

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

B. A IN ENGLISH & ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

FINAL EXAMINATION

- June 2010

THEORY & PRACTICE OF LANGUAGE TESTING

- LSU 3205

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)



DATE: 29. 06. 2010

TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30pm

ANSWER 4 QUESTIONS. YOUR SELECTION SHOULD INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH PART .



Part A

1. How suitable are the following methods for testing speaking skills of secondary school students of a rural Sri Lankan school?

- Information gap student-student
- Free interview
- Oral presentation

Give reasons for your answer.

(25 marks)

2. 'The main objective of a listening test is to evaluate the student's comprehension. His degree of comprehension will depend on his ability to discriminate phonemes, to recognize stress and intonation patterns and to retain what he has heard.' (Valette). Evaluate this view in an ESL context.

(25 marks)

3. "Tests, whether formal or informal, utilize one or more of a large number of elicitation techniques." Discuss this statement in relation to some of the question types that can be used to test the writing skill of students.

(25 marks)



4. a) What factors do you need to consider when selecting texts for a reading comprehension test?
- b) Would you consider the following text a suitable one to test a range of reading skills? Give reasons for your answer.

In the age of supersonic airliners it is difficult to realize that at the beginning of the twentieth century no one had ever flown in an aeroplane. However, people were flying in balloons and airships. The airship was based on the principle of the semi-rigid structure. In 1900 Ferdinand von Zeppelin fitted a petrol engine to a rigid balloon. This craft was the first really successful steerable airship. In 1919 an airship first carried passengers across the Atlantic, and in 1929 one traveled round the world. During this time the design of airships was constantly being improved and up to 1937 they carried thousands of passengers on regular transatlantic services for millions of miles.

However, airships had many defects. They were very large and could not fly well in bad weather. Above all, they suffered many accidents because of the inflammability of the hydrogen used to inflate them. In 1937 the Hindenburg airship exploded in New Jersey and 35 out of 100 passengers were killed.

*(From Moore, J D et al 1979 Reading and Thinking in English)*

**(25 marks)**

5. What are the factors that have to be considered when designing and administering a test?  
**(25 marks)**
6. (a) What are the skills that should be tested in a Proficiency Test of Writing? Elaborate your answer giving examples where possible.
- (b) Discuss the issues that must be dealt with when constructing a good writing test.  
**(25 marks)**
7. Prepare a marking criteria to assess a task on summary writing. Consider 30 as the total mark allocated.  
**(25 marks)**

8. Write short notes on any 03 of the following classroom activities:

- Task based learning
- Wash back effect
- Questioning in the language classroom
- Validity in Testing

(25 marks)