Managing student confidence and expectations in mixed level IELTS classes

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A typical IELTS class?
Is self confidence important?

Self esteem
• Belief in yourself

± 4-7% of variance in grades.*

Self confidence
• Belief in your ability to perform a task

+12% of variance in grades. *

Faced with challenge ...

*Self confidence faced with challenges*
By the end of this workshop...

...you’ll be better able to differentiate learning objectives, differentiate classroom activities and encourage learner reflection.
Learning objectives

- Ss listen to Part 4 Qs on art in education and identify reasons.
- Ss examine structure of an argument and do work on this.
- Ss answer Part 4 Qs on sport in education.

By the end of the lesson, you will be (better) able to...
Learning objective

By the end of the lesson, students will be (better) able to justify an opinion coherently.
Differentiated learning objectives

By the end of the lesson, all students will be (better) able to...

Some students will be (better) able to...
Differentiated learning objectives

*All* of you will be *(better)* able to give an opinion and at least two reasons.

*Some* of you will be *(better)* able to justify your argument coherently.

*Some* of you will be *(better)* able to use complex sentences when doing this.
Where to differentiate?

The content
The instructional process
The product

Carol Ann Tomlinson, 2000
Ways to differentiate learning objectives

1. The content

Weaker students: give an opinion

Stronger students: justify an opinion
Ways to differentiate learning objectives

2. By instructional process

**Test practice**

- TEST STRATEGIES page 172
- EXPERT SPEAKING page 187

3. Complete the test practice in pairs. You might have more than one idea. The phrases below will help you to order your ideas.

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I think there are three main reasons./There are a number of good reasons.
Firstly/First of all ...
Then also ...
Another point to consider is ...
Finally .../Last but not least, I think that ...
Ways to differentiate learning objectives

3. The product

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaker students</th>
<th>Stronger students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer Qs on sports in education</td>
<td>Answer Qs on the arts in education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sharing learning objectives with students

Get your students to decide

Art in schools

- Do you think that art should be taught in schools?
- Is art a good subject to study at university? Why/Why not?
- What qualities do you think an artist needs?
- How does art affect people every day? [e.g. in building design, or magazine images]

I can organize the opinions in my description with a range of connectors.

Very confident                             Fairly confident                             Not confident
How can we differentiate exam tasks and other classroom activities?

- A part 2 writing task
- A gap-fill exercise with a word choice box in a vocabulary lesson
- A *multiple choice* listening task
- A *matching headings* reading task
Differentiating writing tasks

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task. Write about the following topic:

In many countries, young people are finding it harder to get work. What do you think are the main causes of this? What effect might this have in future?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
Write at least 250 words.

Write at least 100 words.
Differentiate good and bad models of writing
Personalise success criteria

Success criteria tell students how they can achieve the learning objective. They can be personalised.

*My goal: Use correct spelling and punctuation.*
Writing frames

Unemployment has always been a major concern because ... Recently... This essay will look at...

At the beginning of the century... The impact of this is that...

However... This will result in...

In conclusion...
1a Complete the sentences with *a*, *an*, *the* or zero article.

I’m here to tell you 1 _____ little bit about the conservation work at Milton Zoo. 2 _____ zoo was started by 3 _____ family who first had animals in their garden, where they also grew and sold 4 _____ plants. 5 _____ family’s friends would visit just to see 6 _____ animals so they decided to open 7 _____ zoo to the public. 8 _____ development of 9 _____ zoo since then has been huge. It’s now around 100 acres, making it one of 10 _____ largest zoos in the country.
Differentiating language activities

**Travel and tourism**

1a Complete the collocations in the sentences (1–8) with the words below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>budget</th>
<th>destination</th>
<th>direct</th>
<th>domestic</th>
<th>facilities</th>
<th>rental</th>
<th>resort</th>
<th>security</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. I think having a lot of holiday _______ homes isn’t very good for a town.
2. My home town is a popular tourist _______ for several reasons.
3. There are separate airports for _______ flights and international ones in my country.
4. There are good leisure _______ at the hotel.
5. You can fly _______ from my home town to Paris.
6. You have to go through a lot of _______ checks before you fly in my country.
7. I think _______ travel has made it easier for more people to get about.
8. My idea of a perfect holiday _______ is a beach, great hotels and lots of restaurants.

b Work in pairs and discuss. What leisure facilities do you expect in a holiday resort?

c Describe a holiday that you have been on. Use at least three of the collocations from Exercise 1a.
Differentiating multiple choice tasks

Questions 1–5

Choose the correct letter A, B or C.

1. Don Norman says good-looking objects
   A. cause a reduction in feelings of anxiety.
   B. remind us of attractive things in our lives.
   C. are the result of a simple design.

2. To lower our stress levels, the speaker suggests
   A. looking around more.
   B. buying new items.
   C. living in the countryside.
Differentiating reading tasks

Test practice

8 Read the passage and complete the test task.

Questions 1–6
Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in the reading passage? Write

YES if the statement agrees with the views of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

1 There were too few participants for effective research.
2 The study reflected what happens in the real world.
Differentiating reading tasks

Questions 1–6
The reading passage has seven paragraphs, A–G. Choose the correct heading for paragraphs A–F from the list of headings below.

List of Headings

i Using hunting to stop a worse crime
ii Legal hunting has little financial benefit
iii Trying to make a living
iv Start by learning about the problem
v Different agricultural styles lead to different outcomes
vi Emotional reactions may have negative consequences
vii The system is not perfect but can be beneficial
viii Motivation to take care of animals
ix Travelling to Africa by plane

Example Paragraph G iv

Examining the African Hunting Debate

A When a famous Zimbabwean lion was hunted and killed by a foreign tourist, people on social media were furious. This resulted in an online ban of the transportation of trophies killed by tourists and people repeatedly asking travellers to avoid countries that allow this kind of trophy hunting. Trophy hunting describes legal hunting where people pay to do it. It is permitted in countries including Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. While many people are disgusted by this, what they don't often realise is that stopping this kind of hunting might actually do more harm than good.

B Let's look at Namibia for example. The local Minister of Environment and Tourism, Pohamba Shifeta, said that if airlines stopped transporting wildlife trophies, this would prevent the Namibians from protecting wildlife in their country. This is because the money that people pay to trophy hunt is used to stop illegal hunting, which is a much bigger problem than legal hunting. This suggests that trophy hunting can have a positive impact on the protection of wildlife, in theory at least.

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1) What was killed in Africa?
2) What was banned after the death?
3) What is permitted in Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia?
4) What would be difficult if airlines stopped transporting animals?
5) What is a bigger problem than legal hunting?
6) What happened in Namibia in the 1970s and 80s?
7) How many animal protection organizations rely on legal hunting there?
8) What problem does Namibia have at the moment?
9) How might the weather affect animals?
1) Vary the task

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facts</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
<th>Does it help to answer the question?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A lion was killed.</td>
<td>People on social media were furious.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was an airline ban on ‘trophy’ animals.</td>
<td>Banning hunting can be harmful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2) Let them choose the challenge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main points</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
<th>Reactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A lion was killed in Africa.</td>
<td>Stopping hunting may harm animals.</td>
<td>How can banning hunting be bad?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3) Differentiate the challenge

1) Lower challenge – pre-teach core vocabulary

2) Higher challenge – invite students to identify unknown words and guess their meaning
3) Differentiate the content

1) Allow students to bring in their own reading text
4) Limit the options

Paragraph B
i Using hunting to stop a worse crime
iii Trying to make a living
4) Success criteria
How will students know whether they have fulfilled the learning objective?

Listen to Jorge doing the test task and answer the questions.
1 Does he talk about the subject for a long time, using a variety of vocabulary?
2 If he doesn’t know a word, does he describe it well using different words?
3 Does he use words correctly?

Listen again and answer the questions about Jorge’s pronunciation.
1 Does he pronounce words clearly so you can understand him?
2 Does he sound interested in what he is saying?
Success criteria for Writing Part 1

1) Have you got better?

2) How many words did you write?

3) Did you describe the key features of the graph?

4) Did you provide at least 2 examples of data to back up your answer?
The aim of differentiated learning is …

• To give fair opportunities to every member of the class.

• To recognise progress.

• To develop a positive attitude towards learning to achieve in future goals.

• To develop learner awareness.
Differentiating exam tasks

Yes, but everyone’s taking the same exam so should do the same exam tasks.

Yes, but my students won’t like to do different tasks to their classmates.
By the end of this workshop...

...you’ll be better able to differentiate learning objectives, differentiate classroom activities and encourage learner reflection.
Thank you!