



GUIDELINES FOR VALIDATION

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Introduction to the exam

IMETS stands for **International Medical English Testing System** and is a computer-based examination system intended to examine the knowledge of English for Medical Purposes (EMP) among health care professionals world-wide.

This course is based on the Manual for Test Developers and item writers, which is also meant to serve as a standardization document. It is intended to serve as a common reference framework in the process of test development as well as a set of written rules that will increase both the validity and reliability of this computer-based EMP test.

The IMETS examination system is directly linked to the **CEFR (The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)**.

The language competence required at different levels of language proficiency for the medical domain is based on the CEFR descriptors. In addition, IMETS specifications regulating the details of the examination structure are developed in accordance with CEFR guidelines.

The target groups for IMETS examination are doctors, biomedical researchers, pharmacists, dentists, nurses and other allied health care providers as well as students of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy and other healthcare and life sciences.

The IMETS certificate is an international certificate that contains:

- (1) A certificate stating that the recipient has satisfactorily completed the IMETS Test Developers' Basic Training course.
- (2) A certificate stating that the recipient has satisfactorily completed the IMETS Test Developers' Further Training course.

In both cases, the certificate will be signed and dated by a principal of the institution. The **test developers** for the IMETS testing system are to be (1) EMP instructors and testers having at least three years of experience in the field or (2) native speakers of English involved in the health care profession.

Test developers for the IMETS testing system are required to take part in the IMETS Test Developers Basic Training (at least once a year) which is composed of the following four parts:

1. familiarization with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and its Companion Volume
2. familiarization with the Descriptors developed for the IMETS testing system
3. familiarization with the Test Specifications developed for the IMETS testing system (TS)

Introduction to the course

Our course targets future certified IMETS exam validators who will work to clearly defined standards and will undergo extensive and detailed quality control procedures. It has been designed to complement the Manual for IMETS test developers and item writers with the objective to familiarize the applicants with IMETS exam validation criteria as well as provide some practical solutions and a bunch of useful advice.

Accordingly, our course will cover the following:

1. Overview of test validation steps
2. Internal validation
 - Reading Paper validation (B1, B2, C1)
 - Listening Paper validation (B1, B2, C1)
 - Speaking Paper Validation (B1, B2, C1)
 - Writing Paper validation (B1, B2, C1)
3. Social validation
4. Native speaker validation

5. Tandem validation (B1, B2, C1)
 - Reading Paper validation (B1, B2, C1)
 - Listening Paper validation (B1, B2, C1)
 - Speaking Paper Validation (B1, B2, C1)
 - Writing Paper validation (B1, B2, C1)
6. Implementation
7. Technical validation
8. Pre-testing (B1, B2, C1)
9. External expert validation

We hope that completing our *Online Training for IMETS exam validation* will help applicants demonstrate their knowledge of applying exam validation criteria accurately and reliably.

Overview of test validation steps

1. Internal validation

(Please check the instructions for each paper type)

2. Social validation

Social validation is managed by the test developer team: a physician validates the test paper concentrating especially on the content and authenticity regarding the Bio-Medical Discourse Community.

3. Native speaker validation

Native speaker validation is managed by the test developer team: a linguistically skilled English/American native speaker validates the tests regarding language appropriateness.

4. Tandem validation

Tandem validation (B1, B2, C1): the test developer team sends the test papers to the tandem partner, who validates the test papers following the instructions presented under section 2 on 'internal validation'.

5. Implementation

Implementation is managed by the test developer team in the appropriate scene in Coursegarden.

6. Technical validation

Technical validation: the Italian Partner validates the tests implemented on-line regarding technical issues and layout in Coursegarden

7. Pre-testing

When all the validation stages have been completed successfully the exam papers should be pre-tested.

8. External expert validation

External expert validation: the Spanish Partner validates the finalised tests implemented on-line in Coursegarden from the perspective of the end-users.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In case the validation is positive, the test paper goes to the next validation step; when it is negative, it goes back to validation step 1