

# THE **LT123** TESTING MANIFESTO

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## THE SHOULD AND MUSTS

- Test developers must define what it is they are testing.
- Tests must measure what they are intended to measure.
- Tests must be at the right level.
- Tests should be an appropriate length.
- Test tasks must be clear and unambiguous.
- Test content should be appropriate for the cultures in which it is used.
- Tests should encourage pedagogically useful preparation.
- Tests should always be as positive a learning experience for students as possible.
- Test results should be the same whoever marks them.
- Test results should be comparable with other tests.
- Tests must be carefully checked before use.
- Tests should only be used for the purposes for which they were designed.

## THE DON'T FORGETS

- All testing involves compromise.
- All testing seeks to generalise.
- Test questions may not be understood as the test developers intended.
- Ask yourself what you have learnt about someone if they get your question right?
- Ask yourself what you have learnt about someone if they get your question wrong?
- Tests reveal what someone knows and doesn't know now, not what they have known or will know.
- Consider the balance between testing knowledge and testing what learners can do.
- A good test can be poorly delivered.
- A good test can be poorly deployed.
- A good test construct can be turned into poorly designed tasks.
- Very precisely focused questions may neglect the bigger picture.
- Repetitional exercises may be desirable in learning but they become interdependent (and thus unreliable) in testing.

