

Application of Information Technology in Teaching and Assessment of Natural Sciences

Nguyen Phuoc Hai*

Faculty of Pedagogy, Social Sciences and Humanities, Kien Giang University, Vietnam

Trinh Thi Kim Binh

Faculty of Food Sciences and Health, Kien Giang University, Vietnam

Nguyen Van Hieu

Dong Hung A Junior High School, An Giang province, Vietnam

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of this paper is to apply information technology in teaching, testing, and assessment within the Natural Sciences to enhance the objectivity, accuracy, and timeliness of learners' academic results. This paper outlines the current landscape of learner testing and assessment in Vietnam while analyzing the limitations inherent in existing practices. Consequently, the researcher conducted empirical studies and evaluations to propose innovative solutions for learner testing and assessment in Natural Science subjects. These solutions encompass the utilization of modern technologies, the application of competency-based assessment, and the integration of formative assessment throughout the instructional process. Tools such as online testing software, integrated assessment systems, and digital learning platforms facilitate the creation of diverse tests, automated grading, and learning data analysis. These advancements empower teachers to monitor progress, identify student strengths and weaknesses, and adjust pedagogical strategies for greater effectiveness.

KEYWORDS: Information technology, natural science subjects, teaching and learning, competency-based assessment, integrated assessment systems.

1. INTRODUCTION

The application of information technology (IT) in teaching, testing, and assessment is an inevitable trend in modern education. It plays a crucial role for both teachers and learners, enabling them to make timely adjustments to teaching and learning activities to meet the requirements and objectives of educational reform. Consequently, integrating IT into these processes is essential to satisfy the current demands of educational innovation. Testing and assessment hold value not only for instructors and learners but also for administrators. This is a pivotal stage that significantly impacts the process of enhancing training quality. Assessment results serve as the basis for making various decisions regarding learners, curricula, institutions, and educational policies. When conducted objectively, rigorously, accurately, and with proper orientation, assessment acts as a powerful motivator, encouraging learners to strive for academic excellence and fostering their continuous creativity and exploration (Nguyen *et al.*, 2024). Furthermore, Decision No. 400/QĐ-BGD&ĐT issued by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) on February 3, 2016, regarding the promulgation of the MOET's 2016 work program, clearly stated in Item 7, Section III concerning the innovation of forms and methods of exams, testing, and educational assessment: Continue to implement periodic national assessment programs and international assessment programs oriented towards learners' competency assessment. Additionally, Official Dispatch No. 7991/BGDĐT-GDTrH of the Ministry of Education and Training dated December 17, 2024, addresses the implementation of testing and assessment for lower and upper secondary levels. Thus, the Party and the State have identified the reform of testing and assessment as an imperative task in the current period (Dang & Tran, 2016).

Testing and assessment constitute a crucial stage and a vital task for educators in educational institutions today. The primary purpose of assessment extends beyond merely recognizing academic outcomes; more importantly, it assists learners in self-assessing their performance and perceiving their own progress throughout the learning journey. Simultaneously, it provides feedback that enables both instructors and learners to adjust the teaching and learning process appropriately, thereby meeting educational requirements and goals while contributing to the enhancement of educational quality. Therefore, proposing the application of information technology in teaching, testing, and assessing Natural Sciences is deemed essential. The results of this study provide a theoretical basis for applying IT in teaching, testing, and learner assessment. This encompasses utilizing modern technologies, implementing competency-based assessment, and integrating formative assessment into the instructional process, ultimately contributing to improving the quality of education and training in the current period.

2. THEORETICAL OVERVIEW AND RESEARCH HISTORY

To implement competency-based learner assessment, teacher education institutions must first explicitly define the professional competency framework for teachers. This serves as the foundation to structure and design competency-oriented teacher training curricula, wherein learning outcomes must specify measurable competencies (Nguyen, 2020). Furthermore, it is essential to innovate the organization and assessment methods of pedagogical internships (or teaching practicums) within teacher education (Han, 2020). In recent years, numerous researchers have proposed recommendations aimed at improving the quality of educational testing and assessment. Specifically, these suggestions include: emphasizing the alignment between curriculum design and the assessment of learning outcomes; ensuring transparency and public disclosure of institutional learning outcomes; employing diverse assessment formats such as essays, practicums, oral presentations, projects, teamwork, and reflective or critical analyses, as well as various assessment methods like self-assessment and peer assessment; prioritizing the validity, reliability, and consistency of assessments; addressing the role of testing and assessment within the instructional process, while highlighting limitations and proposing measures for the effective management of testing and assessment activities in high schools (Duyen & Pham, 2015; Nawzad *et al.*, 2018). The findings of the aforementioned studies serve as a foundation for subsequent research on solutions to accelerate the positive and effective application of digital technology in testing and assessment at educational institutions, with the aim of innovating the forms of assessing learners' academic performance (March & Smith, 1995; Nguyen, 2022). To implement competency-based and application-oriented assessment, educational institutions must first design training curricula that are centrally focused on competency and application. On that basis, they must clearly establish the principles and processes for testing and assessing learners in alignment with this competency-based and application-oriented approach (Tran, 2017; Nguyen *et al.*, 2023; Nguyen & Tran, 2025).

Competency-based testing and assessment in Natural Sciences at junior high schools is a strategic orientation in general education aimed at meeting the current requirements of educational reform. Student assessment is essential for measuring individual progress and abilities, planning subsequent steps to improve teaching and learning, and sharing information with relevant stakeholders (Tran, 2019). Several authors have investigated the theoretical basis to establish a six-step process for designing a framework to test and assess the scientific research competency of secondary school students in Natural Sciences. Furthermore, they have proposed a student scientific research competency framework to serve as a foundation for teachers to conduct assessments during the implementation of activities (Pham & Le, 2022). In the current context of fundamental and comprehensive educational reform, testing and assessment must also be innovated towards developing learners' thinking competencies (Nhu, 2019). Teachers need to regularly update testing and assessment forms; however, they have not yet effectively utilized learner feedback to adjust assessment activities (Le & Nguyen, 2022). New trends in applying information technology to assess learner competency on technological platforms have garnered significant attention. Researchers have proposed three levels of IT application in education: (1) Classroom Assessment – Learning Management Systems (LMS); (2) Learner Competency Adaptive Assessment – Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT); (3) Personalized Learning Ecosystem – A comprehensive solution for applying IT in teaching and learning (Nguyen *et al.*, 2024). In Vietnam, numerous legislative documents have been promulgated to establish requirements for the reform of general and higher education, with a specific emphasis on innovating the testing and assessment of learners' academic results (Dang, 2024). Concurrently, many studies have addressed the theoretical and practical aspects of testing and assessment of academic performance both globally and in Vietnam. Thereby, these studies propose solutions to reform testing and assessment in accordance with the learner competency-based approach (Nguyen, 2012; Ho, 2013; Nguyen, 2022).

In the instructional process, testing and assessment constitute a critical activity that assists in evaluating student competency and determining the extent to which educational objectives have been achieved. The application of digital technology is an inevitable trend in current global education systems; it is also an essential skill for teachers in the Industry 4.0 era and can be regarded as the key to innovation and the enhancement of educational quality (Nghiem, 2024). Research on digital transformation in management, instruction, learning, testing, and assessment at high schools emphasizes the adoption of digital technology within the upper secondary education environment. It focuses on exploring how technologies such as computers, the Internet, educational software, and mobile devices can be integrated to optimize various aspects of education (Luong, 2024). In recent times, numerous authors have researched and proposed methods for testing and assessing learners' academic results. Simultaneously, studies on developing computer-based learner competency assessment systems have demonstrated effectiveness, aligning with the goal of improving the quality of competency assessment in the current practical context (Nguyen & Trinh, 2022; Nguyen & Trinh, 2023; Nguyen & Trinh, 2024; Nguyen *et al.*, 2024;). Thus, the application of information technology in teaching, testing, and assessment is an imperative requirement to enhance the quality of training and meet the demands of educational reform. In this study, the researcher focuses on the application of information technology in teaching, testing, and assessing Natural Sciences through a research-oriented approach. The aim is to improve forms of testing and assessment and refine processes to align with the requirements of educational innovation. The objective of this research is to propose the application of information technology in teaching, testing, and assessing subjects to satisfy the demands of educational reform in the current period.

3. RESEARCH SUBJECTS AND METHODS

The researcher focused on innovating student testing and assessment forms at Dong Hung A junior high school, specifically through regular and mid-term assessments in teaching Natural Sciences to 8th-grade students. Recently, the researcher has implemented and piloted the application of information technology in teaching, testing, and assessing Natural Sciences utilizing hybrid answer sheets, Quizizz (Wayground), and Google Forms. These follow a new structure comprising four parts: part 1 consists of multiple-choice questions (selecting one correct answer out of four); part 2 contains True/False questions; part 3 involves short-answer questions; and part 4 consists of essay questions.

In this study, the researcher employed a combination of the following methods:

Data Collection and Statistical Method: Documents and data related to testing and assessment in Natural Sciences teaching were collected, and scientific experimental results were classified and statistically analyzed.

Analysis and Synthesis Method: Based on the collected materials, data, and expert opinions, the researcher analyzed and synthesized information to propose forms of testing and assessment for the subjects.

Expert Consultation Method: During the deployment of testing and assessment forms in Natural Sciences, the researcher consulted experts in the field of educational measurement and evaluation, as well as lecturers and teachers at educational institutions.

Practical Research Method: Data was gathered from teachers at general education schools and lecturers at higher education institutions. The implementation process was monitored to evaluate the practical effectiveness of the testing and assessment forms in Natural Sciences. Subsequently, information technology was applied to teaching, testing, and assessment in selected classes to evaluate feedback from both teachers and learners.

4. RESULTS

The application of information technology in teaching, testing, and assessing Natural Sciences during the 2024–2025 academic year at Dong Hung A junior high school has yielded positive results. This implementation was conducted through regular and mid-term assessments utilizing hybrid answer sheets, Quizizz (Wayground), and Google Forms. Under the competency-based approach, learners are evaluated not solely on their knowledge retention but also on their ability to creatively apply that knowledge in real-world contexts. These innovations have empowered learners to become more proactive in their studies while simultaneously enhancing the overall quality of education. These outcomes can be specifically illustrated as follows:

4.1 Utilizing Hybrid Answer Sheets for Testing and Assessment

Figure 1. A sample hybrid answer sheet

Figure 2. Student's answers on the hybrid answer sheets

The researcher employed a hybrid answer sheet combining multiple-choice and essay formats, following a new structure consisting of four parts: Part 1: Multiple-choice questions (selecting one correct answer from four options); Part 2: True/False questions; Part 3: Short-answer questions; Part 4: Essay questions (constructed-response questions). This instrument was utilized to conduct regular and mid-term assessments for students at Dong Hung A junior high school. The answer sheets can be graded using a dedicated optical mark reader (scanner) or via a smartphone application. Upon completion of grading, instructors can view and download the assessment results in Excel and PDF formats to their computers or mobile devices for data archiving.

4.2 Utilizing Quizizz (Wayground) for Testing and Assessment



Figure 3. Utilizing Quizizz (Wayground) to test and assess learners in the classroom

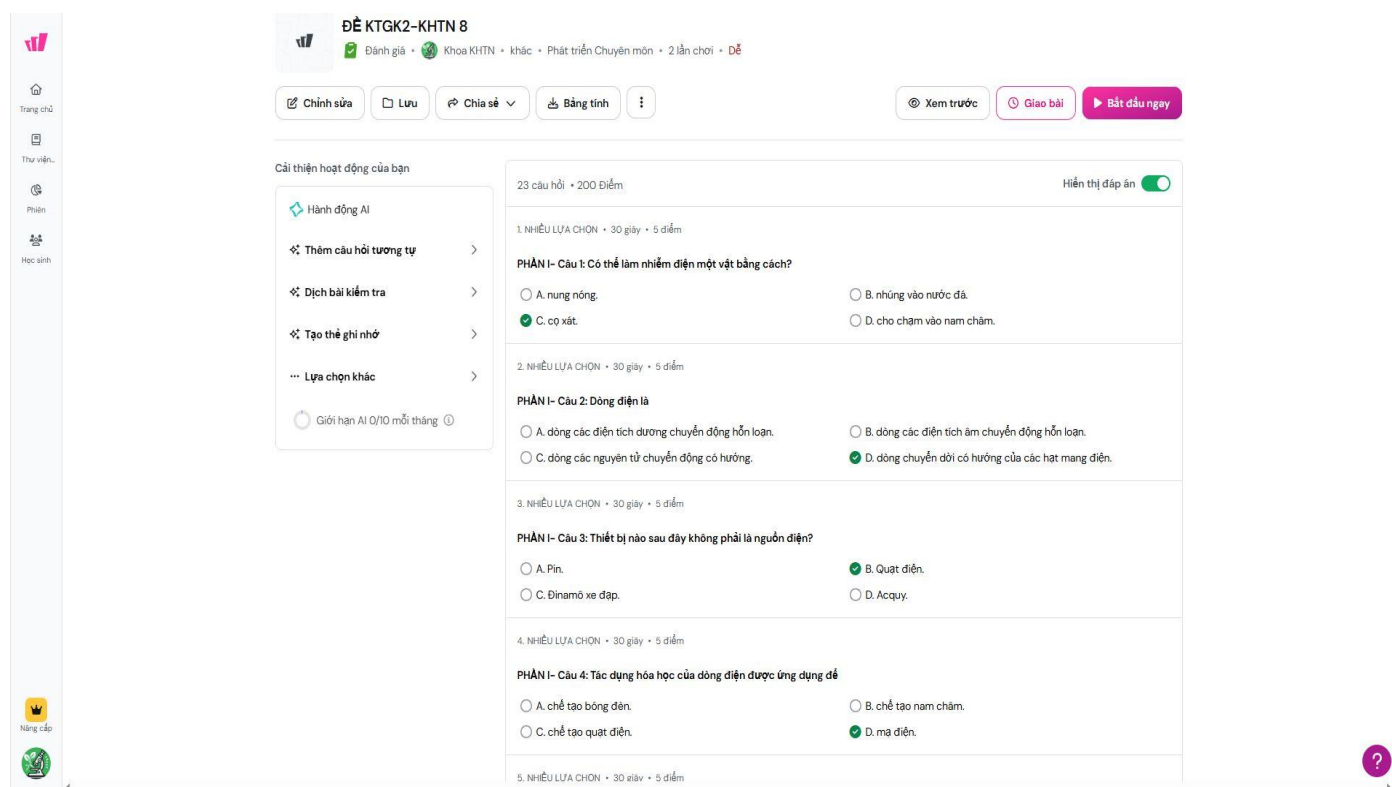


Figure 4. Content of the learner's test questions on Quizizz (Wayground)

Quizizz is a highly convenient online tool for generating tests and assignments, enabling users to create questions in various formats for learners to answer. Upon providing learners with the access code, questions are presented either as a timed examination or assigned as homework with a specific deadline. After completing the assessment on Quizizz, learners can review their responses. Furthermore, Quizizz facilitates the compilation of student responses into a spreadsheet, enabling teachers to easily assess student academic performance. During the instructional process, the researcher also employed Quizizz to test and assess students at Dong Hung A junior high school. The assessment content was structured into four parts: part 1 consisted of multiple-choice questions (selecting one correct answer from four options); part 2 contained True/False questions; part 3 involved short-answer questions; part 4 consisted of essay questions. Upon completion, instructors can view and download the results as an Excel file to their computers for data archiving, analysis, and evaluation of learners' academic performance.

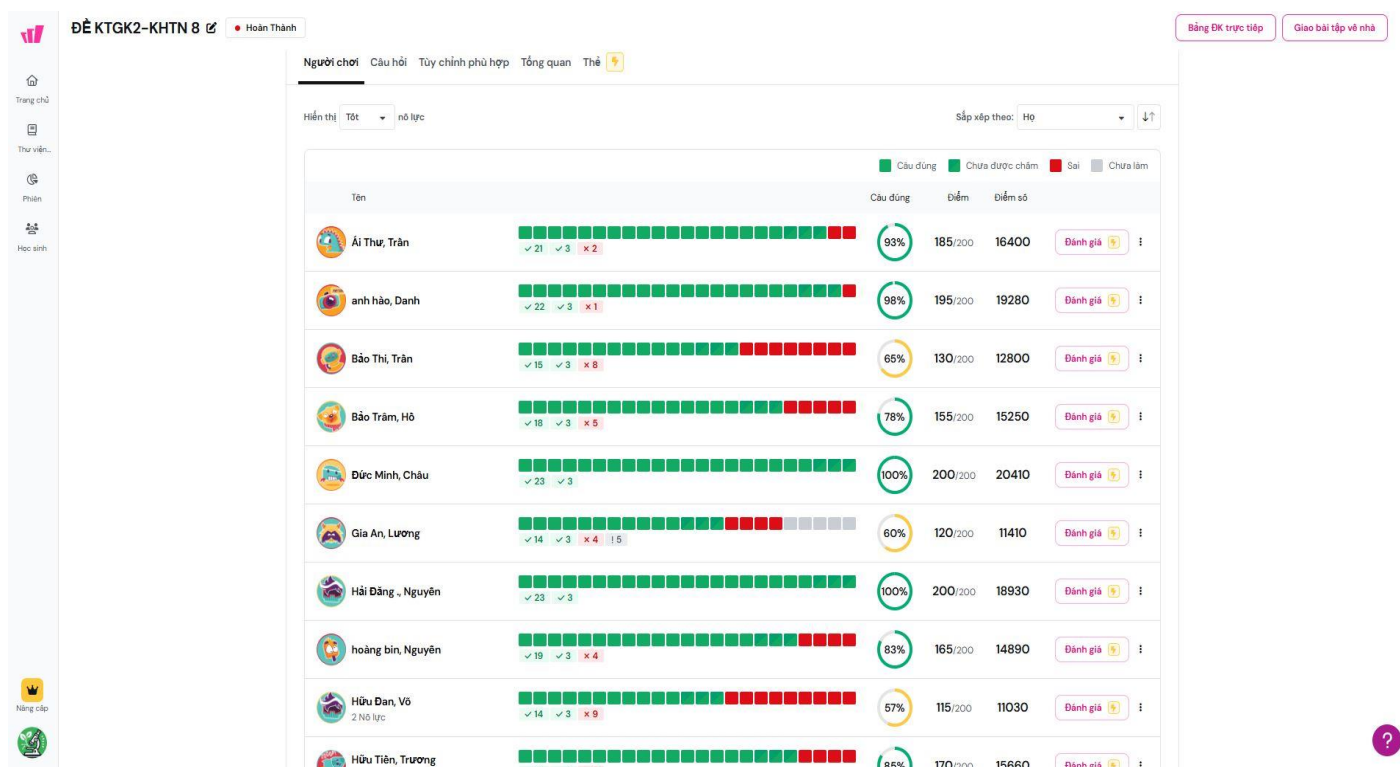


Figure 5. Student test results on Quizizz (Wayground)

4.3 Utilizing Google Forms for Testing and Assessment

Google Forms can be simply defined as a web-based application that enables users to efficiently create and manage forms, thereby facilitating the rapid collection of necessary data. During the instructional process, the researcher utilized Google Forms to conduct testing and assessment for students at Dong Hung A junior high school. The assessment content was similarly structured into four parts: part 1 consisted of multiple-choice questions (selecting one correct answer from four options); part 2 contained True/False questions; part 3 involved short-answer questions; and part 4 consisted of essay questions. Upon completion, instructors can view and download the test results as an Excel file to their computers for data archiving, analysis, and evaluation of learners' academic performance.

ĐỀ KIỂM TRA GIỮA KÌ 2 - MÔN KHTN 8
 Đề kiểm tra Khoa học Tự nhiên theo Công văn 7991/BGDĐT-GDTH 17/12/2024 của Bộ Giáo dục và Đào tạo về kiểm tra, đánh giá cấp THCS, THPT, cấu trúc định dạng đề kiểm tra định kì từ năm 2025:
PHẦN I - Câu 1 - Câu 12 (3 điểm): gồm các câu hỏi ở dạng trắc nghiệm nhiều lựa chọn;
PHẦN II - Câu 13 - Câu 16 (2 điểm): gồm các câu hỏi ở dạng trắc nghiệm Đúng/Sai;
PHẦN III - Câu 17 - Câu 20 (2 điểm): gồm các câu hỏi ở dạng trắc nghiệm trả lời ngắn;
PHẦN IV - Câu 21 - Câu 23 (3 điểm): gồm các câu hỏi ở dạng thức tự luận.

Tên, email và ảnh liên kết với Tài khoản Google của bạn sẽ được ghi lại khi bạn tải tệp lên và gửi biểu mẫu này.
 * Biểu thị câu hỏi bắt buộc

PHẦN II - Câu 16: Hãy xác định các phát biểu sau đây là Đúng hay Sai khi nói về sinh sản ở người? * 300 điểm

	Đúng	Sai
a) Hệ sinh dục nam sinh sản ra tinh trùng, hệ sinh dục nữ sinh sản ra trứng.	☐	☐
b) Thụ tinh là sự kết hợp của tinh trùng và trứng tạo thành hợp tử.	☐	☐
c) Phụ nữ khi mang thai hiện tượng kinh nguyệt vẫn diễn ra bình thường.	☐	☐
d) Mang thai và sinh con ở tuổi vị thành niên rất có lợi.	☐	☐

PHẦN I - Câu 7: Dung dịch nào sau đây làm đổi màu quỳ tím thành xanh? * 250 điểm

☐ A. Potassium hydroxide.
☐ B. Acetic acid.
☐ C. Nước.
☐ D. Sodium chloride.

PHẦN I - Câu 2: Dòng điện là * 250 điểm

☐ A. dòng các điện tích dương chuyển động hỗn loạn.
☐ B. dòng các điện tích âm chuyển động hỗn loạn.
☐ C. dòng các nguyên tử chuyển động có hướng.
☐ D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của các hạt mang điện.

PHẦN III - Câu 18: Dùng ampe kế có giới hạn đo 5A, trên mặt số được chia là 25 khoảng nhỏ nhất. Khi đo cường độ dòng điện trong mạch điện, kim chỉ thị chỉ ở khoảng thứ 16. Cường độ dòng điện đo được là bao nhiêu A? (Trả lời bằng cách nhập số. VD: 2,6) * 500 điểm

Câu trả lời của bạn: _____

PHẦN III - Câu 17: Cho các vật sau đây: dây cước; dây nhôm; dây thép; dây chì; dây đồng; dây thép. Trong các vật trên, có bao nhiêu vật dẫn điện? (Trả lời bằng cách nhập số tương ứng với tổng số vật dẫn điện. VD: 2) * 500 điểm

Câu trả lời của bạn: _____

PHẦN IV - Câu 22: Hòa tan hoàn toàn 5,6 gam CaO vào 100 ml dung dịch acid HCl a(M). * 1000 điểm

a) Hãy viết phương trình hóa học.
 b) Tính giá trị a.
 (Cho biết khối lượng nguyên tử của các nguyên tố sau: Ca=40, O=16, H=1, Cl=35,5)
 Tải tệp được hỗ trợ lên. Kích thước tối đa 10 MB.

PHẦN I - Câu 8: Dây chất nào sau đây chỉ gồm các base tan? * 250 điểm

☐ A. Ba(OH)₂, NaOH, KOH.
☐ B. NaOH, Mg(OH)₂, KOH.
☐ C. NaOH, KOH, Cu(OH)₂.
☐ D. Mg(OH)₂, Cu(OH)₂, KOH.

PHẦN I - Câu 12: Cận thị là: * 250 điểm

☐ A. tật mà hai mắt nằm quá gần nhau.
☐ B. tật mà mắt không có khả năng nhìn gần.
☐ C. tật mà mắt chỉ có khả năng nhìn gần.
☐ D. tật mà mắt chỉ có khả năng nhìn xa.

Figure 6. Content of the learner's test questions on Google Forms

ĐỀ KIỂM TRA GIỮA KÌ 2 - MÔN KHTN 8 (Câu trả lời)

TệpChỉnh sửaXemChènĐịnh dạngDữ liệuCông cụTiện íchTrợ giúpGemini

Trình dơiTệpChỉnh sửaXemChènĐịnh dạngDữ liệuCông cụTiện íchTrợ giúpGemini

100%Đ % 0.00123Roboto+10+BBITAA

Tóm tắt dữ liệu này

A222/10/2025 17:22:13								
	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Điểm số	Họ và tên học sinh / Lớp (Học sinh ghi đầy đủ)		PHẦN I- Câu 1: Có thể làm nhiệm vụ điện một vị	PHẦN I- Câu 2: Đồng điện là	PHẦN I- Câu 3: Thiết bị nào sau đây không phải	PHẦN I- Câu 4: Tác dụng hóa học của dòng điện	PHẦN I- Câu 5: Chất nào sau đây là Base?	PH
2	6500 / 10000	Phan Thị Thuý Dương / 8A3	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
3	6750 / 10000	Nguyễn Lê Thảo My / 8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
4	5500 / 10000	Võ Thị Như Ý 8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
5	2625 / 10000	Lê hoàng đế / 8A1	C. cọ xát.	C. dòng các nguyên tử chuyển dời C. Dinamô xe đạp.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	C. I	
6	4375 / 10000	Trần thị ngọc yến lớp 8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của A. Pin.	A. chế tạo bóng đèn.	D. H2SO4.	D. I	
7	2125 / 10000	Lê hoàng huynh / 8A1	C. cọ xát.	C. dòng các nguyên tử chuyển dời C. Dinamô xe đạp.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	B. I	
8	6250 / 10000	Nguyễn Hồng Phương / 8A2	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
9	7000 / 10000	Lương Ngọc Anh/8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
10	6875 / 10000	Nguyễn gia phất/8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
11	6500 / 10000	Phạm tấn tài / 8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
12	5750 / 10000	Nguyễn Phạm Phát Điều 8/2	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
13	6375 / 10000	Nguyễn Chí Lộc / 8A2	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
14	6875 / 10000	Nguyễn Gia huy/8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
15	7000 / 10000	Bùi Phạm Hải Đăng / 8A3	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
16	5375 / 10000	Võ Trường Khang / 8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
17	7000 / 10000	Phạm Thị Cẩm Vân/ 8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
18	6375 / 10000	Nguyễn Ái Duy / 8A2	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
19	6375 / 10000	Nguyễn Minh Mẫn / 8A3	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
20	6375 / 10000	Võ Trọng Khang/8A2	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
21	7000 / 10000	Trần Bảo Thi / 8A3	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
22	6875 / 10000	Nguyễn Ngọc Tường Vy/8A1	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
23	6500 / 10000	Phạm Như Hào 8A2	C. cọ xát.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của B. Quạt điện.	D. mạ điện.	B. Ba(OH) ₂ .	D. I	
24	2375 / 10000	Trần Quốc dương / 8A1	A. nung nóng.	D. dòng chuyển dời có hướng của C. Dinamô xe đạp.	B. chế tạo nam châm.	A. NaCl.	Phân tích dữ liệu này	

Câu trả lời biểu mẫu 1

Phân tích dữ liệu này

Figure 7. Student test results on Google Forms

5. DISCUSSION

The utilization of the testing and assessment forms presented above can be implemented for regular and mid-term assessments in Natural Sciences as well as other subjects in general education schools. Furthermore, these methods can be applied to regular and periodic assessments of course modules in higher education institutions (colleges and universities). Simultaneously, the approach can be expanded to include various other applications beyond Quizizz (Wayground) and Google Forms to innovate learner assessment during the instructional process. Consequently, employing modern technologies in competency assessment and integrating formative assessment into the teaching process will foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in learners, thereby contributing to enhancing the quality of education and training in the current period. The results of this study not only contribute significantly to innovating teaching and improving assessment quality in general education subjects and higher education modules but also allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of learner outcomes and the teaching process, aiming to meet the requirements of fundamental and comprehensive educational reform.

6. CONCLUSION

The application of information technology in teaching, testing, and assessing learners in the current period is a pivotal factor in realizing the goals of educational reform. This shift necessitates the diversification of assessment methods and tools, extending beyond traditional examinations to emphasize regular assessment, formative assessment, practical activities, and IT application. The transition from quantitative to qualitative assessment, and from knowledge testing to the assessment of competencies and qualities, will provide educators with a more comprehensive perspective on learner development. Concurrently, innovating assessment forms creates opportunities for learners to demonstrate their creative capabilities, self-assessment skills, and collaboration, thereby promoting proactiveness, engagement, and learning interest. This ultimately meets the increasingly high demands of society and the labor market in the context of deep international integration.

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