

Public consultation online

Consultation on English Language Teaching (ELT) Council Regulation

Feedback from : Louis Grech

OPINION

I would like to submit my thoughts on the SEPTT test for EFL teachers as proposed in the ELT Council Regulations document circulated last month.

SEPTT

First of all, the document circulated to all of us does not specify or clarify what the acronym SEPTT stands for.

What does it stand for?

Secondly, I understand that what is being proposed is a Speaking test, of sorts, for all EFL teachers, including the ones who possess the Cambridge ESOL CELTA and DELTA or comparable qualifications.

I have serious reservations about the introduction of SEPTT for a number of reasons. These include

1. I am unclear about the academic and assessment criteria underpinning such a test? Have these been established? By whom?
 2. Considering that the boundary line between Native Speakers and Non-Native Speakers has long become blurred, and that accents that do not impede or hinder easy, effortless communication are now fully acceptable in the classroom and elsewhere, what is the *raison d'être* behind insisting that EFL teachers' spoken English is tested?
 3. Which accents will be deemed acceptable and which not, and who decides this?
 4. Who will run SEPTT and select Oral examiners?
 5. What academic credentials will Oral examiners possess?
 6. If, for the sake of argument, it is decided that we go ahead with some kind of a teachers' speaking examination, doesn't the ELT industry already have the required 'tool' in the form of the TELT Speaking examination? This is administered by the EFL Monitoring Board and the examiners are all experienced EFL teaching practitioners and/or EFL teacher trainers. So why create another one?
 7. Finally, Cambridge ESOL CELTA and DELTA/ Cert & Dip TESOL qualified teachers are accepted 'with open arms' all over the TEFL world. Why should Malta adopt a 'holier than the Pope' attitude and create this extra hurdle for them?
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