

Published Date: - 18-10-2023

What is my role in teaching English language and teaching to the test if my learners are preparing for standardized exams?

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses effective methods for preparing students for standardized language tests, with a focus on improving general English skills and vocabulary. The author emphasizes the importance of using materials that are relevant to the students' proficiency level and engaging them through real-world examples. Motivating students is seen as crucial for their success, as it provides mental and emotional energy. Teachers need to have knowledge of the test structure and assessment standards in order to effectively teach learners and develop appropriate lessons and practice exercises. Assessments and feedback are also important, with opportunities for frequent practice and self-assessment encouraged.

ABSTRAKT

Maqolada talabalarni standartlashtirilgan til testlariga tayyorlashning samarali usullari muhokama qilinadi, asosiy e'tibor umumiy ingliz tili ko'nikmalari va so'z boyligini oshirishga qaratilgan. Muallif o'quvchilarning malaka darajasiga mos bo'lgan materiallardan foydalanish va ularni hayotiy misollar orqali jalb qilish muhimligini ta'kidlaydi. Talabalarni rag'batlantirish ularning muvaffaqiyati uchun hal qiluvchi ahamiyatga ega, chunki u aqliy va hissiy energiya beradi. O'quvchilarni samarali o'qitish, tegishli darslar va amaliy mashqlarni ishlab chiqish uchun o'qituvchilar test tuzilmasi va baholash standartlari haqida bilimga ega bo'lishi kerak. Baholash va fikr-mulohazalar

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ham muhimdir, bunda tez-tez mashq qilish va o'z-o'zini baholash imkoniyatlari rag'batlantiriladi.

АБСТРАКТ

В статье рассматриваются эффективные методы подготовки учащихся к стандартизированным языковым тестам с упором на улучшение общих навыков английского языка и словарного запаса. Автор подчеркивает важность использования материалов, соответствующих уровню подготовки учащихся, и привлечения их к участию на реальных примерах. Мотивация студентов считается решающим фактором их успеха, поскольку она обеспечивает умственную и эмоциональную энергию. Учителя должны знать структуру тестов и стандарты оценивания, чтобы эффективно обучать учащихся и разрабатывать соответствующие уроки и практические упражнения. Оценки и обратная связь также важны, при этом поощряются возможности для частой практики и самооценки.

Key words: General English, improve, vocabulary, knowledge, authentic materials, practice, feedback, comprehension, motivation, language proficiency

INTRODUCTION

Teachers play a crucial role in teaching English and preparing students for standardized exams. When it comes to teaching English, teachers facilitate language acquisition by providing meaningful input, creating engaging learning activities, and promoting communication skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In the context of standardized exams, teachers can help students familiarize themselves with the test format, content, and requirements. They can provide targeted instruction on exam-specific strategies, time management techniques, and practice materials. However, it is important for

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teachers to strike a balance between teaching to the test and ensuring a wellrounded English education.

MAIN PART

Preparing for standardized tests is the utmost and exciting process for most language learners and in this case, my main role as a teacher is to use new methods and ways of teaching my students to reach the desired heights, while motivating them to always strive forward and never give up. For example, I recommend and focus on improving their general English level first when preparing for any exams. Improving general English means improving all skills. Definitely, vocabulary is the bottom-line and demanding part of this process. In this case, I recommend them to use the vocabulary in different contexts rather than just memorizing it, and this has always been effective. According to Nation (1999), majority of students, especially those whose primary language is not English, find discourses difficult because they lack adequate vocabulary knowledge. I also concentrate on the material I prepare. Because the materials used for teaching serve as a bridge to attract students and ensure that the teaching process is not boring. According to Ellis & Johnson (1994), materials should be relevant to the students' level of language proficiency and offer tasks and activities that allow them to practice the target skill areas. At the same time, I believe that motivating my students is one of the secrets of success. Because motivation gives them mental and emotional energy and makes it easier for them to reach their goals. Teachers need knowledge of the structure, question types, and assessment standards of IELTS test in order to effectively teach learners. This allows them to develop lessons and practice exercises that improve students' abilities which are needed to pass the test. By adding realworld examples into the class, teachers can engage students. Students can get to know the language in context and improve their comprehension abilities for the test by reading authentic materials, like news stories or listen to podcasts.

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Assessments and feedback should be given too. Teachers may help students by offering them opportunities to practice frequently, by conducting practice tests, and by providing feedback on the results. The students could be asked to assess each other during the class if we want to encourage them to practice selfassessment too. Students can then focus on these areas to see where they need to improve.

CONCLUSION

While it is necessary to cover the specific skills and knowledge assessed in the exam, teachers should also emphasize broader language proficiency and critical thinking abilities. By integrating authentic materials, promoting creativity, and fostering independent learning, teachers can enhance students' overall English competence while aligning their instruction with exam preparation. Ultimately, the goal should be to equip students with both the language skills required by the test and the ability to communicate effectively in real-life situations.

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Published Date: - 18-10-2023

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