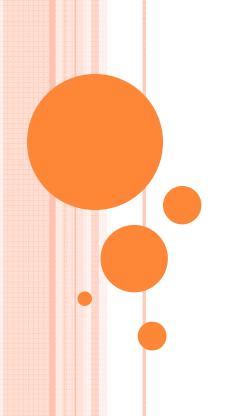


Dr. Christina Hoffman Elena Voloboeva-McCoy Language Testing Unit



? STAKES TESTING

- > Recruitment
- Retention
- Promotion
- Required proficiency on the job
- Incentive pay

FSI Language Testing

What and How we Test

- Speaking (103 languages)/Reading (87 languages)
- ~ 5,000 tests/year
- Face-to-face/DVC/Telephone
- > Testing teams of 2: Examiner (~100)&Tester (~300)

TESTING TEAM MEMBERS

- > FSI Language Instructors
- Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish:
 LTU based testing team members

TESTING TEAM MEMBER RECRUITMENT

- Language section recommendation
- > Equivalent to:
 - English Speaking 3 level for Examiners
 - > Instructions in English
 - English Speaking 2 level for Testers
 - Native speakers

TESTING TRAINING: TWO-WEEK INTRODUCTION



TESTING TRAINING

- > Mentored group or individual training:
 - > Testing Manual
 - Observe and score tests
 - Practice tests
 - Mastery exercise
 - Official tests

TESTING CERTIFICATION

- Valid 3 years
- > Recertification:
 - Live observation(s)
 - Counseling
 - Brush-up training

QUALITY CONTROL

- ➤ Video-recording with viewing consoles
- ➤ Ad-hoc observations
- > Testing Mentors serve as examiners



PREVIEW OF THE NEW SPEAKING TEST

JOINT EFFORT

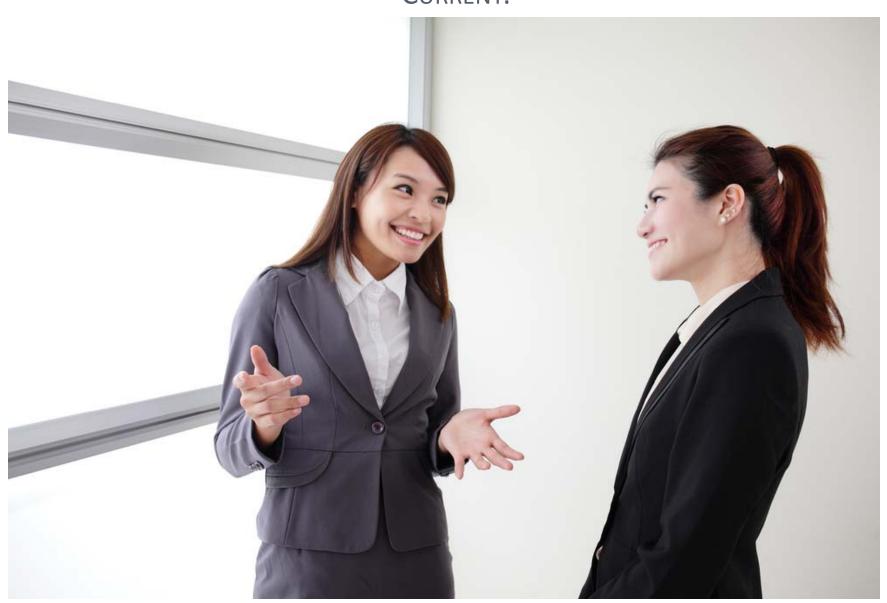


PREVIEW OF THE NEW SPEAKING TEST



FSI SPEAKING TEST APPROACH

CURRENT:



FSI SPEAKING TEST APPROACH

NEW:



PREVIEW OF THE NEW SPEAKING TEST

- New:
 - > S Part I, Social Conversation:
 - More structured
 - > S Part II, Work-Related Exchange:
 - > Focus on follow-up discussion

PREVIEW OF THE NEW SPEAKING TEST

> Unchanged:

S Part III, Interview



Part I, Social Conversation

- 1) WARM-UP- Familiar Information (3 min.)
 No spiral up. ≈
- 2) DAILY LIFE SITUATION (5 min.)

 Spiral up to challenge the Examinee.

 ✓
- 3) MORE COMPLEX CONVERSATION (5 min.)

 A more complex topic such as: political, economic, or social issues.

Challenges (for Testers)

1) Conversation: quick decisions on the next steps



Part II, Work-Related Exchange

- 1) Work-related topic of choice (3-5 min.)
- 1. Consular
- 2. International Development
- 3. Management
- 4. Public Diplomacy
- 5. Political/Military
- 6. Economy/ESTH (Environment, Science, Technology, and Health)
- 7. Diplomatic Security

Part II, Work-Related Exchange

2) Tester follows up (6-8 min.)

Spiral up.

✓



Challenges (for Testers)

2) Work-Related Exchange:

- ➤ Lack of familiarity with certain topics
- > Strategic planning, thinking on one's feet, and teamwork



Assistance from the Language Testing Unit



Solutions/Testing Team Contributions:

- 1) Stay informed
- 2) Develop a repertoire of cultural/historic references
- 3) Teamwork



