Workshop on Table of Specifications

Presented by Dr. Chan Chang Tik
What is the Table of Specifications?

- It is guide to produce valid examination questions.
- Valid?
  - Syllabus
  - Cognitive domain taught
- Cognitive domain?
  - Bloom’s taxonomy
Bloom’s Taxonomy

Bloom’s taxonomy of cognitive skills:

✔ **Knowledge** – remembering facts, terms, definitions, and concepts. What?, list, name, define, describe

✔ **Comprehension** – understanding the meaning of material. Explain, interpret, summarize, give examples, predict, translate
Bloom’s Taxonomy (2)

- **Application** – selecting a concept or skill and using it to solve a problem. Compute, solve, apply, modify, construct

- **Analysis** – breaking material down into its parts and explaining the hierarchical relations. How does … apply?, Why does … work?, How does … relate to … ?
Bloom’s Taxonomy (3)

✓ **Synthesis** – producing something original after having broken the material down into its component parts.

How do the data support …?

How would you design an experiment that investigates …

What predictions can you make based upon the data?
Bloom’s Taxonomy (4)

- **Evaluation** – making a judgment based upon a pre-established set of criteria.
  What judgments can you make about …?
  Compare and contrast … criteria for …?
Testimony

- INTI-UC lecturer's comment

I just want to say a million thanks for teaching us how to do the Table of Specifications in setting exam questions. It is only now that I am able to appreciate how useful that table is, now that I have managed to create my first set of final exam questions (deadline today lah!). I use the table and I am happy with the questions I set because I could justify them if I were asked.

I think this part of the skill training (the Table of Specs part ...) should be made compulsory for all new lecturers.
Are you convinced now?

- The Table of Specifications is now made compulsory for new lecturers in the current session.
- Samples of Table of Specifications
  - FAS
  - FOBA
  - FOCIT
  - FOEAT
  - FMHS
  - COPS
  - FOLA
General Comments

- The choice of appropriate verb to use in the learning outcomes as well as in the questions is lacking. Lecturers need to know the correct verb to use in each component of the Bloom’s Taxonomy. A list of verbs is given to them as reference.

- The allocation of marks is a problem to some lecturers.