

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	x
<i>Permissions</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiv
<i>Series editors' introduction</i>	xv
PART I	1
1 Putting language assessment in its place	3
Language as evidence about people	3
Assessment and testing	6
2 Purposes for assessment	12
Purposes for assessment	12
Educational assessment in teaching and learning	13
3 The practice of language assessment	18
Building quality systems for language assessment	18
Effective assessment comes at a PRICE	21
The assessment cycle	25
4 The qualities of effective assessment systems	58
Four qualities of useful assessments	58
Practicality	59
Reliability	63
Validity	75
Interpretative arguments: assessing the evidence	83
Assessments as maps	85
Beneficial consequences	85
Summary: the right tool for the job	93

PART II	95
5 Assessing receptive skills	97
Defining reading and listening abilities	98
Specifications	106
Assessing grammar and vocabulary	110
Preparing items for assessing reading and listening	111
Trying out material	115
Scoring performance	117
Score reporting and feedback	118
Standard setting	119
6 Assessing productive and interactive skills	127
Defining productive and interactive language abilities	127
Purposes for assessment	135
Assessment design	135
Speaking tasks	138
Task review	140
Trying out material	142
Scoring performance	142
Score reporting and feedback	158
Standard setting	160
PART III	169
7 Multiplication and division: trends in language assessment	171
Introduction	171
What to test? Constructs	173
The psycholinguistic–socio-linguistic phase	184
Integrative testing	188
The mastery learning movement	192
Two approaches to score interpretation	194
Pragmatic tests and the unitary competence hypothesis	196
The ‘promised land’ of communicative testing	198
Rapprochement: communicative language ability	202
Developments in formative assessment	206
Assessment wars: teacher assessment versus external tests	211
Ethical and critical language assessment	214
Higher, wider, deeper: some emerging trends in language assessment	216
Last words	220
8 Commentary on selected tasks	221

<i>Glossary</i>	227
<i>Further Reading</i>	244
<i>References</i>	249
<i>Index</i>	260