Communicative Test Design

The test Cycle (McNamara, 2000)

-6th Lecture-

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Stages of processing a communicative test

1. The designing stage
2. The developing stage
3. The operating stage
4. The monitoring stage

1. The designing stage

Test constraints

- **Physical resources** (administrators, monitors, raters, material)
- **Financial resources** (money, lab, computers, etc)
- **Test security**
- **Result reporting procedure**

2. The developing stage

Test content

- test construct, tasks, & behaviours

Test method

- response format & authenticity
- rating, & scoring
- test specifications (test length, materials & their sources)

3. The operating stage

- Trial of test (Feedback & revision)

4. The monitoring stage

- Real test taking (administration)
- Proctors/ security
- Scoring and giving results

Two scenarios of authentic test methods

1. Testing listening comprehension in a lecture:

- **Taking notes in a lecture is done differently by students**
- **Reading questions while or before listening (testing listening or memory?)**
- **Repetition of a recording: repetition doesn't happen in real lectures**

2. Speaking test of immigrant teachers

- **Write the lecture**
- **Simulate the lecture with an examiner acting as a student**
- **Give real lecture in a school**