

TESL Canada Conference 2009

Weaving Pathways: Interculturalism and Language



ELTPA

Assessment Tool for Placement in ELT Programs

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Centre for Education & Training Test Development

- CLBA Placement
- CLB LA Literacy
- CLB PT Streamlined
- CLBA – I High stakes
- CLB-OSA (English) Online Self-
NCLC-AEL (French) Assessment
- ELTPA (6-10) Placement

ELTPA (6-10) Assessment

- referenced to CLB 2000
- identifies proficiencies from Bm 6- through Bm 10+
- for assessment of clients with prior CLB scored at Bm 6 or higher
- designed for placement in ELT programs
- workforce-oriented tasks and themes
- four language skills and four scores
- time-efficient, easy to use and reliable
- administered and scored by a trained assessor

Funding: ELT Initiative and National Settlement and Resettlement

Key Strategies

- consistency in application of development methodology
- consideration for stakeholder issues
- ongoing consultation with experts in the field
- rigorous validation process

Successes

- statistical analysis of pilot data confirms the validity of the speaking, listening, reading and writing sub-tests, and reveals reliability results commensurate with or exceeding standards for low-stakes tools
- positive feedback from candidates, assessors, and ELT instructors and administrators

Recommended Uses for ELTPA Instruments

- determine client proficiency for placement in ELT programs
- provide instructors and service providers with accurate information on the clients' proficiency
- facilitate program planning and development
- provide candidates with a better understanding of their higher-level workforce-context language skills

ELTPA (6-10) Speaking and Listening

Speaking

15 min; interview

Task 1 and 2:
introduce oneself and
describe/narrate an experience

Task 3:
conduct an analysis

Task 4:
deliver a presentation

Task 5:
participate in a discussion

Listening

20 min; assessor facilitated

Task 1:
follow a phone message

Task 2:
listen to a semi-formal
presentation

Task 3:
listen to an informal conversation

Task 4:
follow a formal discussion

ELTPA (6-10) Reading and Writing

Reading

60 min; multiple choice

Task 1:
read an instructional email

Task 2:
read a company policy excerpt

Task 3:
read and compare ideas in two opinion passages

Writing

45 minutes

Task 1:
write a memo/report

Task 2:
write a formal letter

2008-9 Implementation

Project Outputs:

- ✓ Trained 45 new ELTPA assessors and 2 trainers (BC and Manitoba). This is in addition to Ontario (trained under separate agreement).

Project Outputs – cont'd:

- ✓ Provided Information Sessions to ELT providers, CIC, community partners
 - Questions and discussion points from these sessions have led to development of a series of FAQs that will be reviewed by a Discussion Forum as part of the current agreement

Project Outputs – cont'd

Research Study (2009)

Purpose:

1. Comparison of standardized CLB Assessment results with ELTPA
2. To address fact that some ELT candidates lack prior CLB-referenced scores (lengthens qualifying process)
3. To address ELT program eligibility criteria for those lower than CLB 7

Project Outputs cont'd: Comparison Study

- ✓ To compare ELTPA results with those of CLBA and CLBPT where skills have been evaluated through prior CLB-referenced assessments to be BM 6 or higher
 - 152 case samples assessed on ELTPA and CLBA/PT
 - range of 29 occupations
 - trade certificate to doctoral degree

Comparison Study (cont'd)

- ELTPA results are consistent with achievement of CLBA and CLBPT Benchmarks 6-10. Achievement of Benchmarks 9 and 10 cannot be measured using CLBA/PT

Potential Screening to ELTPA

- Can the ELTPA Speaking be used as a screening tool to reduce the number of clients who have to take two complete assessments?
- Could it be a predictor of outcomes in other skills?
- Can we identify Benchmarks 5 and 6 for some ELTPA results?

Potential Screening to ELTPA (Continued)

- Sample of 241 cases
- 92% achieved Bm 7 or more in Listening
- 96% achieved Bm 7 or more in Reading
- Writing less promising – 54%

Recommendations

- Possible use of ELTPA Speaking as a screener where 2 or more Benchmarks at 7 are sufficient
- Expand ELTPA Speaking component to identify Benchmarks 5 and 6 mean fewer candidates require two assessments
- Further validation and consultation with Service Providers

National ELTPA Support Services 2009-2011

- Create a National Discussion Forum to address regional needs, issues, challenges and solutions for use of ELTPA for placement of learners in ELT programs
- Train up to 15 new ELTPA assessors per year in the administration of Enhanced Language Training Placement Assessment (ELTPA) tool to newly identified assessors
- Offer 1-day recalibration for current ELTPA assessors to maintain consistent scoring practices and CLB results determination
- Conduct an inter-rater reliability study on inter-scorer accuracy in administration and scoring of ELTPA to ensure consistency in scoring
- Consultations to examine when it is best to use the ELTPA in comparison to other assessments