

## Handout

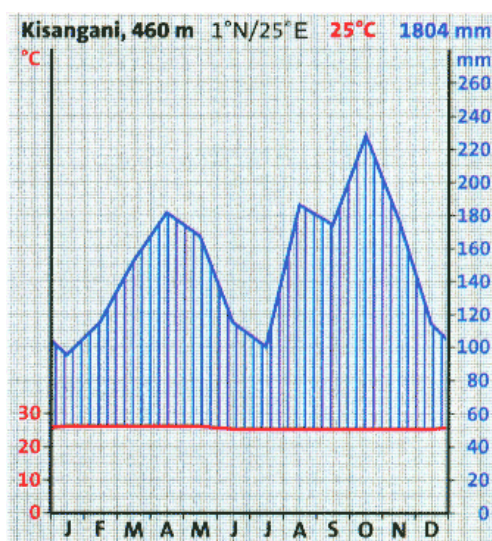
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### Assessing CLIL learners' subject-specific discourse competence using geography tasks: Developing rating scales

#### A) Example of task and response

##### Task

What type of climate does Kisangani have? Describe Kisangani's climate in detail with the help of the chart.



##### Written response 2009 (1)

Kisangani has a very hot climate and the climate is also humid. The climate is warm because Kisangani is in a savanna. The climate doesn't change in the months, it has always the same temperatures. The temperature is always 25°C. The precipitation is in July very low and in October very high.

## B) Overview of and extracts from scales

Type of scale	Aspect assessed	Levels of performance	Criteria and categories
6 holistic scales (specified per task)	Degree of task fulfilment	7 (scores range from 6 to 0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctness and comprehensiveness of the content.</li> <li>• Appropriate textual realisation of meaning in the required mini-genre and in a subject-specific register.</li> </ul>
7 analytic scales (applied to responses to all six task)	Correctness and appropriateness of the textual realisation of meaning	5 (scores range from 4 to 0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective ordering of sentence parts, sentences and paragraphs.</li> <li>• Effective organisation of meaning into sentence parts, sentences and paragraphs.</li> <li>• Effective linking of sentence parts, sentences and paragraphs.</li> <li>• Sufficient and correct use of subject-specific terms and expressions.</li> <li>• Sufficient use of formal language and clear, succinct formulations.</li> <li>• Sufficient use of general academic vocabulary and lexico-grammatical resources involved in indicating logic relations.</li> <li>• Correctness of grammar, vocabulary and punctuation.</li> </ul>
6 collections of dichotomous and three-point scales (specified per task)	Correctness and completeness of the content (meaning constructed)	<p>Scales break down meaning to be constructed.</p> <p>Give a rater a yes/no option or a yes/partly/no option in terms of whether different thematic items and semantic relations are realised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctness and completeness of the content.</li> </ul>

## Level descriptor from holistic scale used to assess degree of task fulfilment –

### Task 1

#### Level 6

There is a well structured, succinct, correct and *comprehensive* descriptive explanation that precedes or follows the correct identification of the climate as a *tropical* climate, or a conclusion that the climate is tropical.

- The descriptive explanation includes correct information about temperature and precipitation.
  - In terms of temperature, it is correctly stated that the average temperature is 25°C (it is not simply stated that it is warm, but the correct temperature is given in degrees Celsius) and it is pointed out that the temperature is constant throughout the year.
  - In terms of precipitation, it is correctly and precisely indicated that the precipitation is constantly high: namely that it is hardly less than 100mm per month. It is stated, however, that the monthly amount of precipitation varies over the year and that there are two peaks in the precipitation over the year. It is further explained that the precipitation is higher than the evaporation and that it is therefore humid.
- *Only relevant content* is included.
- The text is *consistently* logically structured and effectively linked.
- A subject-specific register is *consistently* used.

## Analytic scale used to assess the sufficient and correct use of subject-specific terms and expressions

### Scale 2.1: Sufficient and correct use of subject-specific terms and expressions

Descriptor	Score
Subject-specific terms and expressions are consistently used where references are made to subject-related phenomena and are continuously used correctly.	4
Subject-specific terms and expressions are used to a large extent where references are made to subject-related phenomena and are used correctly in most instances. Only a limited number of subject-specific terms are lacking and/or a limited number of subject-specific terms and expressions included are not used correctly. Incorrect terms might be used and/or collocations and spelling might be incorrect.	3
Subject-specific terms and expressions are used, but not to a sufficient extent and/or frequent errors are made in the application of subject-specific terms. About half of the references to subject-related phenomena are either made using terms and expressions that are not part of the subject-specific register and/or show errors in terms of the terms used, collocations and spelling.	2
The use of subject-specific terms and expressions is limited and/or only a limited number of terms and expressions included are used correctly. In most instances, there are errors in terms of the terms used, collocations and spelling.	1
No subject-specific terms or expressions are used.	0

**Extract from set of scales used to rate the completeness and correctness of content – Task 1**

CODE	ASPECTS TO BE RATED	SCORES		
A	<b>Meaning to be constructed</b>			
1	<b>MAIN ASPECTS to be included: Reference to the TYPE OF CLIMATE and inclusion of BOTH CLIMATIC ASPECTS: temperature and precipitation</b>			
1.1	Is there an identification of a particular <i>type of climate</i> ?	Yes	0,5	No 0
1.2	Is there a description of <i>temperature</i> ?	Yes	0,5	No 0
1.1	Is there a description of <i>precipitation / rainfall / amount of rain</i> ?	Yes	0,5	No 0
2	<b>CORRECT IDENTIFICATION of the type of climate</b>			
2.1	Is Kisangani's climate identified as a <i>tropical climate</i> ?	Yes	0,5	No 0
2.2	Is Kisangani's climate identified as a <i>type of tropical climate</i> ? <sup>1</sup>	Yes	0,5 <sup>2</sup>	No 0
2.3	Is it indicated that it is humid?	Yes 1	Partly <sup>3</sup> 0,5	No 0
2.4	Is it indicated that the precipitation is higher than the evaporation?	Yes	1	No 0

<sup>1</sup> For instance if the term "tropical climate" is not directly used, but there is a reference to a climate that is similar to the one in the tropical rain forest.

<sup>2</sup> Award this mark if the term *tropical climate* is used. In other words, if a mark was awarded at 1.1, a mark should automatically be awarded for 1.2.

<sup>3</sup> Award 0,5 if the climate is described as hot and damp/wet.