



Taking the *Mystery* out of the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT): Why Candidates Are Failing the Test?

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Question


The Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) has proven to be an “obstacle” in getting highly qualified teachers into bilingual classrooms in Texas.

In Levitt, Matthew (2014) How do we solve bilingual teacher shortage in Texas? *Texas Association of School Board*, Vol. 32, number 5.

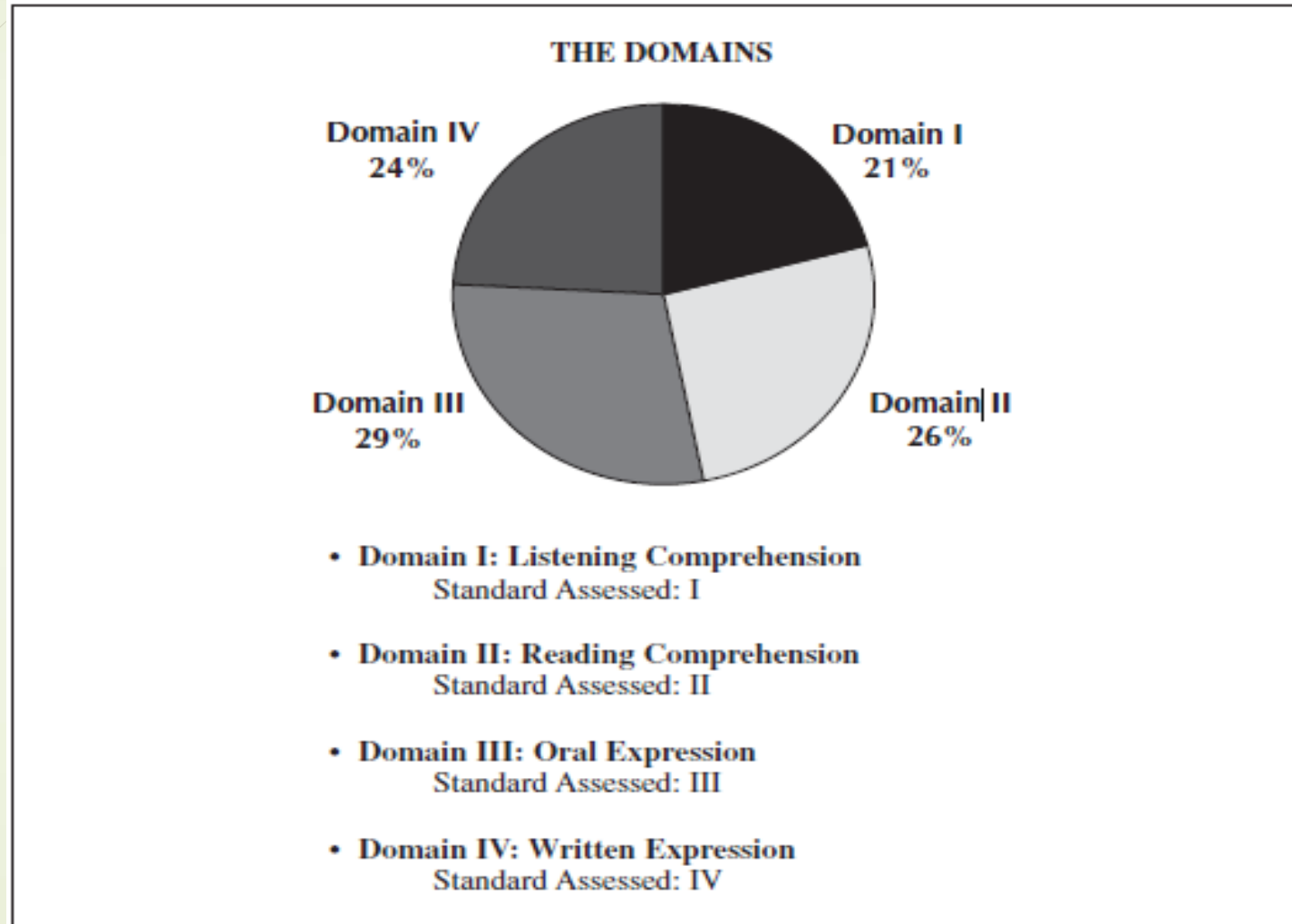


Answer

Teaching preparation programs and candidates need to understand the BTLPT test.

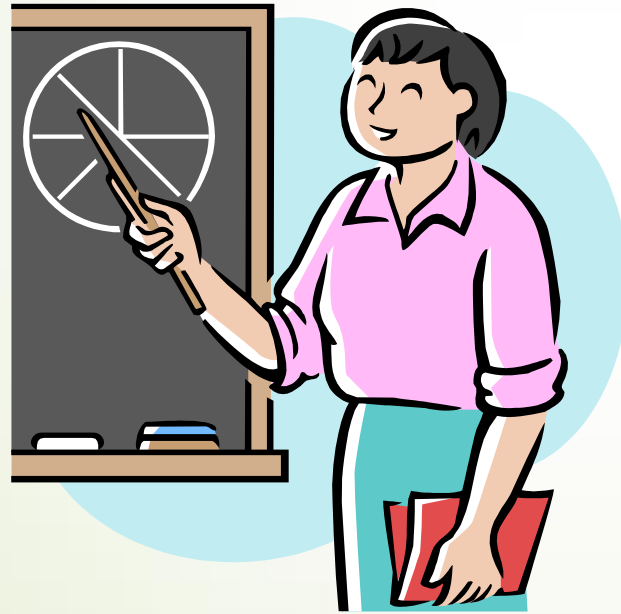


BTLPT Blueprint



The Challenging Areas in the BTLPT

Oral Expression




Writing






What the BTLPT Assesses?

- Content Knowledge
 - Best Practices
 - Language
 - Cultures

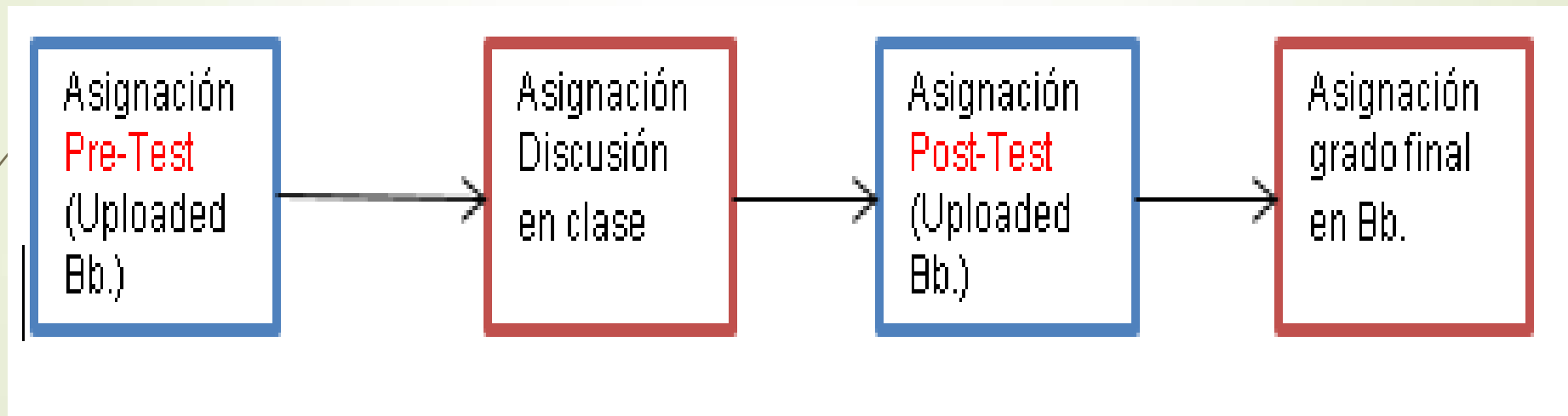


Strategies to prepare students for the BTLPT

- Explicit instruction in each one of the domains
 - Special attention to the production domains
 - Review before taking the BTLPT test (voluntary)
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BED 3307 Academic Proficiencies for the Bilingual Classroom Teacher

Class objectives are the same as the BTLPT competencies



Assignment
Pre-Test

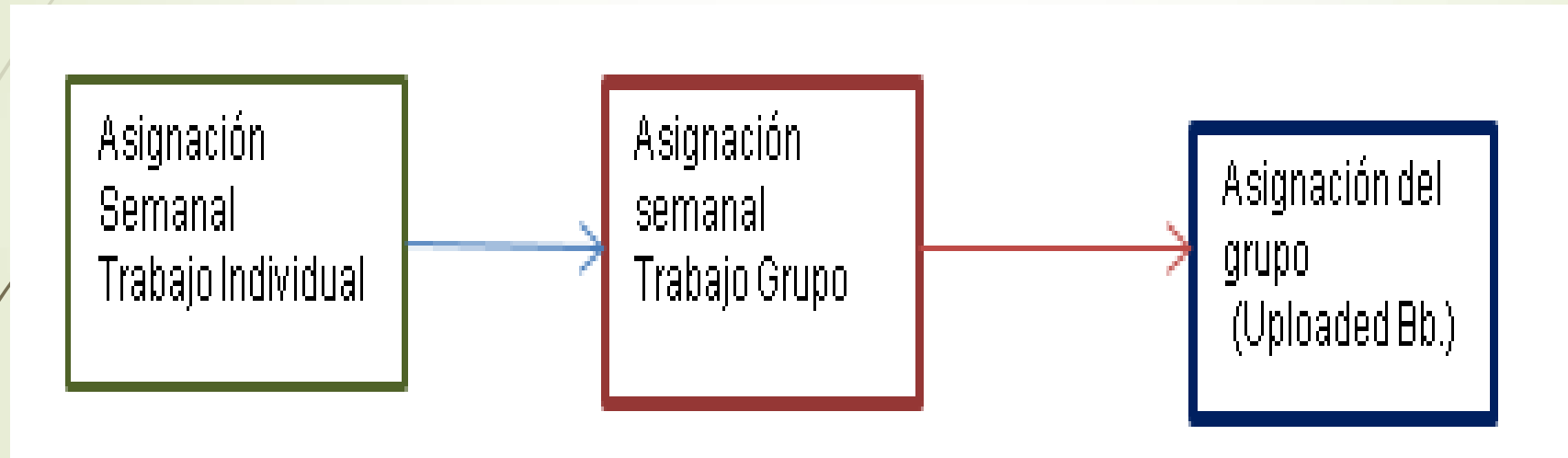
Assignment
Class
Discussion

Assignment
Post-Test

Assignment
final grade

Group Work

Students work in groups of 4. The class is hybrid: F2F & Online



Individual weekly assignment

Group weekly assignment

Upload group assignment to Bb



Oral Expression Q&A

Scenario:

Imagine that you are going to do a presentation to your colleagues about the importance of the development of critical thinking in your students. After the presentation your colleagues will ask questions about the presentation.

Woman: What could I do to develop critical thinking in my students?

Man: What abilities my students need to demonstrate during the development of critical thinking? (p 48, BTLPT 190)

1 minute to prepare & 1 minute to record the answer



Oral Presentation

Scenario:

Imaging that you are teaching in a school in Texas and you have organized an in-service about strategies to teach vocabulary for the other bilingual teachers. As the organizer, you need to explain why this area is so important for the bilingual students. (p.39 BTLPT 190)

45 seconds to review the information

2 minutes to prepare the presentation

2 minutes to record the presentation



Challenges for the Test Taker

- ▶ Time frame to prepare and deliver the presentation
- ▶ Stay within the given topic
- ▶ Answer the question using the English register while speaking Spanish

CULTURE BUMP!

(Dr. Archer 2014)



BTLPT Writing Component Memo and Give an Opinion

Memo sample

Give an opinion sample essay

The student are guided to use the American frame of reference to answer the memo and give an opinion.

BTLPT Results 2012-2013



TE_xES

TE_xMaT

TASC/TASC-ASL

CAT Program and Statewide Summary Data by Test

Administration Year: 9/1/2012 - 8/31/2013

Program: 101512 University of Houston -

Test: 1190 - BTLPT - SPANISH

	Number of Questions*	Average Scaled Scores		Number of Examinees	
		Program	Statewide	Program	Statewide
Total Test	153	247.7	239.2	177	4209
		Average Percent Correct			
		Program	Statewide		
Domain I	32	80 %	79 %		
Domain II	40	83 %	81 %		
Domain III	45	75 %	68 %		
Domain IV	36	65 %	58 %		

Scaled Score Range: 100-300 Minimum Passing Score: 240



Students' Opinions about BTLPT

Passed the 1st time

Student's video

How many times did you take the BTLPT? Which domain was the most challenging and why?

Getting ready to take BTLPT

Student's video

As you are getting ready to take the BTLPT for the 1st time, what is the domain that concerns you the most and why?



More Feedback from Bilingual Students

Hello Dr. Bhattacharjee,

I just wanted to write you to let you know I have finally passed my BTLPT! This was the second time taking the exam and I felt confident going in. Thank you for having the review it was very helpful and thank you so much for all the support! I appreciate you and what you do for your students. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Vanessa

Hello Dr. Bhattacharjee,

I hope you are doing great. I want to share some great news with you.

I passed the BTLPT test.

Attach are my scores. I did great in the writing portion of the exam and on the speaking part as well.

The test is exactly what we practiced in the BED 3307 course. Thank you so much Dr. Bhattacharjee!

You prepared me for this exam and I truly appreciate all your help and guidance.

Have a wonderful summer.

Brenda



Questions, Concerns, or Concerns

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