

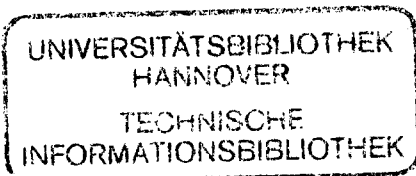
SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUES IN TESTING

Implications for Test Construction and Usage

EDITED BY

BARBARA S. PLAKE

University of Nebraska-Lincoln



1984

LAWRENCE ERLBAUM ASSOCIATES, PUBLISHERS
Hillsdale, New Jersey

London

Tagung im 1983
RO 2619 (1)

Contents

Preface ix

1. Filling the Gaps Between Test Outcomes and Usage: An Introduction	1
<i>Barbara S. Plake</i>	
Purpose of the Volume	2
Overview of the Chapters	3
Conclusions	7
References	7

PART I SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL INFLUENCES

2. Struggles and Possibilities: The Use of Tests in Decision Making	11
<i>Ellis Batten Page</i>	
A Double Standard	14
The Value of Testing	15
Ideological and Scientific Issues	16
Decision Making	21
Test Scores and Deeper Values	29
Production Functions and Causal Research	31
Conclusions	33
References	35

3. What Cognitive Psychology Can (and Cannot) Do for Test Development

Robert J. Sternberg

What is Cognitive Psychology?	40
Cognitive Psychology and Test Construction	46
Cognitive Psychology and Test Validation	48
Cognitive Psychology, Test Scoring, and Test Interpretation	49
Cognitive Psychology and Test Modification	51
References	57

4. The Status of Test Validation Research

Lyle F. Schoenfeldt

Traditional Approaches to Test Validation	62
Construct Validation	65
Multivariate Validation Models	69
Validity Generalization	76
Productivity Analysis	79
Implications for Test Construction and Test Usage	80
References	82

5. Social and Legal Influences on Test Development and Usage

Donald N. Bersoff

Social Influences	88
Social Influences on Legal Decisions: Some Examples	89
Social Science Evidence and the Courts	97
Psychologists and Public Policy	105
References	107

6. Testing and the Oscar Buros Lament: From Knowledge to Implementation to Use

James V. Mitchell, Jr.

Measurement Theory and Knowledge	112
Test Technology and the Challenge of Implementation	112
The Bottom Line: The Selection and Effective Use of Tests	117
Conclusions and Recommendations	122
References	125

PART II INFLUENCES ON APTITUDE AND ACHIEVEMENT TEST DEVELOPMENT AND USAGE

7. Aptitude and Achievement Tests: The Curious Case of the Indestructible Strawperson	129
<i>Anne Anastasi</i>	
Historical Antecedents	130
Debunking Ventures	132
The Continuum of Developed Abilities	134
More about Aptitudes	136
References	139
8. Achievement Test Items: Current Issues	141
<i>Robert L. Ebel</i>	
A Conception of Knowledge	141
The Relation of Knowledge to Ability	142
The Measurability of Human Characteristics	143
The Relative Merits of Essay and Objective Tests	145
The Merits of Items Based on Realistic Problem Situations	146
The Merits of Alternate-Choice Items	148
Prospects for a Technology of Item Writing	151
Concluding Statement	152
References	153
9. Abilities and Knowledge in Educational Achievement Testing: The Assessment of Dynamic Cognitive Structures	156
<i>Samuel Messick</i>	
Structures of Knowledge and Ability	155
Expertise and Aptitude	165
The Failings of Fallacies	168
References	169
Author Index	173
Subject Index	178