



## MCILWRAITH EDUCATION

# An Introduction to Language Test Development

Developing high quality, valid and reliable language tests is demanding. It requires systematic and thoughtful planning, time and money. Test developers also need professional training so that they are able to fulfil their role at an institutional, regional or national level.

Our 'Introduction to Language Test Development' course is aimed at individuals or teams that have been given responsibility for test development. Each course is designed according to the needs of your specific context and has a hands-on, practical orientation based on sound theory. We want to extend and develop your skills so that you have the ability to develop a testing system that matches the aims and objectives of your government or institution.

This five day (27 hour) course will enable you to become fully acquainted with the principles of testing and develop practical skills in test design, test construction and test administration.

### OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will:

- ▶ Understand the different purposes of different kinds of tests
- ▶ Be able to identify an appropriate testing system for their context
- ▶ Administer tests effectively and efficiently

- ▶ Be able to develop methods to collect feedback from test takers
- ▶ Have an understanding of test production and interpreting test statistics.

### TOPICS

- ▶ Basic concepts in language testing
- ▶ Test Reliability, Validity, Authenticity and Impact
- ▶ Creating test specifications
- ▶ Task difficulty and test response formats
- ▶ Establishing valid test scores
- ▶ Managing resources and administering tests.

### COURSE DELIVERY

Courses are delivered face-to-face in your country at a suitable venue of your choosing. Upon request, we can arrange for training to be delivered in Edinburgh. In some cases, pre- and/or post-course work might be delivered online. Ideally, courses run for groups between 10-20 participants, but we can run courses for less or more if necessary.

### COURSE TUTORS

The team includes Hamish McIlwraith, the director of McIlwraith Education, who has developed tests for the Scottish Qualifications Authority and advised the Bulgarian government on national test policy for NATO accession.

# An Introduction to Language Testing – sample timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0900 - 1030	Formal welcome, course aims, introductions	<b>An Overview of Test Development 2</b>  Test constructs and specifications	<b>Response Formats 1</b>  Methods for testing Reading comprehension	<b>Establishing Valid Scores 1</b>  Scoring Written production	<b>Creating Effective Instructions</b>  Making clear, simple, short and detailed instructions
1030 - 1045	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
1045 - 1215	<b>Basic Concepts in Language Testing</b>  Test quality and Usefulness: Reliability; Validity; Authenticity; Impact	<b>The Contexts of Tests</b>  Task setting; Task demands; Language use in tests	<b>Response Formats 2</b>  Methods for testing Listening comprehension	<b>Establishing Valid Scores 2</b>  Scoring Speaking tests	<b>Procedures for Test Administration</b>  Creating and maintaining a supportive environment
1215 - 1315	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1315 - 1430	<b>Who are the Test Takers?</b>  Physical, psychological and experimental characteristics	<b>What is the Language we are going to Test?</b>  Receptive Skills: Reading and Listening	<b>Response Formats 3</b>  Methods for testing Written production	<b>Scorer Reliability</b>  Inter-rater and Intra-rater reliability	<b>Collecting Feedback</b>  Feedback on tests and testers: Procedures and resources
1430 - 1445	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
1445 - 1600	<b>An Overview of Test Development 1</b>  Design, Operationalisation and Administration	<b>What is the Language we are going to Test?</b>  Productive Skills: Writing and Speaking	<b>Response Formats 4</b>  Methods for testing Speaking	<b>Managing Resources for Testing</b>  Identifying and allocating resources	Formal farewells and awarding of certificates