

**8. Isn't assessment supposed to be completely objective?
How do we ensure complete objectivity in our tasks,
tests and judgements?**

We can't. Research and reflection make it quite clear that there is no such thing as a completely objective assessment. There is of course a continuum between two extremes, at the one end a highly subjective task and/or judgement, at the other a strictly fact-based question and answer. But defining knowledge, or even 'facts' (and learning and assessing these), is by nature a social, contextualised act, involving selection and belief. Factors such as cultural bias will inevitably be involved, to a greater or lesser extent, in aspects such as selection of content, presentation, and ways of marking. We can, however, try to ensure that an assessment is fit for its purpose, and that attention has been paid to aspects such as fairness, reliability and validity.

[Answer to FAQ 8, The NQF and Assessment, the NQF Gateway]