UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama

Sidang Akademik 1999/2000

September 1999

HXE 304 - Testing and Evaluation
(Pengujian dan Penilaian)

Masa: [2½ jam]

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1.   This paper contains **FIVE** **[5]** questions and comprises **FIVE** **[5]** printed pages. Check that your paper is complete.

2.   Answer **Section A** and any **TWO** **[2]** questions from **Section B**.

3.   All questions carry equal marks.

ANSWER EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH SHEET OF PAPER

Section A: [100 marks]

1. Evaluate the test items in tests (a) and (b). In each test, what principles of test construction might have been violated? Which items need to be improved? How would you improve those items?

    Test (a):

    [i]   The worker _____ the heavy box easily.

        [a]   carries   [b]   carried

        [c]   is lifting   [d]   heaved

    [ii]   Suddenly it dawned on her _____

        [a]   where the boys been hiding.

        [b]   where the boys had been hiding.

        [c]   the boys had been hiding where.

        [d]   hiding the boys had been where.

    [iii]   A busy executive usually _____ short conversations on the telephone.

        [a]   had   [b]   has

        [c]   was   [d]   had to have

    [iv]   There is a meeting today, _____

        [a]   didn't there?   [b]   wasn't it?

        [c]   isn't it?   [d]   isn't there?

    [v]   We learn from this passage that President Clinton is an _____

        [a]   British   [b]   American

        [c]   Welsh   [d]   Australian.

[vii]   When I arrived home last night, _____.

      [a]   I discovered that I had forgotten my key.

      [b]   I discovered that I had forgotten my address book.

      [c]   I discovered that I had forgotten to bring my wife home.

      [d]   I discovered that I had forgotten to bring my briefcase.

Test (b):

[i]   Write an essay on one of the following topics:

      [a]   Pollution.

      [b]   Banks.

      [c]   Studying abroad.

[ii]   Fill in the blanks with nouns, verbs and adjectives:

      [a]   Some _____ people will admit that they have a _____ disease such as AIDS or Alzheimer's', but others probably want to _____ it a secret.

      [b]   One of the investors _____ a rise at the end of the first term, after an improvement in the supply and demand _____.

[iii]   What part of speech is **about** in the following sentence?

    She talked about visiting her relatives in Canada next year.

[iv]   [a]   It was a hot day and the work was easy.

      [b]   It was a hot day and the work was hard.

      [c]   It was a hot day and the work was manageable.

      [d]   None of the above.

Section B:

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

Table 1: Item Statistics

Item Number

Item Statistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
IF (total)	.92	.59	.40	.50	.95	.48	.50	.25	.00	.38
IF (upper)	1.00	.70	.30	1.00	.90	.80	.00	.20	.00	.20
IF (lower)	.60	.20	.10	.00	.80	.20	1.00	.00	.00.	.30
ID	☐	.50	.20	1.00	☐	.60	☐	.20	.00	☐

[i]   Calculate the Item Discrimination (ID) values for items 1, 5, 7 and 10.

[ii]   Comment on the item facility (IF) values for all the items on the test.

[iii]   If your task was to select the best four (4) items on the above test, which would you choose? Why?

[iv]   What are the advantages of displaying test statistics in the form of a table?

[100 marks]

3.   Write short notes on any four (4) of the following in relation to language testing:

[a]   Skewed distributions.

[b]   Difference index.

[c]   CEEB scores.

[d]   Placement tests.

[e]   The psychometric-structuralistic movement.

[f]   The competence/performance issue.

[g]   Test-retest reliability.

[100 marks]

.../5

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.   Answer both (a) and (b).

[a]   Outline the major differences of norm-referenced (NR) and criterion-referenced (CR) tests.

[b]   How would scores from the following tests **typically** be interpreted (NR or CR) in a language test?

[i]   Achievement tests.

[ii]   Placement tests.

[iii]   Diagnostic tests.

Under what conditions could scores from these tests be interpreted in both ways?

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