

Reading A Test Score

Education

What a test score can support, and the inferences it cannot carry.

Each row is a common claim and what it actually needs.

The claim	What it requires
She improved by 4 marks	Error smaller than 4 marks
This class is behind	A comparable prior measure
He is a level 3 writer	A criterion-referenced scale
Progress has stalled	Two reliable points, same construct
This teacher adds less value	Far more than one cohort

Educational reference. Most classroom data is too noisy for the inferences drawn from it. Aggregate before concluding, and prefer