

There are several reasons why high stakes testing presents challenges for the learner and instructor. Here are some examples.

The testing environment is uncertain.

- Distractions in home environment
- Lack of privacy while taking a test
- Lack of invigilation

Students and performance

- High stakes testing is **stressful** under the best of conditions; add in technology and student stress goes through the roof
- Technology can help some people with learning challenges, but it can **exacerbate other issues**. For example,
 - Physical issues with sitting for extended periods
 - Learning disabilities
 - Attentiveness and on-task abilities
- **Honesty** – uncertainty separating honest students from dishonest ones
- **Technology competencies** – some students are not comfortable with the online tools for taking tests and are not savvy with the quick fixes and solutions to work around issues

Faculty and building the tests

- Require good competencies with the tool to set it up properly
- Time to set up the tests is often time consuming to add in all the features for optimal success

Areas where technology can let you and students down

- Insufficient and/or changing bandwidth for the student accessing the test
- Inadequate or unreliable technology on the students' end
- Blackboard Learn may malfunction and not be available

Learning Theory

Many researchers have pointed out that high stakes testing focusses on memory, not on mastering learning outcomes.

Best learning are smaller tests with specific retrieval practices to recall specific learning pieces along with assessments that aim to test long term learning of concepts and content (portfolios, concept maps, projects applying learning to new situations etc.)