Assessing Against Learning Outcomes, Module 3

3.1 Using the Validation Template - Group Discussion Task

Start by familiarising yourself with the assessment task. Read the task entitled Bank Robbers Throw It All Away and then answer the accompanying questions.

The next step is to start filling out our Assessment Validation Template. You'll notice that the details of the course and task have been recorded at the top. Underneath are details of the staff members conducting the validation and the date. Followed by the materials used and finally the learning outcomes that we are using this study period with intermediate General English learners. We discovered that the course book does not contain explicit learning outcomes so we wrote our own which would be applicable to a General English course at an intermediate level. We used the CEFR as the standard or benchmark.

Once you have familiarised yourself with the task and the learning outcomes and commenced filling out the Assessment Validation Template, the next step is to systematically work through the second page of the template. You can start at the top and work down the page. For each criterion and sub criterion, complete the Yes, No or Not Applicable options and record any comments or actions to follow up.

Assessment Validation is best done as a small group or team. The judgement of more than one teacher or assessor is likely to be more reliable than the judgement of just one.

The NEAS Assessment Validation team unanimously agreed that the questions did not assess the learning outcomes and the questions themselves were poorly designed. We also noted that instructions, marking guides and rubrics are not provided.

Once you have completed this part of the process, decide what modifications, if any are needed to your assessment task and record them on the first page of your template. Our team suggested that new questions are written, more questions are added to ensure that more than one learning outcome is met by the assessment task and a marking guide is provided.