Programme
ALTE Introductory Course in Language Testing
9th – 13th March 2020
Cambridge Assessment English
The Triangle building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA

Course presenters:
Professor Anthony Green, University of Bedfordshire
Ms Jane Lloyd, ALTE Validation Unit

Participants will learn:
- Essential principles that inform the decisions that organisations responsible for language testing systems have to make about the design, content and implementation of tests;
- Ways of thinking about the skills that language learners need for communicative success;
- Ways to link tasks involved in real-world language use to tasks found on tests;
- How to use frameworks for test development, including the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

The course will provide extensive opportunities for hands-on practice, including in test design, item writing, scoring and quality assurance processes.

Day 1 (Monday 9th March)		Presenter
8.30-9.00	Arrival and registration	
9:00	*The assessment cycle* Steps in designing and development of an assessment system	Prof. Green
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Quality control and the assessment cycle* Quality frameworks and processes: ALTE as an example	Ms. Lloyd
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	*The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* An overview and its role in assessment systems	Prof. Green
15:00	Coffee	
15:30	*Task design and the CEFR* Judging and confirming the level of assessment tasks	Ms. Lloyd
17:00	Finish	

Day 2 (Tuesday 10th March)		Presenter
9:00	*Assessing language knowledge* Grammar and vocabulary Why test formal knowledge implicitly or explicitly? Issues of task design	Ms Lloyd
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Assessing reading* Why, what and how?	Prof. Green
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	*Assessing reading: designing tasks* Sourcing material, targeting reading skills, writing questions	Ms. Lloyd
15:00	Coffee	
15:30	*Assessing reading* Standardising test material, specifications, quality control, scoring	Prof. Green
17:00	Finish	

Day 3 (Wednesday 11th March)		**Presenter**
9:00	*Writing and speaking* Why, what and how?	Prof. Green
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Scoring writing and speaking skills* User and rater oriented scales Holistic and Analytic scales	Ms. Lloyd
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	*Task design for productive skills* Matching needs and purposes Controlling task difficulty	Prof. Green
15:00	Coffee	
15:30	*Scoring productive skills* The role of the interlocutor Rater effects and rater training	Ms. Lloyd
17:00	Finish	

Day 4 (Thursday 12th March)		**Presenter**
9:00	*Basic statistics for language assessment* Test scores and classical item analysis	Prof. Green
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Further statistics for language assessment* Statistics for small and large scale tests Malpractice	Ms. Lloyd
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	*Four skills?* Reception, production, interaction and mediation Integration vs. discrete point testing	Ms. Lloyd
15:00	Coffee	
15:30	*Assessing listening* Why, what and how?	Ms. Lloyd
17:00	Finish	

Day 5 (Friday 13th March)		**Presenter**
9:00	*Listening: task design*	Prof.
	Finding and adapting recordings, producing questions	Green
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Standard setting*	Prof.
	How do we decide who should pass the test?	Green
12:45	Finish and depart	