

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

HXE 309 – Testing and Evaluation

Duration: 3 hour

Please check that this examination paper consists of **THREE** pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer **ANY FOUR** questions.

1. Study the Item Statistics table below and then answer the questions that follow:

Item Statistics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
IF (total)	.78	.56	.89	.45	.34	.42	.27	.68	.25	.18
IF (upper)	1.00	.68	.32	.40	.50	.32	.19	.29	.10	.10
IF (lower)	.54	.20	.20	.00	.10	1.00	.00	.30	.10	.00
ID	.46	[]	.12	.40	[]	-0.68	.19	[]	.00	[]

- [a] By showing your working, calculate the Item Discrimination (ID) values for items 2, 5, 8 and 10. Comment on the ID values for these items.
- [b] Comment on the item facility (IF) values for all the items on the test.
- [c] If your task were to choose the best four (4) items on the above test, which would you choose? Justify your choice by providing appropriate explanations.
- [d] To what extent can knowledge of IF and ID help language teachers understand test results?
- [100 marks]
2. Brown (1996) states that thinking about theoretical issues will help teachers to understand the central concerns of language testing and language test design. To what extent do you agree with him? Discuss, with examples.
- [100 marks]
3. Write brief notes on any four (4) of the following terms in relation to language testing:
- [a] Test evaluation checklist
- [b] Skewed distributions
- [c] Interval Scales
- [d] Concurrent validity

[e] Productive response items

[f] Split-half reliability

[100 marks]

4. "In order to investigate content validity, testers must decide whether the test is a representative sample of the content of whatever the test was designed to measure" (Brown, 1996). Discuss.

[100 marks]

5. Discuss the main statistical devices used by most language testing professionals in describing test results of norm-referenced tests (NRTs). How effectively do these devices describe the typical behaviour of a group of test takers?

[100 marks]