



The Roles of Assessment in Language Teaching

Long before the first day of class or before a programme is proposed, we must decide how we intend to measure outcomes and consider what role assessment will play in instruction. Assessment is how we identify our learners' needs, document their progress, and determine how we are doing as teachers and planners. That being said, how do we know we are doing it right? How do we know that the assessment tools we are using measure what we intend them to? If we are serious about getting the best snapshot of the progress of our learners and the effectiveness of our programs, these are questions that we must continually ask.

Assessment occurs in many contexts and is done for a variety of reasons. Traditionally, the most common way to measure achievement and proficiency in language learning has been the test. Even though alternative forms of assessment are growing in popularity, most teachers still use this old standby. And while many teachers may be gifted in the classroom, even the best may need some help in constructing reliable test items. In recent years, much has been made of alternative forms of assessment. Whether we want to include student portfolios or web-based testing in our curricula, our focus should always be on gathering information that reflects how well our students have learned what we tried to teach them.

الأستاذ نبيل عقون

Assessment is perhaps one of the most difficult and important parts of our jobs as teachers. Ideally, it should be seen as a means to help us guide students on their road to learning. No single procedure can meet the needs of all learners and situations, so we need to remember to incorporate a variety of tools to help our students know how they are progressing and to gauge the effectiveness of our own methodology and materials.

« *The Roles of Assessment in Language Teaching* » by JERROL FRANK,
English Teaching Forum N°3, 2012

Part I (12 pts) :

A- Answer the following questions:

- What roles are set for assessment in this text?
- The author talks of assessment tools. Can you mention some of them?
- How can assessment help a teacher improve his teaching?
- Do you agree with the statement « Assessment is perhaps one of the most difficult and important parts of our jobs as teachers. » Explain.

B- 1) Find in the text words, phrases or expressions that are closest in meaning to the following:

- a) glimpse b) appears c) talented d) measure.

2) Explain the following statements:

- « Assessment occurs in many contexts and is done for a variety of reasons. »
- « And while many teachers may be gifted in the classroom, even the best may need some help in constructing reliable test items. »

3) Transcribe the following words and put a stress mark on the right syllable:

- a) determine /...../ b) variety /...../ c) measure /...../ d) gauge /...../

Part II (08 pts) : Written Expression.

At the beginning of each school year, teachers are required to assess learners using a diagnostic test. In an essay form, discuss the role and content of such a test and its effect on teaching.