

Language Tests: Past, Present and Future

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Abstract

Language tests from the distant past to the present are important historical documents. They can help inform us about attitudes to language and language teaching when little alternative evidence of what went on in the bygone language classroom remains. UCLES CPE has the longest track record of any serious EFL examination still in existence today so it is a particularly useful vehicle for researching where we have come from. In terms of where we are going to we have chosen to focus on a newly developed Asian EFL examination in line with the theme of the conference. We have selected the Taiwanese GEPT advanced and superior examinations, which have only been administered for the first time in recent months. Their development shows some of the directions EFL examinations may take in the future.