

TEST CONSTRUCTION AND TEST PERFORMANCE

Not all classroom practitioners have the benefit of specialized knowledge or training in item-building, test construction and test performance data analysis. Yet every teacher will, as part of his professional obligations, be engaged in monitoring and assessing learning. The traditional pencil-and-test is ubiquitous as an assessment instrument and every teacher produces it on a regular basis. Yet not every teacher is adept at constructing it or analyzing its performance.

This course focuses on the challenges and pitfalls of test construction using authentic examples of test items and the implications in terms of validity and reliability, practicality, bias, and fairness. It also explores how data on student performance in a test can be used to identify problematic items, the causes and possible solutions. The course will have a strong hands-on bias.

Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will have:

- identified the core concerns of test construction and testing purpose;
- appreciated the strengths and weaknesses of several different item types;
- examined test performance data, identified problematic items and discussed the impact of these on overall test quality and student performance;

- scrutinized problematic items and explored ways of improving them;
- revised and refined different item types;
- have a better understanding of the item building, test design and test performance

Content

Course content will cover

- Test types and testing purposes
- Strengths and weaknesses of different test item types
- Item analysis, revision & repair
- Test performance data analysis

Duration

3 days (18 hours)

Modes of Delivery

The course will be delivered using a multi-modal approach consisting of lectures, group work and presentations.

Participants

The participants for this will be drawn for English language teachers who have not been exposed to any formal training on item-building and test design.