# STRUCTURAI

# Individual Component Checklist

# **ENGLISH VERSION**



#### INTRODUCTION

This checklist has been designed for use as a practical tool for describing **ONE VERSION** of a particular component of a language test, for the purpose of evaluation or comparison. This checklist is for use only with tests of structural competence, the skills which are sometimes tested under names such as 'grammar and usage' or 'language in use'.

#### General Notes

In this checklist the following terminology is used:

#### Component

One subtest in an examination. Usually an examination is made up of subtests in the different skills, and components are commonly called by the names of skills. This checklist concerns the listening component of an examination. Components are also often referred to as 'papers'.

#### • Input

The material provided by the candidate for use in order to produce an appropriate response. In a test of listening it is likely to take the form of a recorded oral text plus written items.

#### Item

Each testing point which is given a separate mark or marks. It may consist of, for example, one gap in a written text, or one multiple choice question with three or four options.

#### Response

The candidate's written or spoken response to a task. The term 'answer' is often used in this context. However, for reasons of precision, it is not used here.

#### Rubric

The instructions given to a candidate on how to respond to a particular input. An example, for a multiple choice cloze test, might be: *Here are some sentences about a visit to a restaurant. Finish the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first.* 

#### Section

Parts of the component can be subdivided into. Each may be testing a different area of skill or usage.

#### Task

A task is defined precisely as a combination of rubric, input and response. For example, a reading text with several multiple choice items, all of which can be answered by referring to a single rubric, can be classified as a task. If another set of items relates to the same text, but requires a different rubric in order for a response to be produced, then that combination of text, rubric and items constitutes a different task. Thus the same text can for part of the same input for one or more tasks.

The term 'question' which is often used when referring to tasks, whether or not they are presented as grammatical questions, is avoided here because of its ambiguity.

#### Text

In the context of a reading component of an examination, a text is a piece of written language, used as input to a task.

#### Please note

Some of the questions in this checklist are to be answered with a couple of words or numbers, and some have boxes to tick 'yes' or 'no'. Others, which involve making some qualitative judgement, ask for an assessment on a scale of 1-4, where 1 represents the most negative judgement and 4 the most positive.

#### Instructions for Individual Questions

#### A GENERAL DESCRIPTION

#### 11 Weighting

Sometimes one section of a component is given more or less importance than others by weighting it differently from the others – assigning a higher or lower percentage of the total mark to it.

#### **B PRESENTATION AND LAYOUT**

#### 7 How realistic is the presentation of the text?

If, for example, a task used in an examination paper is taken from an original magazine or newspaper article, an attempt may be made to present it in such a way as to make this source clear to the candidate, by means of headlines, setting out the text in columns etc.

#### D TEXTS AND TASKS

#### 1 INPUT

Most of this part of the checklist operates a the level of texts. As the number of texts in a test varies widely – some being composed of as few as two or three, while others consist of a large number of very short texts – text numbers have been left out of headings, and it is assumed that these pages will be photocopied when necessary, and text numbers written in.

#### 3 Type of text

Texts for use in tests of reading are often taken from sources such newspapers, magazines and novels. These are often adapted. In this question box 1 =an unadapted text; box 2 =an adapted text; box 3 =specially written for the test.

#### 4 Writer's overall intention

It is often the case that there may be several intentions associated with any text. However, an *overall* intention should be identified.

#### 5 Target reader (of original text)

It would, of course, be possible to break this down much further, but for the purposes of this checklist it has been decided to give only these limited categories, with the possibility of specifying more accurately under category d).

#### 6 Topic of the text

The likely extent of the topic areas used in tests of listening is covered by the 'notions' in **Threshold Level 1990**.

#### 2 LANGUAGE ABILITY TESTED

#### 1 Main focus of testing

By this it is meant the **main focus** of what is being tested in language terms, although it may also touch on other areas. It is also taken as understood that there is a great deal of ambiguity in this area. This area of the checklist operates at item level. Again, it is assumed that this page will be photocopied and the text and item numbers written in.

This are of the checklist operates at a task and item level. Again, it is assumed that this page will be photocopied and test and item numbers written in.

#### 3 EXPECTED RESPONSE

#### 6 To what extent are non-linguistic skills being tested?

This question attempts to gauge the extent to which skills other than language ability are required in order to provide a response. An example of this would be an item which demands some type of mathematical calculation in order to get the correct answer, or an item which involves the candidate reading a map or interpreting a plan or diagram.

# 12 To what extent is there an overlap with testing another area of linguistic skill?

This question attempts to gauge the extent to which testing one area of language skill also involves the candidate's ability in another area of skill. It is difficult to separate the skills completely from one another. For example, it is likely that any test of listening will also involve candidate reading instruction and rubrics, and in writing responses, and tests of structural competence and reading will also involve candidates in writing.

#### 4 MARKING

#### 5 What type of marking is used?

These can characterised as follows:

**a) Examiner marking:** marking carried out by experts, who are often referred to as examiners. They are required to make used of professional judgement in awarding marks.

- b) Clerical marking: marking carried out by non-experts, who have to deal with letters, numbers or words. They are generally required to exercise only very limited judgement, of a non-expert type.
  c) Computerised marking: marking carried out by a machine such
- c) Computerised marking: marking carried out by a machine such as an optical mark reader. Multiple choice tests are often marked in this way.

The term 'marking' as it is used here refers to the process of assigning a mark to an item, and not to the way in which the mark is recorded or read. Computerised marking mean that the candidate's response goes directly to the computer for the mark to be assigned, and no human marker is involved.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

NAME OF EXAMINATION	
NAME OF COMPONENT	

#### A GENERAL DESCRIPTION

		Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Total for component
1	Name of section (if any)				
2	Number of tasks				
3	Number of items				
4	Suggested time allocated for section				
5	Preparation time allocated (if any)				
6	Total number of marks achievable (as percentage)				100%
7	Is percentage of marks available for section indicated to candidate?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
8	Is percentage of marks available for each task indicated to candidate?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
9	Is suggested time allocation for each section indicated to candidate?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
10	Is suggested time allocation for each task indicated to candidate?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
11	Weighting				100%

# **B** PRESENTATION & LAYOUT

	Name of component				]				
1	How is the component presented?	As a separate boo	oklet			As part of a bo	ooklet		
2	How is the beginning of the component indicated?	by a front page by a title				by a title page	in a bookle	et	
3	What information is given at the beginning of the component?	title of componer candidate numbe name of institutio total number of n instructions to ex	r on narks for c	omponent		candidate names sex of candidate of examinatime allocated instructions to	nte nation		
4	How many pages long is the component?								
5	How well is the text in the booklet spaced out?	1		2		3		4	
6	How much space is allowed for the responses?	1		2		3		4	
7	How realistic is presentation of the text?	1		2		3		4	
8	What size is the booklet? (A4, A5 etc.)								
9	Is colour printing used?	Yes		No					
10	Are drawings used?	Yes		No					
11	Are photographs used?	Yes		No					

# C GUIDANCE TO CANDIDATES (INSTRUCTIONS AND RUBRICS)

	Name of component					
1	How clear are instructions?	1	2	3	4	
2	How easy to understand are instructions?	1	2	3	4	
3	How adequate are instructions?	1	2	3	4	
4	How relevant are instructions?	1	2	3	4	
5	How consistent are instructions?	1	2	3	4	
6	How clear are rubrics?	1	2	3	4	
7	How easy to understand are rubrics?	1	2	3	4	
8	How adequate are rubrics?	1	2	3	4	
9	How relevant are rubrics?	1	2	3	4	
10	How consistent are rubrics?	1	2	3	4	

# D STRUCTURAL COMPETENCE: TEXTS AND TASKS

Name of examination  Number of texts in structural competence component					
			1. INPUT		
1	Number of texts	Section	Text	Text	Text
2	Number of words in text				
3  a) b) c) d) e) f) g) h) i) j) k)	Type of text  (from) book written for young adults newspaper article magazine article advertisement novel technical manual textbook bureaucratic document instruction leaflet unknown other (please specify)	a b c d e f g h i j k	1 2 3	1 2 3  a b c c d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d	1 2 3 a b c d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d

1 = unadapted text; 2 = adapted text; 3 = specially written

# 1. INPUT

		Text	Text	Text
4	Writer's overall intention			
a b c d e f	to obtain information to explain to describe to narrate	a	a	a b c d e f
g h i, j.	to persuade / convince to argue (for / against) to instruct / teach to report back	g h I	g h I	g h I
k Ij m	other (please specify)		k l l m	k     m
n		n	n	n
5	Target reader (of original text)			
a b c d	young learners L2 learners	a b c d	a b c d	a b cd
u	specialist group (piease specify)			

# 1. INPUT - TEXTS

		Text	Text	Text	Text
6	Topic of text				
	<ul> <li>a) personal identification</li> <li>b) house and home, environment</li> <li>c) daily life</li> <li>d) free time / entertainment</li> <li>e) travel</li> <li>f) relations with other people</li> <li>g) health and body care</li> <li>h) education</li> <li>i) science and scholarship</li> <li>j) current affairs</li> <li>k) shopping</li> <li>l) food and drink</li> <li>m) services</li> <li>n) places</li> <li>o) language</li> <li>p) weather</li> </ul>	a	a	a	a
7	<ul> <li>q) other (please specify)</li> <li>Is text</li> <li>a) complete?</li> <li>b) extract from longer text?</li> </ul>	a	a	a	q a b
8	<ul> <li>What details of text source are given?</li> <li>a) none</li> <li>b) type of text (e.g. radio programme)</li> <li>c) title, name of speaker</li> <li>d) date</li> </ul>	a b c d	a b c d	a b c d	a b c d
9	Are paragraph / line markers (e.g. numbers) provided?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No

#### 2 LANGUAGE ABILITY TESTED

1 Main focus of testing						
	Item					
a) verb form b) verb tense c) verb mood d) verbal construction e) verb auxiliaries f) conditionals g) indirect speech h) noun forms i) pronouns j) adjectives k) adverbs l) articles m) prepositions n) vocabulary use o) cohesive devices p) register q) punctuation r) spelling s) word order t) other (please specify)	a	a	a	a	a	a

# 2. LANGUAGE ABILITY TESTED

2	Text	Item	Item	Item	Item	Item
a)	multiple choice	a	a	a	a	a
<b>b</b> )	gap filling (cloze)	b	b	b	b	b
c)	transformation	с	с	c	c	c
d)	short answer (word / short phrase)	d	d	d	d	d
e)	short answer (1 – 3 sentences)	e	e	e	e	e
f)	sentence completion	f	f	f	f	f
g)	true / false	g	g	g	g	g
h)	ordering	h	h	h	h	h
i)	error correction (proof reading)	i	i	i	i	i
j)	other (please specify)	k	k	k	k	k

# 3. EXPECTED RESPONSE

	Section Task Item				
1	What type of response is required?				
	<ul><li>a) choice from a list</li><li>b) one or two word answer</li><li>c) longer answer</li></ul>	a b	a b	a b c	a b
2	Is the type and length of response required indicated to the candidate?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
3	How limited is the acceptable list of responses?	1 2 3	1 2 2	1 2 3	1 2 1
4	To what extent is specialist knowledge assumed?	1 2 3	1 2 2	1 2 2	1 2 1
5	To what extent is cultural knowledge assumed?	1 2 3	1 2 2	1 2 3	1 2 1
6	To what extent is are non-linguistic skills being tested?	1 2 3	1 2 2	1 2 3	1 2 3
7	To what extent is there an overlap with testing another area of linguistic skill?	1 2 3	1 2 2	1 2 3	1 2 3

# 4. EXPECTED RESPONSE

	Task Item				
6	To what extent is cultural knowledge assumed?	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
7	Is information required to answer a particular item?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
	<ul><li>a) localised in only one are a of text</li><li>b) in several areas of the text</li><li>c) spread throughout the whole text</li></ul>	a b c c	a b c	a b c	a b c
8	Are candidates referred to specific areas of the text?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
9	Do the words in the item repeat exactly the words in the text?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
10	Can items be answered by:				
	<ul><li>a) taking words and phrases directly from the text?</li><li>b) modifying words in text slightly</li><li>c) rephrasing text to a significant extent</li></ul>	a b c c	a b c	a b c	a b c
11	To what extent are non-linguistic skills being tested?	1 2 3	1 2 2	1 2 2	1 2 3
12	To what extent is there an overlap with testing another area of linguistic skill?	1 2 3	1 2 1 3 4 1	1 2 4 III	1 2 4

# 5. MARKING

	Section Item Item					
1	How many marks are available?					
2	Is the number of marks available indicated to the candidate?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
3	What are the criteria for marking?					
	<ul><li>a) correct choice of option</li><li>b) grammatical accuracy</li><li>c) spelling</li><li>d) other (please specify)</li></ul>	a	a b c d	a b c d	a b c d	a b c d
4	Are marking criteria indicated to the candidate?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
5	What type of marking is used?					
	<ul><li>a) examiner marking</li><li>b) clerical marking</li><li>c) computerised marking</li></ul>	a b	a b	a b	a b	a b