Assessing Against Learning Outcomes, Module 2

2.2 Assessment Validation Template

Let's return to Assessment Validation. The purpose of assessment validation is to produce better assessments. What do we need to validate our assessments?   We need our assessment task of course, our learning outcomes and a template on which to record the process.

NEAS has a created a template especially suited to ELT centres and can be downloaded from the NEAS website. The NEAS template can be applied to a range of assessment tasks and tests and can be further modified by centres to suit their particular context or assessment tasks.

Let's look at it in detail.

On the front page there is space to record the name of the course, unit or skill and the assessment task. The box underneath includes a table to record the names of your team who conduct the validation exercise, the date and a space for their signature.

Underneath is a list of materials and resources and tick boxes. You can add others.

Underneath this list is a space for the learning outcomes which are being assessed. Below is a summary section where the outcomes of the validation process is recorded and a date for the next review is proposed. Remember, assessment validation is an on-going review process and needs to be applied regularly to your assessments.

Over the page are the principles of assessment under the criteria of validity, reliability, flexibility, fairness and currency. In addition to the Validation template, you also need your learning outcomes. If you or your centre has not created a comprehensive set of learning outcomes, you may find learning outcomes in some course books or you could use the Common European Framework of Reference or CEFR, or CEFR. The CEFR is a guideline which describes language ability and was developed by the Council of Europe. For more information on the CEFR, check out the Council of Europe's website.

In our next module, we will use the Assessment Validation Template to validate a task from a course book.