

WRITING COMMUNICATIVE EXAMS

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Handout available at: www.eftaks.net
Examples of Balance

- Accuracy or fluency?
- Production or recognition?

I. It is 48 B. C. Julius Caesar is in Alexandria, Egypt. He's at a hotel. Complete the conversation. (5 pts, 1 ea)

<i>Clerk:</i> Good afternoon.	<i>Clerk:</i> (3) _____?
<i>Caesar:</i> Good afternoon. I'd like a room.	<i>Caesar:</i> Julius.
<i>Clerk:</i> Fine. (1) _____?	<i>Clerk:</i> (4) _____?
<i>Caesar:</i> Caesar.	<i>Caesar:</i> Rome.
<i>Clerk:</i> (2) _____?	<i>Clerk:</i> (5) _____?
<i>Caesar:</i> C-A-E-S-A-R.	<i>Caesar:</i> No, I'm not on vacation. It's a business trip

III. They continue talking. Circle the correct sentences to complete the conversation. (3 pts, .5 each)

Caesar: Where do you work?

Cleopatra: I work for the people of Egypt at the palace.

Caesar: (1) (a) Really? (b) OK. (c) No, you don't.

(2) (a) Where do you work? (b) What do you do there? (c) Where do you do?

Cleopatra: I help people and I look beautiful.

Caesar: (3) (a) How do you work? (b) What do you live? (c) How do you spend your day?

Cleopatra: I work in the palace.

Caesar: (4) (a) What do you like? (b) How do you like your job? (c) How do you do?

Cleopatra: (5) (a) I love it. (b) I don't do it. (c) It's at work.

(6) (a) It's boring. (b) It's great. (c) It's late.

IV. Now Cleo has some questions for Julius. Write the correct present tense forms of the verbs in parentheses. NEG. = Negative. (4 points, .5 each)

Cleopatra: Tell me about you. What (1) _____ you _____ (do)?

Caesar: I (2) _____ (work) for Rome. I (3) _____ (represent) the Senate and I work with Mark Anthony. He (4) _____ (do) the difficult work.

He (5) _____ (like) politics. I (6)

_____ (like-NEG.) politics.

I'm a general. I love to conquer nations. Mark Anthony

(7) _____ (go-NEG.) to war

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V. Julius wants to buy some things. Cleo goes to the hotel store with him. Complete the conversation. Use the words in parentheses. NEG. = Negative. (7 points, 1 each)

Caesar: Look (1) _____ (earrings),
Cleo.

Cleopatra: (2) _____ (which)? Those red ones?
They're very big.

Caesar: No, (3) _____ (yellow).

Cleopatra: Oh, I don't like them. (4) _____
(yellow/good color-NEG.) for me.

Caesar: I (5) _____ (prefer/green)

Cleopatra: Excuse me, Miss. (6) _____
(how much)?

Salesperson: They're 50 pieces of gold.

VII. Write the correct words from the box. You can repeat words. (6 points, .5 each)

<i>which</i>	<i>nicer</i>	<i>how much</i>	<i>good</i>	<i>those</i>	<i>ones</i>	<i>one</i>	<i>nice</i>	<i>what kind</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>th</i>
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Caesar: (1) _____ bracelet over there is nice.

Cleopatra: (2) _____ (3) _____?

Caesar: The bracelet on that table.

Cleopatra: I prefer the (4) _____ on (5) _____ table here. It's more attractive. Hmm. There's no price tag.

Caesar: Excuse me, (6) _____ is (7) _____ bracelet here?

Clerk: It's 100 pieces of gold. (8) _____ big ones over there are cheaper.

Caesar: (9) _____ of metal is it?

Clerk: It's silver.

Cleopatra: Silver is (10) _____ than gold.

Caesar: I don't know. I like gold (11) _____. Give me a gold (12) _____.

VIII. Julius invites Cleo dancing. Put this conversation in order. Write the sentences. (5 pts, 1 ea)

<i>Yes, I like dancing a lot.</i>	<i>What time should we leave?</i>
<i>Thanks, I'd love to.</i>	<i>Do you like to dance, Cleo?</i>
<i>Would you like to go to a disco with me tonight.</i>	

Caesar: (1) _____?

Cleopatra: (2) _____.

Caesar: (3) _____?

Cleopatra: (4) _____.

(5) _____?

Caesar: I'll pick you up at 10.

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Written Communicative Exams

- Reflect course content
- Test both accuracy and fluency
- Include both production and recognition sections
- Test both functions and grammar (as well as reading, writing, listening)

Fluency

- The ability to produce language with ease
- Have a good but not necessarily perfect command of vocabulary and grammar
- Communicate ideas effectively
- Produce language without causing comprehension difficulties or a breakdown in communication

Accuracy

- Ability to produce grammatically correct sentences
- May not include the ability to write fluently.

Recognition:

- Student chooses the correct answer
- Multiple choice, true-false, choose from a box
- Requires less knowledge and analysis

Production:

- Student has to write sentences or phrases
- Complete the conversation
- Requires a lot of thought

What is a function?

- The communicative purpose of the users of the language
- Usually expressed as gerunds: *introducing, apologizing, asking directions, requesting*
- Are much more communicative and relate to fluency more than accuracy
- If you get the function right, even if you make a grammar mistake, you can be understood.

Functional Sections

- Complete the conversation
- Complete the conversation. Use the words in parentheses.
- Circle the correct answer to complete the conversation.
- Write the conversation in the correct order.
- Write sentences from the box.

Production vs. Recognition:

Grammar and Functions

Recognition

worth fewer points—less work

- *fill in (verb, adjective form)*
- *write words from the box*
- *multiple choice*

Production

worth more points—more work

- *fill in (subject / verb)*
- *ordering (words or conversations)*
- *ordering (plus one)*
- *cued sentences*
- *complete the conversation*

Correcting

Grammar, Reading, Vocabulary, Listening

- *In general these sections are all right or all wrong.*
- *We rarely give partial credit.*
- *These sections test accuracy.*

Communicative sections

- *You can give partial credit*
- *These sections test fluency.*
- *Ask yourself if the S's answer communicates what the S wants to say.*

Examples of partial credit

Correct answer: What's your name?

Student writes: What you name?

Correct answer: If you invited me, I'd go.

Student writes: If you invite me, I go.

Correct answer: I went to the movies yesterday.

Student writes: I go to the movies yesterday. / I go to the movies.

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(LICENCIATURA EXAM, COURSE 1, MIDTERM EXAM. TEXT: ATLAS 2: ACTUAL STUDENT RESPONSES)

The student sees this:

IV. The clerk knows Cleopatra. Caesar asks the clerk about Cleo. Complete the conversation. Use the words in parentheses. (4 points, .5 each)

Clerk: Yes, I know her.
 Julius: (1) _____ (work) ?
 Clerk: (2) _____ (palace downtown).
 Julius: (3) _____ (do) ?
 Clerk: (4) _____ (help people).
 Julius: (5) _____ (close friend)?
 Clerk: Yes, (6) _____ (funny).
 Julius: (7) _____ (sports)?
 Clerk: Yes, (8) _____ (tennis).

Answer key. Teachers use as a guide. Not the only answers possible.

IV. Functions. (8 points, 1 each)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Where does she work? | 5. Does she have a close friend? |
| 2. (She works) at the palace downtown. | 6. she's funny |
| 3. What does she do? | 7. Does she like sports? |
| 4. She helps people | 8. she likes/plays tennis. |

Student 1:

Clerk: Yes, I know her.
 Julius: (1) Where does she works?
 Clerk: (2) She does work palace downtown.
 Julius: (3) Where do she does?
 Clerk: (4) She does help people.
 Julius: (5) Where does she close friend?
 Clerk: Yes, (6) she does funny.
 Julius: (7) Where does she lift sports?
 Clerk: Yes, (8) she does play tennis.

Student 3:

Clerk: Yes, I know her.
 Julius: (1) Where does she work?
 Clerk: (2) She work at the palace downtown.
 Julius: (3) What does she does?
 Clerk: (4) She helps people.
 Julius: (5) Does she have a close friend?
 Clerk: Yes, (6) she does. She's very funny..
 Julius: (7) Does she like sports?
 Clerk: Yes, (8) she play tennis.

Student 2:

Clerk: Yes, I know her.
 Julius: (1) You do?
 Clerk: (2) I'm work in the palace downtown.
 Julius: (3) What do you do?
 Clerk: (4) I'm help help people.
 Julius: (5) How you close friend?
 Clerk: Yes, (6) they are funny
 Julius: (7) ar you play sports?
 Clerk: Yes, (8) I'm play.

Student 4: Points:

Clerk: Yes, I know her.
 Julius: (1) What does she works?
 Clerk: (2) She works in palace downtown.
 Julius: (3) What does she do?
 Clerk: (4) Work with help people.
 Julius: (5) Are you close friend?
 Clerk: Yes, (6) she is funny.
 Julius: (7) Are you practice sports?
 Clerk: Yes, (8) she plays tennis.