



Course: English Language Testing

Lecturer: Dr. Faris Keblawi

Year: 3rd

Date: 9.02.2011 9:30 – First test

Time: 75 minutes

No materials allowed

Test topics: Test validity, Test reliability, Kinds of tests and testing, the backwash effect, achieving beneficial backwash, testing reading, testing writing, testing grammar and vocabulary,

This test is composed of **THREE** sections. Follow the instructions to answer the questions.

Section 1

Answer ONE question from this section. (20 points)

1. In a previous format of the TOEFL, writing was assessed through the use of multiple choice items. Many researchers and educators criticized the use of this technique for assessing writing abilities. What possible claims could have been raised by them? Relate to the concepts of **validity** and **backwash**.
2. Ikram's 5th grade students claim that her tests and quizzes made them like English less because there is much variance in the scores they get. Most students either do very well in the tests or fail them. Average scores are a rarity. What possible problems do her tests have? Relate to the concepts of **reliability** and **validity**.

Section 2

Answer ONE question from this section. (20 points)

1. Discuss three ways that can increase the reliability of scoring writing.
2. Why is it justifiable to test grammar?
3. Discuss four ways that can increase the reliability of a test.

Section 3

Choose the best answer. (12 points – one bonus item)

1. Which of the following steps is likely to increase beneficial backwash?
 - A. Indirect testing of skills
 - B. Direct testing of skills
 - C. Testing a limited part of the topics and skills taught
 - D. Testing skills that are not required in the curriculum.
 - E. None of the above

2. Including a representative sample of the content is likely to:
 - A. decrease reliability
 - B. increase validity but decrease reliability
 - C. increase validity
 - D. increase reliability but decrease validity
 - E. increase content validity but decrease concurrent validity

3. Scoring writing by giving one score for the whole writing task is called:
 - A. Analytic scoring
 - B. Direct scoring
 - C. Indirect scoring
 - D. Holistic scoring
 - E. None of the above

4. Setting separate writing tasks creates more '.....' for candidates.
 - A. levels
 - B. scales
 - C. samples
 - D. fresh starts
 - E. kinds of tests

5. Lubna has been asked by her headmaster to design a test that will help the school indicate the specific areas that students still need to improve. The most proper test that Lubna must design is a(n) test:
- A. classification
 - B. achievement
 - C. direct
 - D. proficiency
 - E. diagnostic
6. Including long writing assignments in a reading comprehension test might mostly affect:
- A. reliability
 - B. validity
 - C. Direct scoring
 - D. Indirect scoring
 - E. both reliability and validity

Good Luck