

# Contents

Acknowledgements vii

**Introduction** 1

**1 Aims and resources** 11

- 1.1 Aims 12
- 1.2 Resources 15
- 1.3 Needs 18
- 1.4 Expectations 19

**2 Test types** 22

- 2.1 Self-assessment 22
- 2.2 Teacher assessment 27
- 2.3 Who does the learner speak to? 28
- 2.4 The direct interview type 31
- 2.5 The pre-arranged information gap 32
- 2.6 Tests where the learner prepares in advance 33
- 2.7 Mechanical/entirely predictable tests 33
- 2.8 Recording oral tests 34
- 2.9 Using the telephone 36
- 2.10 Sequencing test techniques 37
- 2.11 Timing and location of tests 39
- 2.12 On being friendly 42

**3 Elicitation techniques** 44

- 3.1 Discussion/conversation 45
- 3.2 Oral report 47
- 3.3 Learner–learner joint discussion/decision making 49
- 3.4 Role-play 51
- 3.5 Interview 54
- 3.6 Learner–learner description and re-creation 56
- 3.7 Form-filling 58
- 3.8 Making appropriate responses 59
- 3.9 Question and answer 61
- 3.10 Reading blank dialogue 64
- 3.11 Using a picture or picture story 66

## Contents

3.12	Giving instructions/description/explanation	69
3.13	Precis or re-tell story or text from aural stimulus	71
3.14	Re-telling a story from written stimulus	73
3.15	Reading aloud	76
3.16	Translating/interpreting	79
3.17	Sentence completion from aural or written stimulus	81
3.18	Sentence correction	84
3.19	Sentence transformation	84
3.20	Sentence repetition	86
<b>4</b>	<b>Marking systems</b>	<b>88</b>
4.1	The number of assessors	89
4.2	The selection and training of assessors	90
4.3	Marking recorded oral tests	92
4.4	Marking keys or marking protocols	94
4.5	Mark categories	95
4.6	Weighting	97
4.7	Rating scales	98
4.8	Impression marking	100
4.9	Additive marking	101
4.10	Subtractive marking	102
<b>5</b>	<b>Test evaluation</b>	<b>104</b>
5.1	Face validity	105
5.2	Content validity	106
5.3	Construct validity	106
5.4	Reliability	107
5.5	Concurrent validity	107
5.6	Predictive validity	108
<b>Appendix I</b>	<b>Three public oral tests</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Appendix II</b>	<b>Bibliography and further reading</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Index</b>		<b>116</b>