Classroom Assessment Techniques for Online Courses

Modified from 50 CATS by Angelo and Cross¹
Techniques for Assessing Course-Related Knowledge & Skills

Assessing Prior Knowledge, Recall, and Understanding: appropriate for declarative and foundational knowledge (Bloom's – Remembering)

CAT	Online Application	Tools
Background Knowledge Probe: short,	Survey or Poll	Survey Monkey™ Poll
simple questionnaires prepared by		Everywhere™
instructors for use at the beginning of		PollDaddy™
a course or at the start of new units or		
topics; can serve as a pretest		
Focused Listing: focuses students'	Lecturecasts	Podcasting-
attention on a single important term,	Shared note taking	Odeo™ Podbean™
name, or concept from a lesson or		Note-taking: Evernote™
class session and directs students to		Google Wave™
list ideas related to the "focus."		Notemesh™
Misconception/Preconception Check:	Discussion	Vyew™ YackPack™
focus is on uncovering prior		Gabbly™
knowledge or beliefs that hinder or		
block new learning; can be designed		
to uncover incorrect or incomplete		
knowledge, attitudes, or values		
Empty Outlines: in a limited amount	Shared Note Taking	Bubblus™ Mind42™
of time students complete an empty	Concept Mapping	Mindomo™ Wordle™
or partially completed outline of an in-		
class presentation or homework		
assignment		
Memory Matrix: students complete a	Collaborative writing	Google
table about course content in which	Concept Mapping	Docs/Spreadsheet™
row and column headings are		
complete but cells are empty		
Muddiest Point: considered my many	Anonymous Discussion or	CMS
as the simplest CAT; students respond	Survey	
to 1 question (What was the muddiest		
point in?)		

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¹ See http://www.lanecc.edu/assessment/documents/fifty_cats.pdf