

Sample Study Questions

Sub Area: Developing English Language Skills

0011: Understand methods and techniques for assessing students' progress in developing English communication skills.

N.B. Relevant textbook references are given in parentheses.

1. Taking dictation, filling in cloze tests and participating in structured interviews are all forms of assessing language proficiency. Are these examples of:

(Lessow-Hurley, p.58)

- A. Discrete point testing
- B. Standardized testing
- C. Portfolio assessment
- D. Integrative testing

2. Mr Jones teaches a mixed-ability group of English language learners. Which of the following would be the most appropriate strategy for evaluating the progress of students who are at different proficiency levels in English? (EXCET)

- A. Using multiple measures such as observations, test scores, and samples of daily work
- B. Selecting language achievement tests that have been normed on a similar population
- C. Establish a grading curve and distributing learners' test results along the curve
- D. Assessing learners only in those areas of English in which they have achieved competence

3. The principle in a MA middle school has asked his teachers to try a new system of assessing students' work. He would like them to include among their assessment measures such items as paper drafts, conference notes, and observations of students as they work with others and independently, in addition to final papers, etc. His approach means that: (Dornan et al, Ch 6)

- A. He wants to ensure the teachers are using more than one form of assessment
- B. These forms of assessment are less time-consuming than portfolio assessment

- C. The school has decided to do away with multiple choice tests, and this is a good alternative
 - D. He considers that assessing students' learning processes is as important as measuring the final products
4. Standardized testing seeks to assess:
- A. The way a student makes meaning of a text, based on language and thinking
 - B. A series of discrete skills which are tested individually
 - C. How familiar students are with taking such tests
 - D. Whether or not the students can understand the questions clearly
5. In standardized testing, the word "reliable" is used to describe a test that is:
- A. Able to measure exactly what it is designed to measure and not other extraneous factors
 - B. A test that can be given only to the same age groups, from the same ethnic background
 - C. Able to consistently produce the same results in different environments, with different groups of students at different times
 - D. A test that is easy for any school to administer and less stressful for the students
6. The following types of assessment: quizzes, checklists, journals, conferences, responses to drafts, etc. are called:
- A. Summative
 - B. Formal
 - C. Formative
 - D. Criterion-referenced

7. This type of assessment is useful because:

- I. It provides students with information about what they are doing well and what they need to improve
- II. It gives teachers useful data about students' growth and their comprehension of material
- III. It is useful to guide placement decisions or whether a student should be held back a grade
- IV. It gives the teacher insight about how to improve his or her teaching methods

A. I and II

B. II and III

C. I and IV

D. I, II and IV