

ASSESSMENT OF WRITING

Changes to the English language curriculum, a greater emphasis on school-based assessment and developments in high stakes examinations in the country in recent years have all impacted ELT in Malaysia. These have implications for the classroom teacher who has to facilitate the expected teaching and learning experiences in the classroom and also make decisions about what, when and how to assess student learning.

The testing and assessment of the writing skills have undergone review and teachers must be acquainted with the changes and recognize the implications of these for classroom practice.

This course aims to introduce teachers to the appropriate assessment instruments, techniques and strategies to enable them to assess the writing skills effectively and efficiently and to become more competent and informed assessors of learning.

Objectives

The objectives of this course are to:

- enable course participants to review and evaluate their current practices in terms of the assessment of students' writing skills and abilities
- critically evaluate samples of items and instruments currently used to assess writing
- introduce course participants to alternative instruments and techniques for assessing writing
- provide hands-on experience in the construction of valid and reliable test items, rubrics and scoring criteria

Content

Course content includes:

- an examination of the English language syllabus and curriculum specifications
- evaluation of samples of tests / instruments used for assessing students' writing skills
- introduction to alternative assessment tools and techniques not currently used by course participants
- construction of items / tests and scoring rubrics for assessing writing

Duration

3 days (18 hours)

Modes of Delivery

This course will encourage critical self-assessment of the participants' own work and classroom practices. It will involve objective analysis of teacher-designed assessment instruments, analysis of requirements of high-stakes public exams and their impact on course participants' classroom practices. It will also involve the engagement of course participants in collaborative tasks, workshops, presentations, feedback sessions and discussions.

Participants

This course is intended for English language teachers teaching at the upper primary (Years 4 - 6) and secondary levels.