THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL TESTS OF ENGLISH FOR FUTURE BUSINESS EDUCATION

Filimonova Elena
Belarusian State University

Muhammad Ramzan
University of Sargodha, Pakistan

In our everyday life, English is becoming more and more important. After Chinese, it is the second widely spread language. Moreover, English is considered to be the language of business. If you want a job, you just need to know English. (one simple example of how important it is now to know English in the Republic of Belarus)In my life, I had an opportunity to apply for a job as a loader. It is a very hard and low-paid job, in order to apply for such a job, you usually do not even need any education. To cut a long story short, I went to the company and was asked to fill in many documents. To my amazement, one of the requirements was… English!

The abovementioned example illustrates the importance of English in Belarus. And if you want to be successful in your career, in your business, you just have to speak it. Of course, no doubt to deny the significance of teaching English for Business Education.

In this short article, however, the authors will try to show that not only English from its communicative side is significant, but also the International tests.

There is one saying in the Russian language to support the authors’ statement about the significance of the International tests for business education – “Without a document, proving the knowledge – you are nothing…” So, in our modern life it is not easy to prove that you really know English without a necessary certificate. No need to say how important the International tests are in Business Education.

The authors of the article are particularly interested in the development of a program especially oriented for the Institute of Business and Management of Technology, which would focus on the acquaintance of the students of the institute with the International tests.

The program is directed at the students, who continue to learn English which they got in school and on the freshmen courses. The program consists of 50 academic hours and is allocated on one semester with four hours every week in the group of 10-12 people.

The development of the international cooperation in the economic, political, scientific and cultural spheres demands from a modern student, studying business an active knowledge of a foreign language. The knowledge of a foreign language allows to realize such aspects of professional activity, as contemporary acquaintance with the most recent technologies, discoveries and tendencies in modern business as well as the conducting of professional contacts with foreign firms and organizations.

Despite the fact that the world business as well as the business education is experiencing economic crises, the number of student who are eager to pay more in order to study English is increasing. The same with the number of students who want to have a certificate of International Testing Systems.

What’s more, the world is experiencing not only the economic crises, but an information boom. And it is becoming more and more important to become oriented in this situation. Moreover, the certificate that you have passed a test is certainly a plus when applying for a new perspective job, a prestigious foreign university or simply to travel abroad.

What is an international test? According to the Internet, the international test is a check of knowledge conducted by a special method. The results of an international test are recognized in most educational establishments and employer of developed as well as developing countries. That is one more reason why the students of the Institute of Business and Management of Technology should get acquainted with the modern international tests. There is a large variety of tests and you can simply get lost in the number of international tests, that you can take. There are, still, those which our Belarusian students particularly favor – they are TOEFL and IELTS.
The aim of the proposed discipline program is to give practical knowledge of the English language and, in particular, to try (practice) the tests themselves. The author suggests the following international tests to be practiced:

- The American ones: TOEFL, GMAT, GRE, SAT
- The British ones: IELTS, CAE, FCE, CPE

The authors believe that anybody who would continue to develop professionally will certainly benefit from the above mentioned course, especially if the university could fit it into its syllabus.

References:

1. The Heinemann ELT, TOEFL, Practice tests, Heinemann, 2002.