

## Summary Assessments VS Assessments: When and Why?

Many wonder the difference between DataDirector Assessments and Summary Assessments. Truth be told, both have very unique features, purposes, and uses.

### Summary Assessments

Essentially, Summary Assessments are a data table; this is where the data from Exams lives and is calculated to create nice graphs.

Summary Assessments offer many different types of question-types that cannot be found in Exams.

Field Name	Field Type	Sort Order	Max. Value	
Date	Date	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
Year	Year	2		<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation	Y/N	3		<input type="checkbox"/>
Raised Hand	Check Box	4		<input type="checkbox"/>
Length of Visit	Numeric - Decimal	5	100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time Not Paying Attention	Numeric - Integer	6	100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behavior Code	Text - Word (15)	7		<input type="checkbox"/>
Behavior Description	Text - Sentence (100)	8		<input type="checkbox"/>
Time on Task	Calculation	9		<input type="checkbox"/> Edit Calculation



Note: Fields that are grayed out are required and cannot be deleted.

As you can see, a user can choose to create questions that range from check boxes to dates and years. An assessment can even calculate selected fields. These types of questions produce the following type of data table once data has been entered.

Date	Year	Participation	Raised Hand	Length of Visit	Time Not Paying Attention	Behavior Code	Behavior Description	Time on Task
11-07-2011	2011	Y	✓	15.00	2	Talk	Student was talking with a peer.	13

select All

To summarize, a Summary Assessment is a great tool to use when users must collect data that is non-numeric. In other words, text, calculations, check boxes, and dates are a good fit for Summary Assessments.

## Assessments

While Summary Assessments can collect and calculate data in a variety of ways, Assessments provide users with a great way to quickly disaggregate data; this is done with reports. Interestingly, for every Assessment, a Summary Assessment is created to perform the Assessment's calculations.

Like Summary Assessments, Assessments also offer a variety of question types:

Total Points for this Exam:   Enter  
Modif

Field Name	Field Type	Cluster	Sort Order	Rubric	Max. Value	Points	
Q1	Text - Response (5)	Questions	1			1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q2	Numeric - Integer	Questions	2			1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q3	Numeric - Decimal	Questions	3			1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Text - Response (5)						
	Text - Paragraph (255)						

The power of these questions is DataDirector's ability to perform calculations that yield the following types of reports, graphs, and charts:

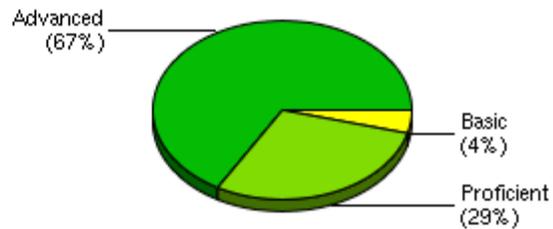
Reports related to this assessment

		District Assessment Report
		District Assessment Report - Summarized
		District Assessment Report - By School
		School Assessment Report
		Classroom Assessment Report
		Classroom Assessment Report (Response Matrix)
		Classroom Performance Summary Report
		Classroom Standards Performance Report

Response Frequency

Question	Point	Standard/Cluster	0	1	2	3	4	NR
Q#1	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.4 ( 6 ), Questions #1-#3	1	23				
Q#2	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 5 ), Questions #1-#3	3	21				
Q#3	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 6 ), Questions #1-#3	3	21				
Q#4	2	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 6 ), Question #4	1	23				
Q#5	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 6 ), Questions #5-#8	7	17				
Q#6	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.4 ( 6 ), Questions #5-#8	2	22				
Q#7	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 5 ), Questions #5-#8	1	23				
Q#8	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 6 ), Questions #5-#8		24				
Q#9	2	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 6 ), Question #9	3	21				
Q#10	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5 ( 6 ), Question #10-#13	4	20				
Q#11	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5.a ( 6 ), Question #10-#13	1	23				
Q#12	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5.c ( 6 ), Question #10-#13	3	21				
Q#13	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5.c ( 5 ), Question #10-#13	11	13				
Q#14	2	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5.d ( 6 ), Question #14	5	8	13			
Q#15	1	National Standards MA.5.6.SP.5.d ( 6 ), Question #15	7	17				

Performance Level	# Students	% Students
Advanced	16	67
Proficient	7	29
Basic	1	4
Below Basic	0	0
Far Below Basic	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Which to choose?

In trying to decide which data collection tool to use, the following chart may be helpful:

<b>Intent</b>	<b>Summary Assessment</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
I would like to have access to DataDirector's colorful reports.		Only assessments offer pre-built reports.
I would like to collect my student responses with bubble sheets.		Only assessments offer bubble sheets.
I will be collecting entirely numerical data and do not need custom calculations.		Using assessments in this case may be more helpful do to the fact that you will be able to use reports.
I will be collecting a mix of numeric and alpha data.	Summary assessments can handle this easily, but you will not get any pre-built reports.	If the data you are looking to collect is one character, you might be able to use assessments in this case. Remember though, if you are looking to record a range of alpha characters (i.e. students' reading levels should range from B-F), DataDirector cannot compute alpha ranges.
I will be collecting data using checkboxes, dates, years, and calculations.	Only Summary assessments can offer these features.	