

The gap between perception and achievement

Peter Lahiff, Future Learning



**Future of English Language
Teaching Conference** **ONLINE**



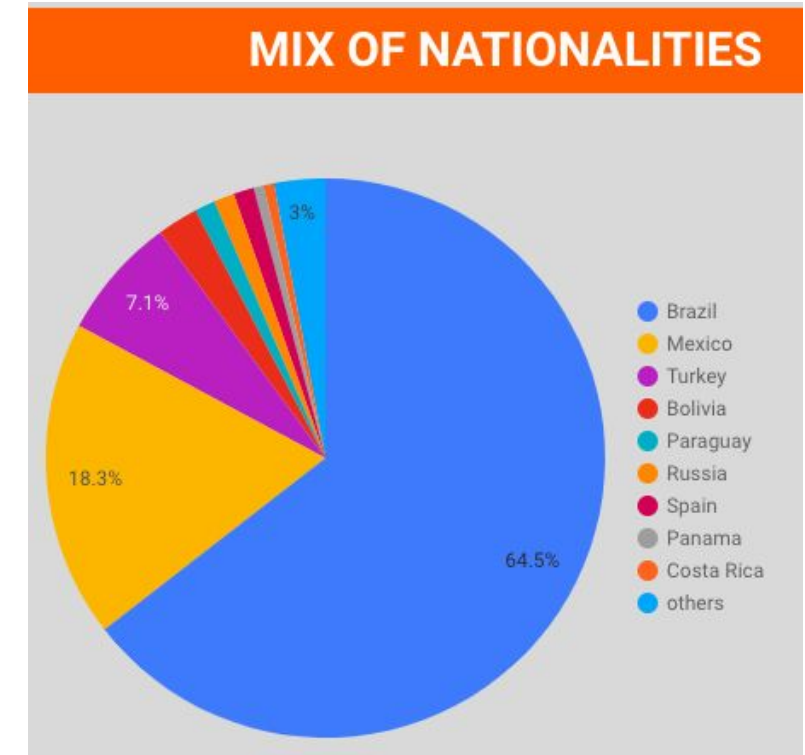
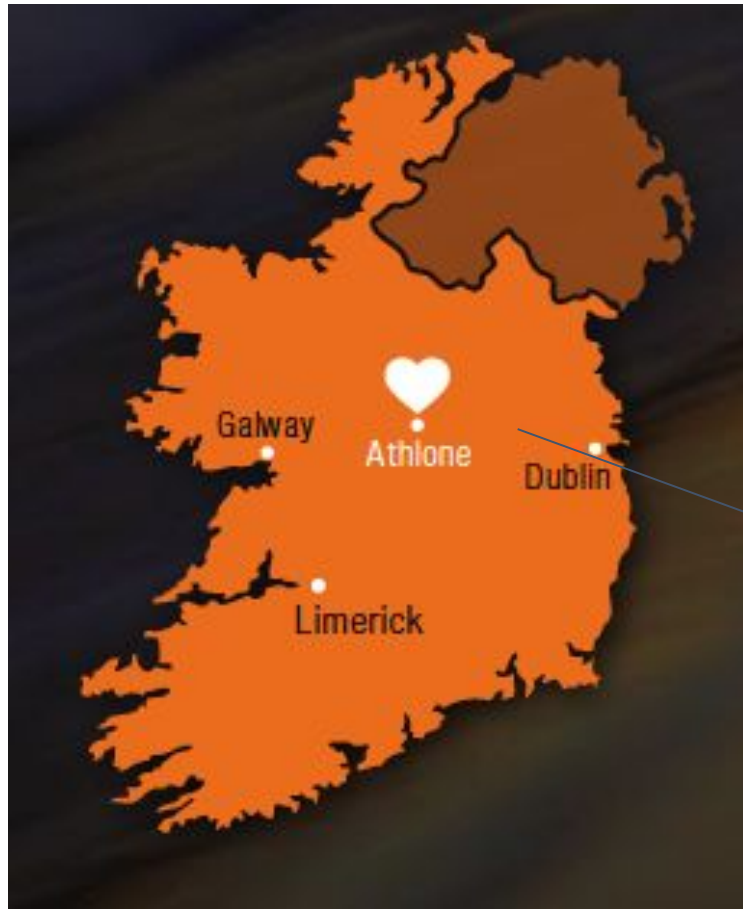
The Gap between Perception and Achievement

Abstract: There are always some students who, in advance of their end of course exam and straight after doing it, express a high level of confidence which is not reflected in their final result. Teachers find it difficult in advance to persuade students like this to put the work in and help them find the motivation afterwards to make another attempt. This talk is based on surveys of students preparing for their end of course exam which aimed to investigate this phenomenon and identify strategies for supporting those students who went on to underperform in their achievement exam.

Does this ring a bell with you? Is there a gap in your context?



Our Context: Location and student profile



Adult Academic Year Programmes - ILEP
Work and study OR Study and work?

Our Context: The FL Academic Approach

PROJECT BASED LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

FL's project based lessons aim to develop students' communication skills in English and promote cultural awareness, while enhancing teamwork, leadership and the purposeful use of technology

- ❑ **Pedagogy** is extremely important to us, because a consistent approach is essential to a successful learning experience.
- ❑ All our courses are designed to encourage the **social interaction** that is the other essential element of effective language learning.
- ❑ We develop students' 21st Century Skills for life, work and study: **Smart thinking, Working together, Using digital tools, Living in the world (global citizenship)**.
- ❑ Lessons involve the use of **laptops** and students own **mobile devices** for materials sharing, feedback, project presentation and publication. (BYO is best)
- ❑ Strong **links with a range of subject areas** (e.g. science, history, geography, sociology, business, engineering, ICT) is a key element of our English language lessons and cultural activities.

The inspirations for our approach

Project Based Learning: students acquire a deeper knowledge through active exploration of real-world challenges and problems. Students learn about a subject by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, challenge, or problem.

Technology Enhanced Learning: Educational technologies, e-learning, ICT use in classroom teaching, use of interactive learning environments, and learning **with** technology as opposed to learning by/through technology.

Content Integration (CLIL): teaching subject content through a foreign language with the dual aims of students learning that content and, simultaneously, learning the language. (adapted from David Marsh 1994)

Examining 3 STAGES OF 21st Century Communication

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1&2	LANGUAGE RECAP	NEW / MAIN LANGUAGE POINT	INTEGRATED SKILLS	INTEGRATED SKILLS	PROGRESS CHECK
LANGUAGE & SKILLS WORK	Review, repair and reinforce from previous projects (Week 1) and current project (Week 2)	Principles, contextualised practice and functional language for project.	Language in listening OR reading (info. ideas and inference)	Understanding shown in spoken or written response.	Week 1: Assessed ISE Exam Task Week 2: Revision & unit test
Week 1	INTRODUCING PROJECT TOPIC	EXPLORE TOPIC in Text	EXPLORE TOPIC in Multi-media	PREPARING TO EXPRESS IDEAS	PRESENTING CONCLUSIONS
PROJECT WORK	Explore what you already know about it and explain others and what you.	Use written sources provided to develop your understanding.	Use multi-media sources to develop your understanding further.	Explain how your ideas on this topic have changed or developed with peer support.	In pairs or small groups explain your ideas on the topic and listeners report data gathered.
Week 2	INTRODUCING GROUP PROJECT	PREPARING PROJECT	CREATING PRODUCT	DELIVERING PRODUCT	PRESENTING CONCLUSIONS
	Use information and data skills to...	Use creative problem solving skills to...		Use communication skills to...	Collaborative...

Hattie says the biggest influence on learning is;

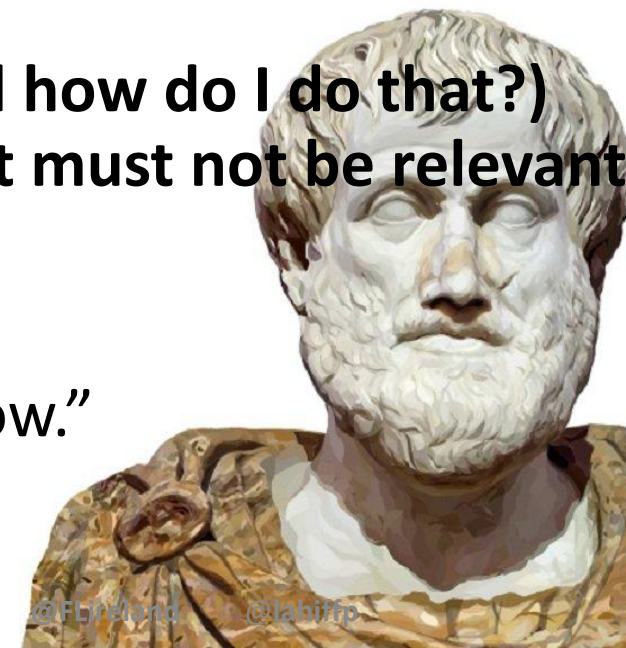
No. 1: Self-Reported Grades (effect size = 1.44)

The studies show that students are highly attuned at estimating their own performance. Which suggests that self-assessment is the way to go as **“students appear to already have much of the information the tests supposedly provide”?**

What could possibly go wrong with self-assessment?

- Understanding (What do the instructions mean and how do I do that?)
- Availability (I haven't heard that much recently so it must not be relevant)
- Cultural (It is the teacher's job to tell me)
- Learning Experience (As Aristotle says ...)

“The more you know the more you know you don't know.”



The research looked at these things

1. Stage & Unit Quiz: Students like language quizzes better than skills practice
2. Progress Testing: Exam task every two weeks but a high level of absence for it
3. Pre-Exam Prep: The week before the exam review what it involves in detail
 - predict result and overall level of confidence (1 -5)
4. Post-Exam: Asked by the director of studies on the day
 - again predict result and overall level of confidence (1 -5)
5. Exam Results: Diagnostic reports which arrived around 6 weeks later

Jazmín - ISE I: Reading into Writing is the killer

Jazmín	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Reading & Writing Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 1 - Long Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 2 - Multi Text Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 3 - Reading into Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 4 - Extended Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: Speaking & Listening Overall?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S.1PM Quiz Av>	84%	Quiz: Band 4 - Pass	Quiz: Band 4 - Pass				
2. Progress Testing	ISE I		-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE II	5	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE I	3	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE I = Fail		Band 1: Not Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
Jazmín	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 4 - Extended Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: Speaking & Listening Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 1 - Speaking Topic?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2/3 - Conversation?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2: Collaboration?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 3/4 - Ind. Listening?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S.1PM Quiz Av>	84%						
2. Progress Testing	ISE I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE II	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE I	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE I = Fail	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 4: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
			Pre-Exam	Post Exam		Pre-Exam	Post Exam	
		Which exam task is easiest for you and why?		Reading and speaking	Which exam task is most challenging for you and why?		Writing	



Victor - ISE II: Handwriting practice needed

Victor	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Reading & Writing Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 1 - Long Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 2 - Multi Text Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 3 - Reading into Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 4 - Extended Writing?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S3.1AM Quiz Av>	41%	Quiz: Band 1: Not Pass	Quiz: Band 2 - Pass	Quiz: Band 3 - Pass		
2. Progress Testing	ISE III			-	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE II	3	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE II	1	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE II = Fail		Band 1: Not Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass
Victor	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Speaking & Listening Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 1 - Speaking Topic?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2/3 - Conversation?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2: Collaboration?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 3/4 - Ind. Listening?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S3.1AM Quiz Av>	41%					
2. Progress Testing	ISE III			Band 2: Pass			Band 4: Excellent Pass
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE II	3	Band 4: Excellent Pass	Band 4: Excellent Pass	Band 4: Excellent Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE II	1	Band 4: Excellent Pass		Band 3: Good Pass	Band 4: Excellent Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE II = Fail		Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 4: Excellent Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
			Pre-Exam	Post Exam		Pre-Exam	Post Exam
		Which exam task is easiest for you and why?	Speaking topic because I'm comfortable with my topic.	Speaking and listening	Which exam task is most challenging for you and why?	Long writing because I used to type in computer	Writing

Marcelo - ISE II: Writing confidence is lacking

Marcelo	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Reading & Writing Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 1 - Long Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 2 - Multi Text Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 3 - Reading into Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 4 - Extended Writing?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S2.1AM Quiz Av>	47%	Quiz: Band 2 - Pass	Quiz: Band 2 - Pass	Quiz: Band 2 - Pass	-	-
2. Progress Testing	ISE II			-	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE II	2	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE II	4	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE II = Fail		Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
Marcelo	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Speaking & Listening Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 1 - Speaking Topic?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2/3 - Conversation?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2: Collaboration?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 3/4 - Ind. Listening?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S2.1AM Quiz Av>	47%					
2. Progress Testing	ISE II			-			-
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE II	2	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE II	4	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE II = Fail		Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
			Pre-Exam	Post Exam		Pre-Exam	Post Exam
		Which exam task is easiest for you and why?	Multi text read. I had little trouble doing it.	Independent Listening. I had no difficulty understanding.	Which exam task is most challenging for you and why?	Extended writing. I'm not good writer	Extended Writing. I'm not confident to writing essay.

Andrea - ISE III: Speaking has challenges too

Andrea	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Reading & Writing Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 1 - Long Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 2 - Multi Text Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 3 - Reading into Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 4 - Extended Writing?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S3.1AM Quiz Av>	53%	Quiz: Band 2 - Pass	Quiz: Band 3 - Pass	Quiz: Band 3 - Pass		
2. Progress Testing	ISE III		-	-	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE III	3	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE III	2	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE III = Fail		Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
Andrea	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Speaking & Listening Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 1 - Speaking Topic?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2/3 - Conversation?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2: Collaboration?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 3/4 - Ind. Listening?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S3.1AM Quiz Av>	53%					
2. Progress Testing	ISE III		-	-	-	-	-
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE III	3	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE III	2	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE III = Fail		Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
			Pre-Exam	Post Exam		Pre-Exam	Post Exam
		Which exam task is easiest for you and why?	Reading task because I can find a lot of information	Speaking. The examiner was friendly	Which exam task is most challenging for you and why?	The most challenging will be writing task because you have to apply almost all your skills there.	Writing. I was nervous.

Douglas - ISE III: Time managing for writing

Douglas	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Reading & Writing Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 1 - Long Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 2 - Multi Text Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 3 - Reading into Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 4 - Extended Writing?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S2.2AM Quiz Av>	81%	Quiz: Band 3 - Pass	Quiz: Band 4 - Pass	Quiz: Band 4 - Pass		
2. Progress Testing	ISE II			Band 3: Good Pass	-	-	-
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE III	4	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE III	4	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE III = Fail		Band 1: Not Pass	Band 4: Excellent Pa	Band 4: Excellent Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
Douglas	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Speaking & Listening Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 1 - Speaking Topic?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2/3 - Conversation?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2: Collaboration?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 3/4 - Ind. Listening?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S2.2AM Quiz Av>	81%					
2. Progress Testing	ISE II			-			-
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE III	4	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE III	4	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE III = Fail		Band 2: Pass	Band 4: Excellent Pa	Band 4: Excellent Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 4: Excellent Pa
			Pre-Exam	Post Exam		Pre-Exam	Post Exam
		Which exam task is easiest for you and why?	Reading. A broad vocabulary and facility for text interpreting.	Reading. Vocabulary range and text interpretation.	Which exam task is most challenging for you and why?	RW Task 4 - Extended Writing. A particular difficulty in organizing my ideas with a time limit.	Writing. Difficulty on time management.

Paula - ISE III: Beaten by the writing challenge

Paula	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Reading & Writing Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 1 - Long Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 2 - Multi Text Reading?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 3 - Reading into Writing?	What do you think your result will be in: RW Task 4 - Extended Writing?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S3.1AM Quiz Av>	72%	Quiz: Band 3 - Pass	Quiz: Band 3 - Pass			
2. Progress Testing	ISE III			-	-	-	-
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE III	2	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE III	2	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 2: Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE III = Fail		Band 1: Not Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 1: Not Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
Paula	Exam Level & Overall Result	How do you feel about the exam now? - 1 Really Confident > 5 Not at all Confident	What do you think your result will be in: Speaking & Listening Overall?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 1 - Speaking Topic?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2/3 - Conversation?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 2: Collaboration?	What do you think your result will be in: SL Task 3/4 - Ind. Listening?
1. Stage & Unit Quiz	S3.1AM Quiz Av>	72%					
2. Progress Testing	ISE III			Band 3: Good Pass			Band 3: Good Pass
3. Pre-Exam Prep	ISE III	2	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 1: Not Pass
4. Post-Exam April	ISE III	2	Band 2: Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass	Band 2: Pass
5. Exam Results	ISE III = Fail		Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass	Band 3: Good Pass
			Pre-Exam	Post Exam		Pre-Exam	Post Exam
		Which exam task is easiest for you and why?	I think it will be the long reading task or the multi text reading one	Speaking because I love to talk	Which exam task is most challenging for you and why?	The speaking and listening part definitely because i get very nervous and I will get stuck	Writing part because it is challenging

The teacher view of what could be going wrong?

Chanese: Students might not plan for factors not connected to the language but can have a negative influence on the day; the time pressure, the fact that they actually need to do all the tasks by hand, the progression of tasks which tend to pose a cognitive load, lack of ideas in the writing tasks), which gives learners the false hope that on the day things will be as manageable as they are during exam practice.

Classroom gives a false sense of security - For example I tend to give students more time to finish Writing Tasks if they ask me. But during the exam they have less time, and there's no possible extension. They may be aware of that despite the fact that they have been told about the exam conditions (countless times).

Gabi: Having learners do writing tasks on Google docs, for instance, does little in preparing them for an exam in which they are being asked to do them handwritten. There's much more to it

The teacher view of what could be going wrong?

Claire: Peer comparison is a factor, where students are compare their standard to their classmates, but which isn't a true reflection of the expected level.

Students tend to presume that their level of English is 'good enough' to pass the exam. After all, they work and live in an English speaking country. But they don't take the time to understand the task and do not have good time management.

They keep thinking that success is *only* determined by proficiency. It's a deep-seated belief among students. They don't pay enough attention to instructions (e.g: nb of words, genre, topic coverage, communicative aim). Going over the rating scales with them is necessary too. At least until they understand that their level of English is not THE only factor that determines whether they pass or not.



Any Questions?

@FLireland
@lahiffp

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Webinar: Discover Trinity

Thursday 1 July, 2021

Find out more: learn.trinitycollege.co.uk/discover



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