

Larbi Ben Mhidi University

English Departement

M1 Civ & Lit

Second Semester Exam in TEFL

Possible answers

1-Why is the oral test unreliable ? How can teachers make it more reliable (3pts)

The oral test is considered unreliable because the mark allocated varies from one scorer to another due to different focus on the different aspects covered by the mark. In order to achieve more objectivity, the test can be recorded and listened to later so that more time is given to the evaluation of the learner's performance. Another way of achieving more objectivity would be to prepare a grid with the different aspects to be evaluated and the percentage of the score allocated to each aspect. At the end of the test, the scorer adds the sub-scores to get the final score.

2-What are the similarities between listening and reading ? (3pts)

If we examine the stages of development and levels of activities of all the language skills, we will see that there are some features of similarities and difference between listening and reading. The first stages and levels are about identification and recognition of the code. At the next stages and levels, the learner develops in both language skills the ability to focus on important elements of the message and ignore redundancy. He would, at advanced stages, develop the ability to understand the purpose of the speaker/writer, select what type of elements suit his own purpose, and interpret the speech or the text according to context.

3-What are the benefits of a textbook for an EFL learner ? (3pts)

-Textbooks often contain lively and interesting materials, they provide a sensible progression of language items clearly showing what has to be learned in terms of grammar, lexis, functions skills.

-A large part of a textbook's materials can be suitable for students needs, even if not specially designed for them.

-Textbooks allow students to look ahead or revise previous lessons. Thus, they remove the element of surprise in students' expectations.

(Word to PDF - Pas enregistré) <http://www.word-to-pdf.abdio.com/>

-Textbooks have the practical aspect of providing materials which are well presented and less expensive than other materials

4-What are the criteria for the selection of authentic materials ? (3pts)

The selection of texts should not be made in a random way: there has to be an aim behind it and the materials must correspond to the objectives of the course. Besides, the selected texts should be carefully examined for their lexical and grammatical difficulty. In addition, learner's age, level, interest and needs must be taken into account in the selection of theme and topics of the authentic texts.

5-`` Just as a piano does not play music, a textbook does not teach language`` Explain (8pts)

Graves (2000) compares a textbook to a musical instrument like the piano which provides the musician with the means to produce music but does not provide the music on its own. Graves states: "just as a piano does not play music, a textbook does not teach language. The textbook is a stimulus or instrument for teaching and learning" (pp 175-176). Therefore, it is the teacher's use of the textbook that makes it a useful tool for teaching and learning a language.

