ensures exams are based on best practices and are aligned with national and international benchmarks.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Student Feedback</b>	<p><b>Student Feedback to faculty:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback is collected by Ed Reps after exams to identify student concerns.</li> </ul>

## What does this mean?

- Your Voice Matters:**
  - Feedback helps the University improve question quality and exam structure over time.
- Fair Standards:**
  - Exams are adjusted to reflect their difficulty, with approaches consistent across cohorts.
- Quality-Controlled Questions:**
  - Problematic questions are identified and fixed or removed.

**Your feedback means assessments are better for everyone.**