

# Raising the Bar

*Language Magazine's* pick of linguistic and literacy assessments

## English Literacy Including ESL

### Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)

#### **BEST Plus**

BEST Plus is a powerful computer-adaptive test for the assessment of oral proficiency in adult English language learners. BEST Plus gives test administrators the capability of delivering the assessment via computer, allowing each test to be adapted to individual examinees based on the answers they give throughout the test. It is also available in a semi-adaptive, print-based version with three parallel forms.

#### **BEST Literacy**

BEST Literacy is an update of the literacy skills section of the Basic English Skills Test (BEST). It is the reading and writing proficiency assessment companion to BEST Plus.

### CTB/McGraw-Hill

#### **TABE CLAS-E**

TABE CLAS-E is the latest addition to CTB/McGraw-Hill's TABE family of products, the nation's leading adult basic education program comprising a complete and flexible system of diagnostic assessments and instructional support materials to meet the diverse needs of adult students. TABE has been successfully used by millions of adult students, and has been proven to provide the information educators need to ensure that their adult students will be successful in today's society.

TABE CLAS-E provides teachers with a reliable, easy-to-use system that accurately identifies the instructional needs of adult English language learners. It assesses English proficiency levels to accurately measure students' reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills. An optional speaking test gives teachers maximum flexibility in how they assess their students.

The test is based on the latest research by CTB/McGraw-Hill, including thorough analysis of and alignment with state English as a Second Language standards, the Common European Framework, and the Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000 (English as a Second Language-For Adults). The system also provides NRS levels for measuring educa-

tional gains. TABE CLAS-E has been validated by a comprehensive field standardization study, encompassing more than 19,500 individuals, both in the U.S. and internationally.

### Curriculum Associates

#### **BRIGANCE System**

The family of Curriculum Associates' BRIGANCE Systems work as integrated programs for screening and assessing students' knowledge and development.

The BRIGANCE Head Start System is designed to provide quick and easy screening and ongoing assessment of student skills to help determine each child's specific needs, target instruction, and monitor progress. The system meets IDEA's mandates of standardized screening on developmental domains, including communication, motor, and academic/pre-academic skills, and provides ongoing assessments of the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework Domains.

The BRIGANCE Early Childhood System helps in identifying preschool children's developmental strengths and weaknesses and provides an integrated solution to support Title I funding aimed at strengthening early childhood programs. The system aligns to state early learning standards and outcomes, helps meet monitoring and screening requirements, and complies with IDEA by sampling all developmental domains.

The family also includes the BRIGANCE Special Education System which provides special education teachers and administrators with the means to easily assess the needs of special education students. Its Comprehensive Inventory of Basic Skills II (CIBS II) determines Present Level of Performance or Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLOP/PLAAPP) and includes useful objectives for writing IEPs and instructional planning.

### Educational Testing Service (ETS)

#### **TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)**

Available in two formats — internet- and paper-based — the TOEFL test is

## Assessment

### STAMP

For summative assessment, STAMP is the innovative, computer-adaptive, Web-based tool built to benchmarks characterizing proficiency levels from Novice-Low through Intermediate-Mid on the ACTFL scale. Individual student results are provided for teachers (including ability to review oral and written responses to see what students can do) and group reports are provided for teachers and administrators. Data from its reports are used for progress-checking, placement, instructional planning, program and standards review, and curriculum and staff development. STAMP is available in Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Italian and Chinese (Simplified and Traditional).

Developed in conjunction with the Center for Applied Second Language Studies, STAMP has been delivered by Avant Assessment to over 200,000 students throughout the world, and has been a primary assessment tool used by multiple FLAP grant recipients.

### Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)

#### COPI — the next generation of the SOPI

Now available in Arabic and Spanish, the Computerized Oral Proficiency Instrument (COPI) is a computer-based, semi-adaptive test of Arabic and Spanish oral proficiency.

#### Multimedia Rater Training Program (MRTP)

Available in French, German, and Spanish, the Multimedia Rater Trainer Program (MRTP) is an interactive software program designed to teach professionals to rate oral proficiency. This computer-assisted professional development program was modeled after live rater training workshops and CAL's self-instructional Rater Training Kits.

#### Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview (SOPI)

The Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview (SOPI) is a tape-mediated test of speaking proficiency for high school students and older. All SOPI items are based on the speaking proficiency guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The test is presented to examinees via a test booklet and a master tape and can be administered

individually by anyone using two tape recorders. It can also be used in a language laboratory setting to test groups.

#### Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA) and Early Language Listening and Oral Proficiency Assessment (ELLOPA)

The SOPA (for Grades 2-8) and ELLOPA (for Grades preK-2) interviews are innovative language proficiency assessment instruments designed to allow young students to demonstrate their highest level of performance in oral fluency, grammar, vocabulary, and listening comprehension. These interactive listening and speaking assessments are designed for children who are learning a foreign language in a school setting.

#### Language Proficiency Tests

CAL's language proficiency tests are designed to measure the general proficiency levels in listening and reading attained by English-speaking learners of a foreign language. All test materials are mailed to the institution; responses are marked on machine-scoreable answer sheets and returned to CAL for scoring. The tests consist of approximately 100-150 four-option multiple-choice questions (exact number varies by test).

### Language Acquisition Resource Center (San Diego State University)

#### CAST

LARC at San Diego State University, one of the nation's 15 national Language Resource Centers (LRCs) heads the CAST testing project, based upon ACTFL procedures and rated by certified testers, to offer an online, low-cost, low-stakes screening tool for Spanish, Arabic, Persian, Chinese, ESL, French, and Egyptian and Iraqi dialects. The test provides examinees feedback, level advancement status, and evaluation.

Examinees digitally record their spoken responses to online situations and prompts, uploading them to a database to await rating. Certified raters listen online to each prompt and response to determine examinees' performance on specific advanced level oral tasks as described by ACTFL's framework. Examinees will receive a written report identifying their strengths and weaknesses as determined by the rater, as well as the opportunity to

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a highly reliable measure of English-language proficiency which has been validated by more than 40 years of world-class, scholarly research, and is built to the highest psychometric standards.

Using the latest technology, the TOEFL iBT test is an Internet-Based Test (iBT) that measures a candidate's ability to combine listening, reading, speaking and writing skills, making it the most comprehensive English-language proficiency test. With unmatched scoring procedures and security measures, the TOEFL test is the industry standard in English-language assessment.

Backed by over four decades of research, TOEFL is recognized by more than 7,000 individual institutions worldwide, and is the most widely available academic English-proficiency test in the world, with over 4,500 test centers in more than 165 countries.

### **TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication)**

The TOEIC test is a workplace English-language proficiency test for people whose native language is not English. It measures the everyday English skills of people working in an international environment. TOEIC test scores indicate how well people can communicate in English with others in the global workplace. Developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) in 1979, the TOEIC test has become the world's leading test of English-language proficiency in a workplace context. Nine thousand organizations in more than 90 countries use the TOEIC test and over five million TOEIC tests were administered in 2008.

### **TSE (Test of Spoken English)**

The Test of Spoken English, the most widely used assessment of spoken English worldwide, measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to communicate effectively. The test is used for employment, graduate assistantships, licensure, and certification purposes. Academic institutions, corporations, government agencies, health care systems, and other organizations use TSE scores to guide their decisions regarding graduate assistantships in teaching and research, employment, and licensing and certification. TSE uses speech activities such as narrating, recommending, persuading, and giving and supporting an opinion to measure the test taker's ability to speak in English. The session is recorded and trained raters determine the test taker's overall test score.

### **CELLA (Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment)**

The CELLA is used to measure adequate yearly progress in reading and language arts for schools. There are four levels of the CELLA based on grade span: A (K-2), B (3-5), C (6-8), and D (9-12). It is a four-skill language proficiency assessment that provides evidence of program accountability in accordance with Title III of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), which calls for schools and districts to meet state accountability objectives for increasing the English-language proficiency of English Language Learners. The test also provides data useful for charting student progress over time and, for the newly arrived students; charting progress over the first year. Results also give educators information about the language proficiency levels of individual students that can be used in making decisions regarding placement into, or exit from English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs.

## Riverside Publishing

Riverside Publishing has a proven track record with providing culturally and linguistically fair assessments designed to enable all students to reach their potential. Choosing the right assessment instruments allows English Language Learners (ELL) the opportunity to show more clearly what they know and where they need help. Riverside offers assessments that meet legislative requirements for the assessment of ELL students and have updated normative data to further refine the measurement's efficiency in our ever-evolving assessment environment, such as:

- Woodcock-Muñoz Language Survey — Revised
- Normative Update and Instructional Interventions Program
- Bateria III Woodcock-Munoz NU
- Bilingual Verbal Ability Tests™ (BVAT™)
- Universal Nonverbal Intelligence Test™ (UNIT™)
- Battelle Developmental Inventory™ — Spanish (BDI-2™ Spanish)
- Logramos, Second Edition

## The College Board

### **Accuplacer**

The Accuplacer ESL test effectively assesses students who speak English as a second language in order to prepare them for a successful academic experience. It is offered at both two year and four year universities. Comprised of computer-adaptive, untimed tests, it enables testing students quickly and efficiently across a wide range of abilities. Areas tested are reading skills, sentence meaning, language use and listening.

The ESL tests can be taken separately or with other Accuplacer tests to help maximize student performance. With items designed by ESL professionals, Accuplacer ESL is a proven solution that can be administered and scored at any time.

With Accuplacer ESL, school administrators have immediate information necessary to prepare students for college and place them in English immersion programs or developmental or college-level courses. Accuplacer enables schools to retain a higher percentage of students through accurate placement.

# World Languages

## Avant Assessment

Avant Assessment offers web-based formative and summative assessment solutions (for middle school, high school, and higher ed) that are text-book independent and built on real-world language situations.

### **ClassPak**

Formative assessments are delivered with ClassPak, the instructional support tool that helps teachers create a more proficiency-oriented classroom through delivery and management of reading, writing and speaking quizzes and activities. ClassPak is available in Spanish, French, Italian, German and Japanese (Chinese expected in Spring of 2010).