Item exposure control in FFL large scale assessment

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Test de connaissance du français

TCF tout public
This TCF test is intended for anybody who wants to have their French language skills assessed for personal or professional reasons.

the TCF is systematically required by higher education institutes for any student that wishes to apply for final year undergraduate study or postgraduate study (Final year of Degree course, first and second year of Masters programmes and PhD students) at any higher education institute and the French Grandes Ecoles.

TCF DAP
This TCF is compulsory for future students as part of the DAP (Demande d’Admission Préalable, or preliminary admission application) for admission on first and second year university degree courses and for Architecture students.

TCF Québec
This test can only be taken by people who submit an immigration application at a Quebec immigration office or at Délégations Générales du Québec, Quebec government offices abroad.

TCF ANF
This test can only be taken by people who submit an application to get the french nationality.
FFL large scale assessment

110 000 candidates in a year
600 centres
170 countries

This poster aims at presenting a “work in progress” to
1) improve exposure control of items used in the TCF and
2) optimize the use of items

This work targets the definition of a set of indicators.

These indicators should be easy to obtain and to interpret for completing the status of items already banked.

These indicators should give informations on spatial and temporal dimensions of item exposition.
Item production increase (1st solution)

- Item writing
- Item validation by FFL experts
- Psychometrical validation
- Final validation
- Combined commission
- Banking
- Item Bank
- Pre- Post- or Seeding-test
- Test
Seeding-test (2nd solution)

Compréhension orale

Tous niveaux

29 items

Structures de la langue

Tous niveaux

18 items

Compréhension écrite

Tous niveaux

29 items

76 items / 85 minutes

Compréhension orale

Tous niveaux

29 items

Structures de la langue

Tous niveaux

18 items

Compréhension écrite

Tous niveaux

29 items

76 items / 85 minutes

Compréhension orale

Tous niveaux

34 items

Structures de la langue

Tous niveaux

23 items

Compréhension écrite

Tous niveaux

34 items

91 items / 95 minutes
Specific calendar for delivery (3rd solution)

Example with the TCF ANF

• → 23 weeks
• Maximal use of a given test version = 2 weeks in a year

Year N-1
• 20 versions

Year N
• 20 versions

Year N+1
• New versions (50%)
• Versions year N (25%)
• Versions year N-1 (25%)

Year N+2
• New versions (50%)
• Versions year N (25%)
• Versions year N+1 (25%)
Indicators (4th solution)

- \( F_1 = \frac{Nb_{\text{Cand}}}{\text{Age}_{\text{jours}}_{\text{Items}}} \)  \( \text{Lim}_{\text{max}}(F_1) \text{ si } \text{Age}_{\text{jours}}_{\text{Items}} \rightarrow 42 = 143 \)

- \( F_2 = \frac{Nb_{\text{Cand}}}{Nb_{\text{Pays}}} \)  \( \text{Lim}_{\text{max}}(F_2) \text{ si } Nb_{\text{Pays}} \rightarrow 179 = 34 \)

- \( F_3 = \frac{Nb_{\text{Cand}}}{Nb_{\text{Sess}}} \)  \( \text{Lim}_{\text{max}}(F_3) \text{ si } Nb_{\text{Sess}} \rightarrow 900 = 7 \)

- \( F_4 = \frac{Nb_{\text{Cand}}}{Nb_{\text{Cent}}} \)  \( \text{Lim}_{\text{max}}(F_4) \text{ si } Nb_{\text{Cent}} \rightarrow 700 = 9 \)

- \( Nb_{\text{Pays}} \in [0 ; 179] \)  \( Nb_{\text{Sess}} \in [0 ; 900] \)

- \( Nb_{\text{Cent}} \in [0 ; 700] \)  \( \text{Age}_{\text{jours}}_{\text{Items}} \in [0 ; 42] \)
Next step

- Further indicators
- Indicators combination
- From indicators about item to indicators about versions
- Any relevant proposal will be listened with attention