

Report on the First GEPT Advanced Writing and Speaking Tests

Abstract

The first administration of the GEPT Advanced Writing and Speaking Tests was held in August of 2002. The Advanced Writing Test is an integrated test which incorporates reading and writing components, while the Advanced Speaking Test employs an interview format, with an interlocutor asking questions and an assessor evaluating the examinee's language abilities. Both tests are designed to examine higher-level English proficiency.

In addition to the descriptive statistics of examinees' scores, this report presents analysis of selected examinees' language production, focusing on vocabulary range, sentence structure complexity, accuracy, and language functions. It was originally expected that through the analysis of the quality and quantity of the language the examinees used as well as the language functions they employed, the validity of the tests could be supported. The results indicated that the Advanced Writing and Speaking Tests were able to distinguish examinees who possessed advanced English proficiency. Examinees who received higher scores tended to use more complicated sentence structures in their compositions (the T-Units were longer) and make fewer errors (the percentage of error-free T-Units was higher). As for their performance in the Speaking Test, examinees with higher scores demonstrated a broader range of vocabulary and greater use of low-frequency words as well as complex structures. Moreover, the examinees were found to have applied most of the intended language functions. However, due to the limited size of the sample in the present study, the results should be interpreted with caution. Further research will be conducted using a larger sample size and more refined research methods.