LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING

Testing

- It's a small school
- The Testing Center
 - o Open five days a week
 - Staffed with
 - Program Managers
 - Testing Administrators
- The test
 - Language Proficiency
 - o F2F and VTC
 - o 3 skills: Reading, Speaking, Listening

Testing

- The testers
 - o Double-hatted
 - o 4/4/4 to teach and to test

- The test takers
 - o Employees and students
 - o Applicants
 - o Others

Testing Certification

- The participants
 - o Instructors
 - Position requirement
 - Minimum of 6 months experience in our classrooms
 - Language officers
 - Vetted volunteers
 - Vetted contractors

The trainers = the examiners = PMs

Testing Certification

• The process, 6-12 months

• Workshop, 2 weeks Phase 1 • Blind ratings Phase 2 Test observations Phase 3

Testing Certification

The process

Phase 4

- 10 tests (at least)
- Observed on the 5th and 10th

Phase 5

Testing Panel

Final

Tester certification (hopefully!)

Tester Certification

Remedial program

Sometimes, it takes a village



o Tailored Work plan with mentor(s)

o Final assessment



Tester Materials Aids

Tester Manual

Hand outs

Actual Tests

Volunteers

Regulations/forms



Recertification, every three years

Refresh &norm Workshop, 4 hours x 4 or 2 full days

Assignment Tailored to their needs

Tests

 Test/team observation with F2F and written feedback

Test observations

Test obs.

Unannounced

Test obs.

• 4 per year

Test obs.

- F2F discussion
- F2F an written feedback

Spot observations

Spot obs.

Unannounced

Spot obs.

• Anytime, any number

Spot obs.

 F2F feedback immediately after the test

Rating the test

Rating

- Independent/individual
- Standard tester report form

Rating

 Follow-up discussion between testers

Rating

 Independent third rating, if threshold discrepancy

The tester's roles

Tester

- One of two active testers
- Sole tester paired with an examiner

Tester

 Second rater (when only one tester is available to test)

Tester

- Third rater
 - Score discrepancy
 - Re-evaluation, at test taker's request

Remedial program

- Repeated tester performance gaps/issues:
 - oTailored Work plan
 - OMentor
- In especially challenging cases...
 - OAll of the above
 - Coaching by examiner
- Outcome
 - Successful: recertification
 - Unsuccessful: decertification

Test format

The Reading Proficiency Test

- Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)
 - Test 1: 0 to 3, 90 minutes
 - Test 2: 3+ to 5, 90 minutes
- Translations (TL to English)
 - 3 passages, 3 consecutive levels, 2 hours

Test format

The Speaking Proficiency Test (S & L), 15-45 minutes

Test instructions

- Meet and Greet (warm up)
- ConversationRole play instructions
- O Role play activity

 Interview instructions
- Interview activity

Non-interactive listening instructions

- Non-interactive Listening activity
- Leave taking (wind down)

