



# Selecting an Assessment

Our scan identified a need for guidance on determining when digital literacy assessments are “a good fit.” The following questions can be helpful:

**Q1: Is the assessment used for placement? Would a self-assessment suffice?**

Examples: [mlearning's self-assessment](#), Goodwill's [Assess your Digital Skills](#), and [the EU's test your digital skills](#) self-test, available in multiple languages

**Q2: Is it a diagnostic assessment to establish skill development needs and create a learning plan?**

Example: Northstar [Digital Literacy Assessment](#)

A program of Literacy Minnesota, Northstar defines, assesses, and teaches basic skills needed to use computers and the internet in daily life, employment, and higher education. Online assessments measure mastery of 14 basic skill areas.

**Q3: How frequently will learners be assessed?**

**Q4: Does the assessment fairly capture the full digital skills of an individual or focus on specific settings or particular platforms?**

**Q5: Would it be an accurate formative assessment that measures progress to inform instruction?**

**Q6: Would it be an accurate summative assessment that measures impact?**

**Q7: Will it be used for program accountability?**

**Q8: What is the content of the assessment focused on?**

- Technical skills example: Microsoft and Google's unit and course quizzes.
- Information literacy example: Northstar's Using Technology in Daily Life
- Digital problem-solving example: PIAAC PS-TRE

**Q9: Is it updated to reflect the digital skills currently needed for participation in work and society?**

**Q10: Does the assessment fairly capture the digital skills of individuals with emerging literacy or English language skills?**

**Q11: Is the assessment for the purposes of research?**

Example: PIAAC Survey of Adult Skills

The PIAAC Survey of Adult Skills was first implemented in 2012 and included assessments on literacy, numeracy, and digital problem solving. The PS-TRE focuses on the ability to solve problems for personal, work, and civic purposes by setting up appropriate goals and plans and accessing and making use of information through computers and computer networks.

**Q12: How will the skills be assessed, scored, and reported?**

- Multiple choice or simulation example: Northstar
- Observation of performance scored against rubrics example: casas civic objectives and additional assessment plans (COAAPS)
  - California adult education agencies use CASAS COAPPS, performance-based assessment tasks, to assess civics education. Many of the assessments

require the use of digital technology within the instruction and assessment tasks.

- Portfolio based example: National External Diploma Program
  - The NEDP measures digital literacy skills including use of presentation software, spreadsheets, word documents, internet navigation, and online research and citation as elements of the adult high school diploma program.

**Q13: In which modality will the assessment be delivered, and can it be delivered remotely?**

**Q14: What is the cost of the assessment, not just in terms of licenses but in implementation (training for those who will deliver the assessment, computers, etc.)**

**Q15: Are there opportunities to badge or certify specified skills, levels, competencies, and program completion?**

- Example: International Computer Driving License
  - The ICDL can be used as a reliable and trustworthy measure of digital skills that is fully compatible with DigComp. ICDL has been independently reviewed by ISTE (International Society For Technology In Education) and is in alignment with the ISTE standards.
- Example: Certiport IC3 Digital Literacy Certification
  - IC3's three stackable certification levels and associated badges range from fundamental concepts to advanced digital literacy. It covers technology

basics, digital citizenship, information management, content creation, communication, collaboration, and safety and security.

- Example: DQ institute global standards for digital intelligence
  - The DQ framework aggregates more than 25 prior digital literacy and skills frameworks. It addresses digital identity, digital rights, digital literacy, digital communications, digital emotional intelligence, digital security, digital safety, and digital use.

### **Q16: Can users earn portable badges?**

Examples: Northstar, Coursera, Microsoft, Grow with Google, Certiport, and IC3

### **Q17: What organizations and employers currently recognize the value of skills demonstrated or badges or certificates earned through the assessment?**

### **Q18: How can assessment results or badges be shared with employers or educational institutions?**