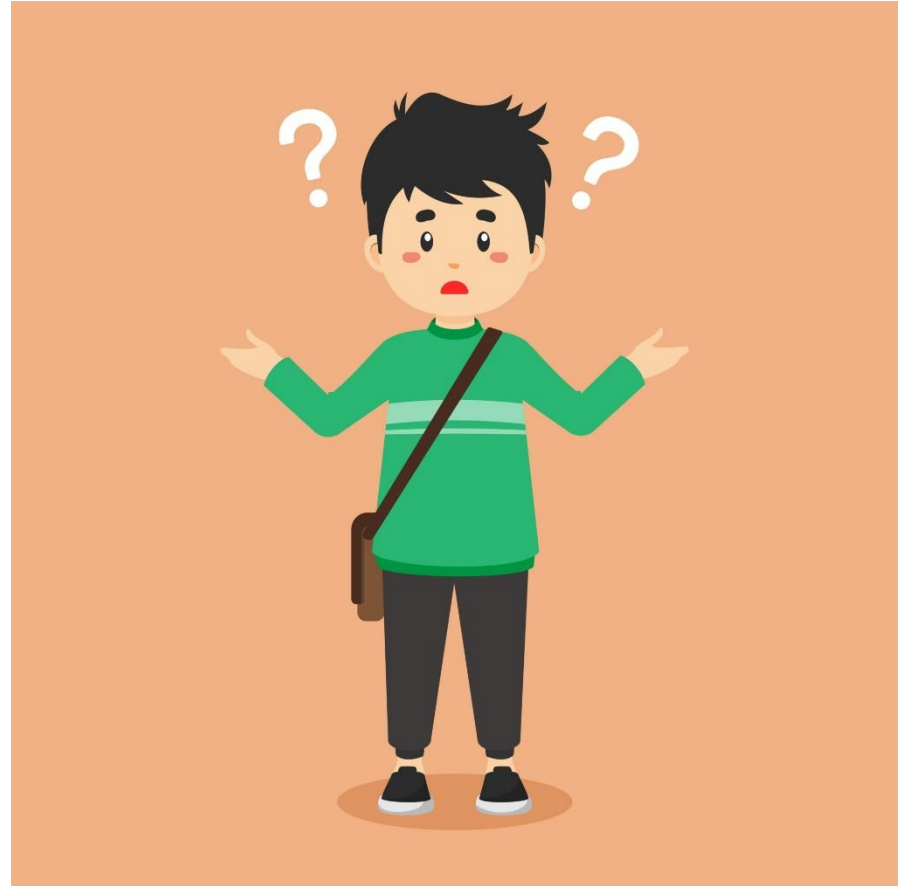# Learnable and Barrier Free: A Starting Point for Rethinking Assessment

Dr Kevin L. Merry, Founder and Chair, UDL-UKI Network
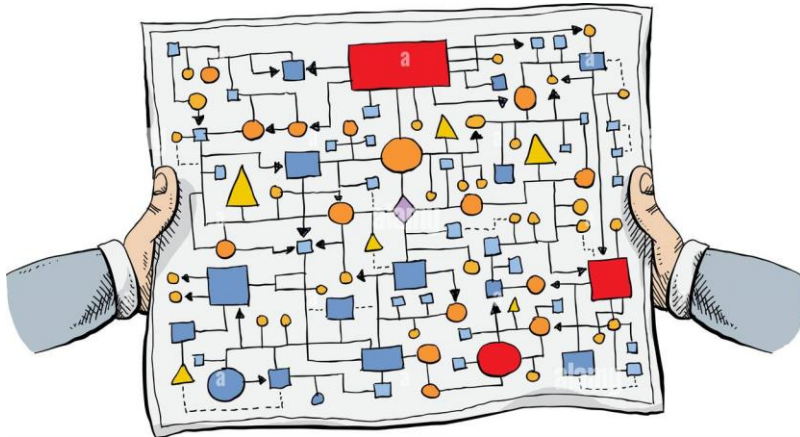
LEARNABILITY

BARRIERS

The "task" should never be to try to work out what the "task" actually is…
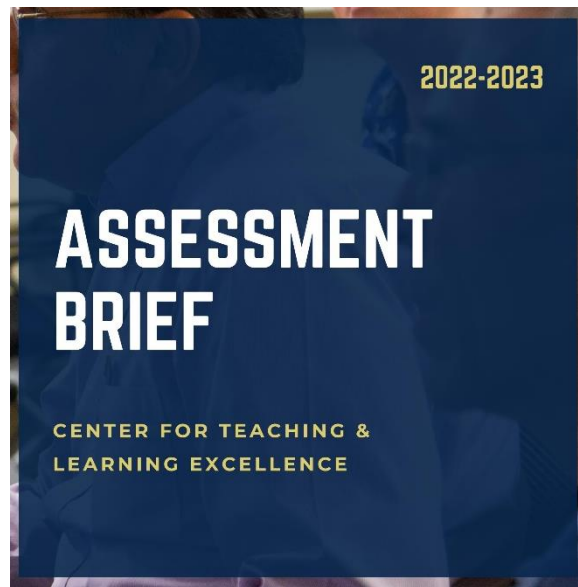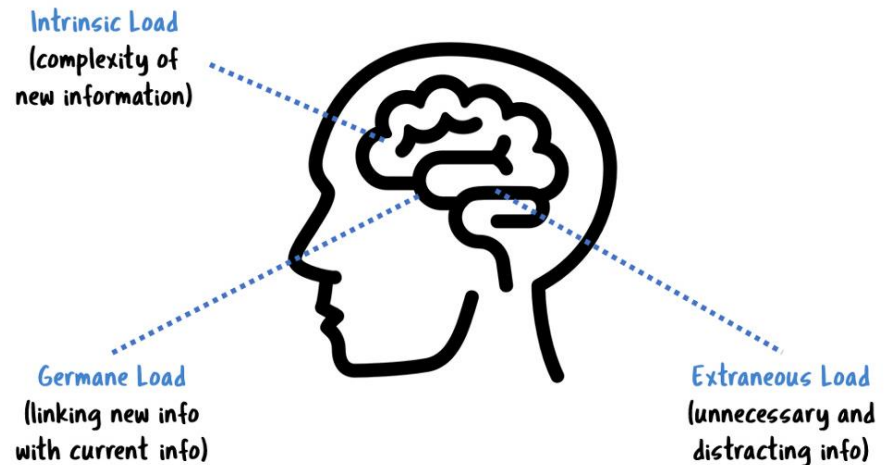
- Rubric

- Marking Criteria

- Formative

- Summative

- Feedforward

- Moderation

- Ratified

- Critically Analyse

- Differentiate

- Lexis

- Synthesise

- Ipsative

- Synoptic

- Balanced Judgement

- Appraise

- Discriminate

Information processing and knowledge construction capabilities impeded by the cognitive load of other learning tasks (Sweller et al., 2019).

Cognitive Load Theory

Intrinsic Load
(complexity of new information)

Germane Load
(linking new info with current info)

Extraneous Load
(unnecessary and distracting info)

2022-2023

ASSESSMENT BRIEF

CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING EXCELLENCE

if we create poor assessment instructions that must be "deciphered" by learners, we're ramping up the extraneous cognitive load, compromising their ability to focus on the task itself.

Biology Exam

Assesses biology knowledge

Lasts 2 hours

Learners don't know the questions in advance

They cannot use any resources

They must handwrite their answers

This exam is also measuring…

- Handwriting skills

- Time management

- Ability to communicate in writing

- Various memory skills

Lots of irrelevant constructs…

Perhaps the most common assessment barrier…