

# Testing

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# What to be tested

- Language skills:
  - Listening: short utterances, dialogues, talks and lectures ..
  - Speaking: interview, a picture description, role play, and problem – solving task involving pair- work or group- work ...
  - Reading: questions set to test the Ss' ability to understand the gist of a text and to extract key information on specific points in the text
  - Writing: letters, reports, memos, messages, instructions, and accounts of past events ...

# What to be tested

- Language areas:
  - Grammar: measure Ss' ability to recognize appropriate grammatical forms and to manipulate structures
  - Vocabulary: measure Ss' knowledge of the meaning of certain words as well as the patterns and collocations in which they occur
  - Pronunciation: significant sound contrasts , stress patterns, the melody or patterns of the tunes of a language

# **APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE TESTING**

# Essay - translation approach

- subjective judgment of the teacher is considered to be of paramount importance
- Tests usually consists of essay writing , translation, and grammatical analysis

# Structuralist approach

- Measure the learner's mastery of the separate elements of the target language: phonology, vocabulary and grammar using words and sentences completely out of context
- The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are also separated from one another as much as possible

# Integrative approach

- Involves the testing of language in context and concerns primarily with meaning and the total communicative effect of discourse
- Examples: cloze testing, dictation, oral interviews, translation, essay writing ...

# Communicative approach

- Concerned primarily (if not totally) with how language is used in communication
- Aim to incorporate real life tasks, usually specific to a particular country or culture.
- Qualitative modes of assessment are in preference to quantitative ones