WORKSHEET A

Title The issue of objectivity in assessment

Objective(s) To analyse the issue of objectivity in assessment with regard to rationale, construct, method, actors, and outcomes.

Keywords Subjective/objective assessment – Impression/Guided Judgement – Holistic/Analytic assessment - Series / Category Assessment

Ref to the Guide	Ref to the CEFR
IV. 5, IV. 7	9.3 (9.3.8, 9.3.10, 9.3.11, 9.3.12)
	table 2 and 3 of Ch. 3
	5.2.3.2

Task A († † †)

Step 1



Brainstorm the concept of objectivity in assessment: how would you define it? Why is it a complex matter? Is it possible? Feasible? What solutions to reduce subjectivity?

Step 2

Read par. 9.3.8. and discuss the difference expressed in the CEFR between an objective test and an objectively scored test. How do you interpret it? Discuss the concept of subjectivity in assessment. What do you think of multiple choice and cloze/gap tests? Discuss them in relation to the concepts of objectivity and subjectivity?

Task B († †)

Study tables 2 and 3 of Ch. 3 of the CEFR, and the grids/scales for different communicative activities provided by the CEFR Ch. 4.4 (+ those at Ch.5, especially 5.2.3.2 – fluency and precision) and discuss how they can be used to reduce subjectivity and in what ways they can be beneficial to your practice.



Task C (†) then († † †)

Read par. 9.3 (9.3.8, 9.3.10, 9.3.11, 9.3.12) of the CEFR and the par. of the Guide indicated above.

- Reflect, discuss and relate to personal experiences
- Analyse different assessment types, based on theoretical and practical aspects, focussing on test taker characteristics as well as on expected outcomes. In doing this a SWOT approach may prove useful, i.e. considering potential Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the different assessment types in relation to different aims.
- Share and discuss with colleagues.

