UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2007/2008

April 2008

# HXE 309 - TESTING AND EVALUATION

Duration : 3 hours
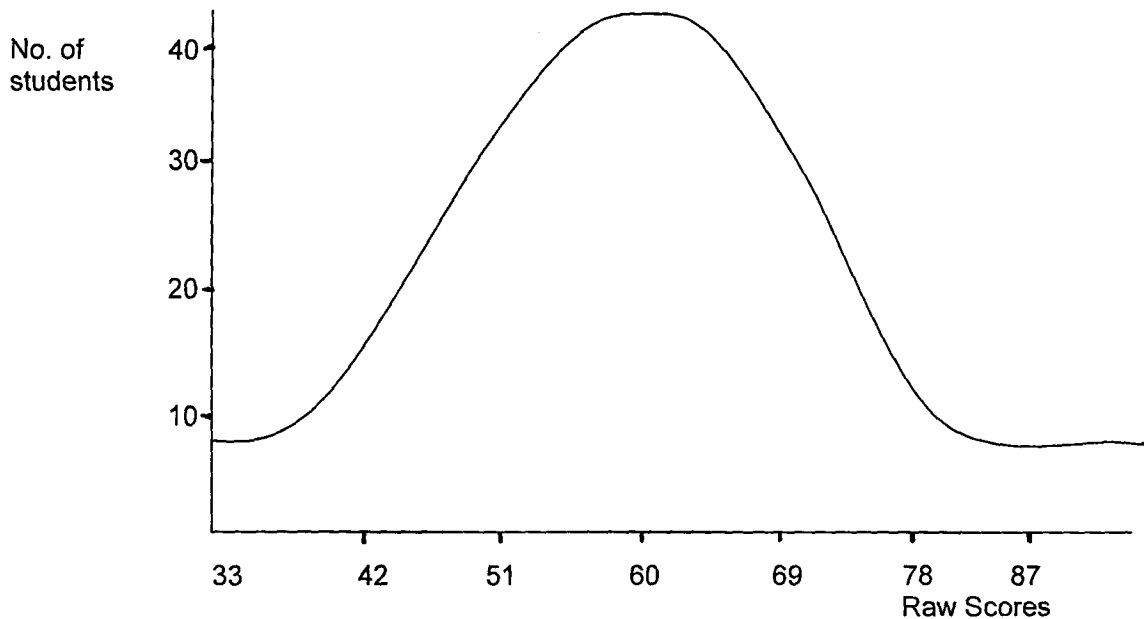
Please check that this examination paper consists of THREE pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer any FOUR questions.

1.  Brown (1996) states that it is important for language teachers to consider various theoretical issues before they design language tests. To what extent can this consideration facilitate testing procedures in ESL test contexts?

    [100 marks]

2.  Language testing experts advocate that cloze tests encourage test takers to use their pragmatic expectancy grammar when they attempt test formats which have fill-in items. Discuss.

    [100 marks]

3.  Discuss how portfolio assessment as an evaluation strategy in ESL classrooms can provide teachers with alternative ways to assess their students. Discuss at least *three* considerations that language teachers should take into account when designing such an evaluation strategy.

    [100 marks]

4.  "A test should give the same results every time it measures" (Brown, 1996). Discuss the concept of reliability in norm-referenced tests (NRTs) and elaborate on some of the common ways for computing reliability.

    [100 marks]

5.  Discuss any FOUR of the following concepts in relation to language testing:

    [a]   Productive response items

    [b]   Distractor efficiency analysis

    [c]   Differences between CRT and NRT tests

    [d]   Construct validity

    [e]   Fixed ratio deletion

    [f]   Self assessment and peer assessment

    [100 marks]

6.  Study the graph below and answer all the questions that follow:



No. of students (y-axis): 10, 20, 30, 40

Raw Scores (x-axis): 33, 42, 51, 60, 69, 78, 87

[a]  At what percentile would a raw score of 51 represent?

[b]  What is the mean for the above language test?

[c]  What is the standard deviation for this test?

[d]  If a student had a raw score of 78 what would his T score be? Calculate the T score (show all the relevant steps in getting your answer)

[e]  What percentage of students scored between 42 and 51?

[f]  How many standard deviations above the mean would a raw score of 78 be?

[g]  Most testing experts state that the discussion on interpreting test scores comprises three concepts: probability distributions, the normal distribution and the standardized scores. Discuss the implication of this in relation to testing procedures in language programmes.

[100 marks]

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