Pre-Course Reading Tasks

Before starting the Rating Course at Mayflower College, we would like you to complete the following tasks based on the attached document *Language Testing Criteria for Global Harmonization* (Circular 318, Draft), first released by ICAO in July, 2008.

The tasks are designed to assist course participants in understanding the background to:

- ICAO's Language Proficiency Requirements
- recommended practice in Aviation-Specific Language Testing
- terminology used in the field of Language Testing.

Any questions arising from your reading and/or the tasks will be dealt with on the first day of the course.
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Task 1
Look at the terms in the table below:

RELIABILITY	
VALIDITY	
WASHBACK	
DIRECT TESTING	
SEMI-DIRECT TESTING	
A DIAGNOSTIC TEST	
A PROFICIENCY TEST	
HIGH STAKES TESTING	

Now read Chapter 1: *INTRODUCTION* to investigate your understanding of the terms in the table. Make notes and write down any outstanding questions you have below:

My Question: ………………………………………………………………………………………

My Question: ………………………………………………………………………………………

My Question: ………………………………………………………………………………………

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Task 2
Read Chapter 2: *RECOMMENDED CRITERIA FOR AVIATION LANGUAGE TESTING* and find answers to the following questions regarding this specific field of assessment.

Q1   Why are discrete-point tests inappropriate?

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Q2   What are the possible advantages and disadvantages of having a separate listening test?

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Q3   How is 'work-related context' defined?

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Q4   What is written about the testing of aviation phraseology and technical knowledge?

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Q5   What is the desired effect of language tests on language training?

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Q6   How many raters should be involved in the assessment process?

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Q7   According to the document, in what ways can consistency be improved?

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Q8   How could a test's validity be compromised by a breach in test security?

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Q9   Do ICAO currently accredit, certify or endorse any language TSP (test service provider)?

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Q10   *What type of person makes the 'perfect' language rater?*

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Task 3
Chapter 3 is split into 2 sections. Firstly, look through the *CHECKLIST FOR AVIATION LANGUAGE TESTING*. Make a note below of any questions you had not considered important before. Can you understand why they might be important now? Also make a note of anything you would like clarifying on the course.

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Task 4
Look at the terms below. Are you able to define them?

Accent	*Descriptor*	*Dialect*	*Interlocutor*	*Item*
Plain language	*Prompt*	*Rating scale*	*Response*	*Score*
Test construct	*Test delivery*	*Test maintenance*	*Test task*	*Validate*

Once you have tried to define them yourself, look through the GLOSSARY OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND LANGUAGE TESTING TERMS in Chapter 3 to check your understanding.

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Thank you for completing these tasks. Please bring these documents, your answers and your questions to the Rating Course. *We look forward to meeting you at Mayflower College soon.*