Programme
ALTE Introductory Course in Language Testing
10th – 14th September 2018
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
Dr Tony Clark, Cambridge Assessment English

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

Day 2 (Tuesday 11th September) **Presenter**

9:00	*Receptive and productive skills*	Dr
	Similarities and differences and implications for assessment	Tony
	Compare and contrast testing styles	Clark
	Integration of skills vs. discrete point testing	
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Assessing reading*	Prof.
	Why, what and how?	Green
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	*Assessing reading: designing tasks*	Ms.
	Sourcing material, targeting reading skills, writing questions	Lloyd
15:00	Coffee	
15:30	*Assessing reading*	Prof.
	Standardising test material, specifications, quality control, scoring	Green
17:00	Finish	

Day 3 (Wednesday 12th September) **Presenter**

9:00	*Writing and speaking*	Prof.
	Why, what and how?	Green
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Scoring writing and speaking skills*	Ms.
	Options for scoring productive skills	Lloyd
	Automated scoring and feedback	
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	*Task design for productive skills*	Prof.
	Matching needs and purposes	Green
	Controlling task difficulty	
15:00	Coffee	
15:30	*Scoring productive skills*	Ms.
	Rating scales and quality control in scoring	Lloyd
17:00	Finish	

Day 4 (Thursday 13th September) **Presenter**

9:00	*Assessing listening*	Ms.
	Why, what and how?	Lloyd
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Listening: task design*	Prof.
	Finding and adapting recordings, producing questions	Green
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	*Basic statistics for language assessment*	Prof.
	Classical item analysis	Green
15:00	Coffee	
15:30	*Further statistics for language assessment*	Ms.
	What can we explore through numbers?	Lloyd
	Rater reliability	
17:00	Finish	

Day 5 (Friday 14th September)		**Presenter**
9:00	*Assessing language knowledge*	Ms.
	Grammar and vocabulary	Lloyd
	Why test formal knowledge implicitly or explicitly?	
	Issues of task design	
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	*Reporting results*	Prof.
	Test scores, descriptors, diagnosis and feedback	Green
	Impact of test use	
12:45	Finish and depart	