

Build contextual, PISA-inspired multiple-choice questions

Use a meaningful situation, sound reasoning, and plausible choices without calling a classroom item an official PISA question.

GURONEXA PRACTICAL GUIDE

Independent educational resource · Approx. 7 min reading time. Review applicability to your school before use.

1. Define what the item must assess

Identify a real competency and cognitive demand. A long story is not evidence of higher-order thinking if the answer requires only remembering a fact.

2. Create a purposeful stimulus

Use a small table, authentic scenario, simple diagram, or short data excerpt only when the learner needs it to reason. Keep all information necessary and remove distractions.

3. Ask one clear question

Prefer a stem that requires interpreting, comparing, modeling, evaluating, or justifying. Ensure units and assumptions are stated when needed.

4. Construct plausible distractors

Use errors that expose understandable misconceptions rather than trick wording. Each option should be parallel, comparable, and grammatically consistent.

5. Audit the response key

Independently solve the problem; verify there is one defensible answer and that the distractors are genuinely incorrect under the stated conditions.

6. Review reading load and access

Avoid unrelated reading difficulty and cultural assumptions. Provide accessible text alternatives to essential visuals.

WORKED CLASSROOM EXAMPLE

Illustrative item idea: A school has three water containers, holding 12 L, 15 L, and 9 L. Each class needs 6 L for a science activity. Ask how many full classes can be supplied and what quantity remains. Correct reasoning: $12 + 15 + 9 = 36$ L; $36 \div 6 = 6$ classes; 0 L remains. Adapt numbers and context to a verified grade-level competency.

Teacher review checklist

- ✓ Target competency and cognitive process clear
- ✓ Stimulus is necessary and accessible
- ✓ Question has one correct defensible answer
- ✓ Distractors reflect misconceptions
- ✓ Answer key and explanation independently reviewed

Check the original guidance

Use the official source to confirm applicability; GuroNexa does not reproduce or replace official DepEd documents.

[DepEd DO 8, s. 2015 — Classroom assessment policy](#) ↗

Verify before classroom use.

Examples are illustrative. Confirm the current curriculum, official school requirements, learner privacy and any local instructions.