Part 3 – Vocabulary

PLAB Part 3 tests the vocabulary knowledge of examinees.

DIRECTIONS: For each item, choose the word that means the same as the stimululus word in the item. For example, look at the sample item below. The stimulus word is <u>prolonged</u>. Then there are four choices. Find the word among these four which has approximately the same meaning as <u>prolonged</u>.

SAMPLE

1)   prolonged

        [a] prompt

        [b] decreased

        [c] difficult

        [d] extended

Correct Answer:

1.   [d] extended

Part 4 - Language Analysis

PLAB Part 4 is an exercise to determine how well examinees can figure out an artificial language grammar.

DIRECTIONS:

The list below contains words from a foreign language and the English equivalents of these words.

jiban………………boy, a boy

jojo………………..dog, a dog

jiban njojo za…….A boy likes a dog.

By referring to the above list, figure out how the following statement should be expressed in this language. Do this without writing on paper.

A dog likes a boy.

Correct Answer:
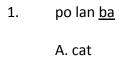
The answer to the problem is:

jojo njiban za

Notice particularly the initial "n" of "njiban"; it is added to the word in the sentence which receives the action.

Part 5 - Sound Discrimination

PLAB Part 5 is a sound discrimination test requiring students to differentiate between pitch, orality, and nasality in spoken words in an unfamiliar language. Examinees are taught 3 words in the new language. Each of the 30 items in Part 5 consists of a sentence (heard on an audio recording) that contains one of the new words learned. For the first 15 items, the examinee must indicate which of two words printed in the test booklet was spoken on the recording. For the subsequent 15 items, the examinee must choose among all three words and indicate which word was contained in each sentence.

For example, in the first 15 items, examinees might be taught that the word *ba* means 'cat' and the word *da* means 'see'. Then, they hear a series of short sentences in the language and they have to determine whether each sentence contains 'cat' or 'see'.

1.   po lan <u>ba</u>

        A. cat

        B. see

In the second 15 items, examinees might be taught a third word, for example, *pa* means 'red'. Then, they hear a series of short sentences in the language and they have to determine whether each sentence contains 'cat', 'see', or 'red'.

2.   ku <u>pa</u> gi

        A. cat

        B. see

        C. red

Correct Answers:

1.   A

2.   C

PART 6 - SOUND-SYMBOL ASSOCIATION

PLAB Part 6 consists of nonsense words based on English consonants and vowels (and essentially English syllable structure). The voice on the audio recording pronounces one of the 4 words in each response set, and the examinee simply indicates which word was spoken.

For example, the voice on the recording would pronounce [tarpled]. The examinees would see the following four options in the test booklet, and would have to choose the correct answer, in this case, option B.

1.   A. trapled

        B.tarpled

        C. tarpdel

        D. trapdel