

Workshop 1 on final exams

3 questions :

1. Do we want marks or a pass/fail judgment?

Most universities participating in the workshop make a pass/fail judgment which is then converted into marks either during the exam or -in one case- after the exam.

A number of courses have a list of criteria (such as accuracy, coherence...) against which they assess the candidates' performances. In some universities, those criteria are weighted, in others they are not.

2. What are the components of the assessment?

- accuracy /content
- coherence
- technique
- vocab, grammar /language quality
- delivery/presentation

The importance of the source text was touched upon. The source text must be such that

- all students, including weak students, can perform and
- strong students can do a very good job

What is assessed in final exams is usually the product - rather than the process, the strategies used or the mastery of the techniques - for the following reasons:

- techniques and strategies are deemed personal
- there is no time for detailed analysis of the performance during final exams

3. How can we proceed in practice ?

Example of a consecutive test:

- a. Speech assessment (difficulty)
- b. Timing (of original speech and interpretation)
- c. Comments – Importance of who comes first (pure customer, external juror) and who comes last (chair)