

Testing Guidelines for Level Classes in the ESOL Program

THE WRITING TEST

Use the tests designated by the level lead and accessible on the N drive. No dictionaries are allowed for Levels 1,2,3. English/English dictionaries are allowed for levels 4,5,6.

READING – The C-TEST

It's a good idea to practice the C-test (cloze-test) format before you give the actual test. Check with your lead for practice tests. Also, you should review some tips with your students about taking the C-Test. Here are some suggestions:

1. Go over how the test is created. It is a test of using context. That's why it works with the **RULE OF 2**. Starting with the second sentence, we delete the second half of every second word. The first and final sentences are not deleted. Knowing this allows students to build a context. Go to the context first when looking at the passage to guess who is writing, who the audience is, what the subject is, when it is about and other context building information.
2. Look for common repeated words like is, am, are, have, has, had, to, in, by, and, or....
3. Look for words that are repeated in the passage that don't have deletions. These are the easy ones. You'll be mad if you miss them.
4. Use grammar clues. Have the nouns and verbs match, for example. The word has to 'sound right' and fit grammatically. Again use the context.
5. Use all blanks and don't fit in any extra letters.
6. Finally, read the whole passage to yourself after you are done and check to see how it sounds. Sometimes your ear can catch a mistake.

Dictionaries are not allowed for the C-Test.

READING – THE EXTENDED READING TEST

Use the tests designated by the level lead and accessible on the N drive. Dictionaries are not allowed.

THE SPEAKING TEST

We do have speaking rubrics, but we do not have a standardized way of using them.

Some teachers like to do the following procedure: Put students in pairs. Provide a prompt. Listen to them have a conversation. Fill in the rubric.

Check the course materials section for your level on the esolfac site as materials for assessing speaking may be there.

THE LISTENING TEST

We have no standardized way of assessing listening, apart from the CASAS listening. You are free to devise your own assessment until we put something in place or you can use the CASAS listening score.

THE GRAMMAR TEST

(We are still piloting these.) If your level is giving a grammar test, dictionaries are not allowed.

Please check with your level lead for suggested time allowances and specific questions about the tests.