

# ***SCHOOL-BASED ORAL ASSESSMENT: MEANING AND METHOD***

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With the increased emphasis on classroom based assessment as a complement to standardized testing and high-stakes public examination, several alternative assessment modes have been gradually introduced into the school curriculum. One such initiative is the introduction of school-based oral assessment (SBOA) in the English language classroom. Though this oral assessment was introduced several years ago, anecdotal accounts from classroom practitioners and a small-scale preliminary survey undertaken by us reveal that a course such as this still has relevance and meaning for the English language teacher at the chalkface.

## ***Aims***

This course aims to help enhance teachers' understanding of the significance and value of oral assessment and advance ideas and strategies for its effective implementation and use of the feedback obtained to inform classroom decisions and instruction

## ***Objectives***

The objectives of this course are to:

- enable teachers to critically examine the documents and guidelines released by the relevant agency of the Ministry of Education
- reflect on and review their current classroom practices vis-à-vis school-based oral assessment guidelines
- identify any dissonance between guideline and practice and account for this

- re-examine and re-evaluate the techniques proposed, the assessment tools prescribed and the criteria used to assess oral proficiency.
- explore appropriate or alternative strategies and techniques so that such assessment is done based on sound principles of testing and evaluation and are carried out effectively and efficiently
- apply the criteria to authentic assessment contexts and review the result of the application

## ***Duration***

3 days (18 contact hours)

## ***Modes of Delivery***

The course will be conducted using a number of strategies including traditional lecture, group work, simulation and presentation and will be largely interactive and practical in nature,. Course participants will be encouraged to share ideas and experiences and contribute positively to discussions. They will also be actively engaged in simulations which will involve the use of the instruments and assessment criteria /rubric provided by the agency which introduced the SBOA. It will involve activities like mock oral presentation and 'live' assessment.

## ***Participants***

The participants for this course will be secondary English language teachers.