

An aerial photograph of a coastal town in the Azores. A paved runway or taxiway runs vertically through the center of the image, flanked by green grass. To the right, a town with red-tiled roofs is visible. In the foreground, there are steep, rocky cliffs overlooking the ocean. The sky is overcast.

Washback of Testing on Teaching

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Terms

- Washback effects of a test on teaching and learning
“what is assessed becomes what is valued, which becomes what is taught” (McEwen, 1995)
- Impact effect that a test may have on test takers and society

Washback

An aerial photograph of a coastal town with a road leading to the sea. The town is built on a hillside, and the road is a straight, paved path that runs parallel to the coastline. The sea is visible in the foreground, and the sky is overcast.

Negative

- constrains the teaching process
- puts stress on teachers and learners

Positive

- encourages good teaching practice
- may lead to syllabus change
- development of new teaching materials

Impact

- effect on the career or life chances of individual test takers
- publishing of test preparation materials
- organisation of test preparation courses

Pilot Job Openings

• FIJI Airways

• Captain B737NG

• Qualifications

- Current ICAO/FAA/EASA ATPL with current B737NG
- Total Time in excess of 5000 hours
- Total Command Time on B737NG in excess of 1000 hours
- Have flown in command on the B737NG within the last 6 months
- Not failed any assessment or required to undergo remedial training
- **ICAO English Language Proficiency Level 5**
- Current Class 1 medical
- Under 63 years of age

easyJet

Captain: **PORTUGAL** _ Airbus 320/30/40 Rated (05315)

Minimum requirements:

- Currently operating as a commercial passenger Captain on A320, A330 or A340 family aircraft
- Minimum 4,000 total flying hours
- Minimum 1,000 total PIC hours on the A320 or A330/A340
- Low-visibility Cat III-qualified
- UK EASA Licence (or must be converted to UK EASA prior to starting employment)
- UK EASA Class 1 unrestricted medical (If medical records are not held by the UK CAA)
- **Minimum ICAO Level 5 English with requirement to achieve Level 6 within six months of employment**

Pilot Job Openings



- **SunExpress**

- Turkish First Officers B737 NG
- Candidates should have Turkish Passport or Blue Card
- Min age 21 years
- Min CPL (A)/IR (A) license and IR on multi-engine aircraft
- MCC course
- ATPL (A) theoretical knowledge exams passed
- JAR FCL 3 class 1 medical
- University Degree
- English language proficiency for F/O candidates;
 - **TOEIC (Reading 385, Listening 400, Speaking 160, Writing 150)**
 - **TOEFL IBT (Reading 22, Listening 21, Speaking 23, Writing 21)**

English language tests in aviation

- With high-stakes tests, testing can come first.
- In aviation context, language proficiency requirements triggered the development of proficiency tests, which brought about the need for training.
- Proficiency testing in aviation is high stakes.
- AE tests influence lives and careers of pilots and controllers.

Test driven instruction

- Teachers want students to perform well on the test.
- An overlap between the content and format of the test and the content and format of the curriculum should be encouraged (Cheng and Curtis, 2004).
- Co-operation between testers and teachers should be built.

Case 1: EL courses for ATCOs

- Results of the the first round of testing were **bad!**
- Despite recommendations, no EL courses were organised between the first and third round of testing.
- 2014 witnessed new EL test failures.
- The training organization reacted and organized refresher courses.
- The course content and methodology reflect the test's demands.

Before and after the course

Test results in 2009

- L3 26
- L4 65
- L5 20

Current results

- L3 0
- L4 54
- L5 50
- L6 6

Case 2: Pilot grades


- need for a higher grade
- analysis of the achievement on the test
- familiarization of the candidate with the proficiency at a higher level
- instructions for self-study
- possible improvement of the grade during test retake

An aerial photograph of a coastal town and an airport runway. The runway is a long, straight asphalt strip with white markings, extending from the foreground towards the background. To the right of the runway, there is a dense residential area with many houses and buildings. The town is built on a hillside that slopes down towards the sea. The sea is visible in the distance, and the sky is overcast. The overall scene is a mix of natural and built environments.

To sum up,

teachers should

- be aware of the effects tests can exert on teaching,
- foster beneficial washback,
- include into their training program content and tasks of the English language test in use,
- establish and maintain contact with testers.

An aerial photograph of an airport runway built on a cliffside. The runway is a long, straight strip of asphalt with white markings, extending from a green field towards the ocean. To the left, a hillside with green fields and some buildings rises. To the right, a town with red-roofed buildings is visible. In the foreground, a steep, rocky cliffside meets the ocean, with waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is overcast and grey.

Thank you for your attention!