

Dictionary of Testing

Summer School Dobogókô, 2005

A

assessor

noun

a person who is trained to be nasty enough to notice every single slip of the tongue and to do so repeatedly, consistently and in a reliable way

B

back-channel signals

noun

1 the way men express their liking of girls
e.g. 'Yes', 'Mmmmm...' etc. especially behind their backs

2 the politically correct version:
the way members of one sex express their liking of members of the other / the same sex
e.g. 'Yes', 'Mmmmm...' etc. especially behind their backs

band

noun

a group of seven, playing second fiddle in assessing writing scripts

booklet

noun

21st century torturing device for people who need a piece of paper about having been tortured

C

CEF

acronym

1 Community of Exam Fanatics

2 Causes of Examiners' Frustration

D

dilemma

interlocutors' ~

noun

To interrupt or not interrupt: that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The inappropriate remarks of desperate candidates,

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by interrupting end them?

I

interlocutor

noun

a person trained to resist the temptation to act in the way any other normal human being would do

~ frame

noun

a cage-like structure some people volunteer to be in with the sole purpose of torturing examinees and/or themselves

inter-rater reliability

noun

(non existent) the ultimate aim of every idealistic assessor trainer

intra-rater reliability

noun

(non existent) as Heracleitos, the Greek philosopher said: 'One cannot step twice into the same river'

R

rater

noun

1 a person poky enough to read hundreds of letters written to somebody else

2 someone whose hobby is to read activities written for school magazines, regardless of their age

S

scales

noun

instrument(s) for weighing e.g. examinees

analytic ~

noun

1 scales for analysing chemical substances in laboratories

2 invented solely for the activity game as a miming task

holistic ~

noun

measuring device used by doctors practising holistic medicine especially on examinees

impression ~

noun

a device used by famous examiners like Monet or Manet for measuring candidates' ability to see what is in their painting

rating ~

verb

categorising the thin plates of hard material that cover the skin of many fish

straitjacket

noun

a uniform for interlocutors

T

talk

small ~

noun

a taboo word for interlocutors

W

Washback

noun

an activity every husband asks his wife to do on a regular basis