

# London News

## **Issue 1: March 2007**

Welcome to the first edition of London News - the electronic newsletter from Pearson Language Assessments designed to keep Test Centres aware of all the latest developments relating to the London Tests of English and the London Tests of English for Children.

In addition to up-to-date information on examination procedure and the tests themselves, we'll be publishing teaching tips to help you get the best out of your candidates and feedback from our network of Test Centres across the world. If you have a story that you would like to be covered, or any comments that you would like to pass on, please e-mail us at [plaenquiries@pearson.com](mailto:plaenquiries@pearson.com) .

## **December Results Update**

All results from the December 2006 session were released as planned on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. Test centres that entered candidates for the LTEfC examinations will be aware that a new Merit grade has been introduced. A response to demand from centres, the Merit grade will be awarded to candidates who achieve a score half-way between a Pass and a Distinction.



Another important innovation in the delivery of results from the December session for both LTE and LTEfC was the introduction of Candidate Performance Reports which provide details of marks for Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking individually - allowing participants to have an accurate measure of their strengths and areas for improvement.

To see an example of the Candidate Performance Report, [please click here](#).

## **New Recruits In The Operations Team**

With the steadily increasing number of registered Test Centres, and examinations being held in over thirty countries, the Operations team for the London Tests of English and London Tests of English for Children has had to expand to meet demands. New staff members have been recruited, aiming to guarantee a first class service in the following areas:



- Ensuring procedures for test development and paper production meet the highest standards
- Improving the accuracy and speed of exam paper delivery, including all supplementary information
- Allowing an easier, more flexible candidate registration process
- Reducing the time for candidates to receive results and certificates

## **Dr John de Jong – New Director Of Test Development**

We are delighted to be able to announce that the renowned Dr John de Jong has been appointed Director of Test Development at Pearson Language Assessments. Before joining Pearson, Dr de Jong was Director of Language Testing Services, a company providing consultancy and training in the field of language education and testing. Prior to founding the business, he spent twenty-two years at the Dutch National Institute of Education Management, rising to the level of Director of the Language Testing Unit. He has published books and articles in English, Dutch and French on educational measurement and language testing.



## **Edexcel Online – The Future Of Exam Administration**

As you may be aware, Edexcel, the body responsible for awarding the London Tests of English, offers a web-based service for centres designed to make the administration of their academic and vocational examinations faster and more convenient. Edexcel Online allows Examinations Officers the chance to instantly enter candidates for tests via the internet – speeding up the administration process and reducing the amount of paperwork involved. Test Centres can also view and download their candidate results as soon as they are published.



We are pleased to be able to confirm that this service will shortly be extended to many London Tests of English centres. Initially, we will offer the most important basic functions – candidate entry, candidate search and the reporting of results. In time, these will be supplemented by state-of-the art results analysis and examination feedback options, giving test centres a set of powerful tools with which to review performance. A pilot test was held during the December 2006 session with positive feedback from participating centres and regional staff. All centres will be kept up to date with developments through London News and our website.

## **New Exam Reports Online**

Centres are now able to download [Examination Reports from the November 2006 London Tests of English for Children](#) session from our website.

This section will be updated when additional reports become available.

## **Teaching Tips**

We have been working with our senior examiners to put together a series of helpful tips to assist teachers who are preparing candidates for the tests. New advice will be published on a monthly basis on our website.



February's suggestions deal with the Listening examination.

[Teaching Tips](#)

## **News From Around Pearson PLC**

Pearson PLC and the University of Oxford have recently announced the establishment of a long-term collaboration to undertake research and international development work in educational assessment. The collaboration will bring together research expertise in the University's highly acclaimed Department of Education with Pearson PLC's international experience in educational assessment.



In an initial ten-year relationship with the University, Pearson PLC will fund and support the establishment of a new international research centre and a Pearson Professor of Educational Assessment at the new centre, to be called the Oxford University Centre of Educational Assessment, as well as two doctoral studentships and administrative support. The new research centre will be formally launched in autumn 2007.

