

# Survey Types

- **Tests** are used to measure the level of **mastery or achievement in a given content area**. A test is a series of questions or items that measure some sort of educational or psychological attribute. Members of the population of interest are given a series of questions and are expected to give correct responses or perform at a certain level that is representative of mastery. Item Response Theory (IRT) is the more appropriate choice of empirical design when creating tests.
- **Rating scales** evaluate how members of a given population make **subjective judgments** related to a phenomenon or construct of interest. This type of data is often collected by having participants give a **numerical rating along a continuum**, such as in a **Likert scale**.
- **Performance** rating instruments allow for **external and independent observers** rate a **participant's ability to successfully complete relative tasks**.
- **Checklists** establish **the prevalence of attributes, feelings, thoughts, perceptions, behaviors, or other constructs in a population of interest**.
- **Psychological instruments** are utilized in an objective and standardized fashion to **assess cognitive, affective, emotional, vocational, intelligence, and personality characteristics**. These instruments have gone through **rigorous psychometric testing** to establish a measure that is both **precise and accurate in its interpretability in the current clinical context**.
- **Inventories** are employed to **assess individual human interests, characteristics, feelings, thoughts, behaviors, or other constructs**.