The purpose of this study guide is to help you prepare for your comprehensive exams. It includes a list of key terms and concepts, and important issues emphasized in BBL 5053, and other courses which included assessment issues. As you prepare for the exam, refer to the textbooks and supplement readings used in class, instructor and student presentations, class assignments (such as reading discussion prompts) and course papers and projects. You may also wish to refer to other materials, such as books and recent journal articles in the library as they relate to these issues. You should also reflect on your own experience as related to these issues as it may be appropriate to include these in a comprehensive examination question answer.

Key Terms and Concepts

Terms are grouped thematically. Several terms could be listed under more than category, but are only listed once to keep the list short. This list is meant as a guide, and is not intended to be exhaustive.

- Assessment
  - Assessment
  - Alternative assessments
  - Formative assessment
  - High-stake testing
  - Multiple measures
  - Performance assessment
  - Portfolio assessment
  - Rubrics
  - Standards
  - Summative assessment
  - Washback effect

- Psychometric Issues
  - Reliability
    - Alternate-form reliability
    - Internal consistency reliability
    - Stability reliability
    - Test-retest reliability
  - Statistics used in testing
    - Cut scores
    - Mean
    - Median
    - Normal curve distribution
    - Percentile rank
    - Raw score
    - Standard deviation
    - Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)
• Testing accommodations
• Test Questions
  • Constructed response
  • Selected response
• Types of Tests
  • Criterion referenced tests
  • Standardized test
  • Norm-referenced tests
  • Standards-based tests
  • Language proficiency tests
  • Content-area tests
  • Classroom-based (teacher made) tests
• Validity
  • Test bias
  • Construct validity
  • Content validity
  • Criterion validity
  • Face validity
  • Consequential validity
  • Threats to validity

• Texas
  • Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
  • the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)
  • Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)

**Important Issues**

_This list is important issues is meant to serve as a guide only, and is not intended to be exhaustive._

- The wide variety of uses of testing and assessment in schools and programs for ELL/ESL/EFL students (e.g., identification, placement, program exit, redesignation, proficiency measures, driving instruction, evaluation, grading, etc…).
- The complexity of language and bilingualism as it relates to attempts to measure language proficiency.
- The complexity of language and bilingualism as it relates to attempts to assess the content area knowledge of ELL/ESL/EFL students.
- Psychometric issues of validity and reliability in language and content-area testing of ELL/ESL/EFL students.
- Sociocultural issues which impact language and content-area testing of ELL students.
- Policy issues related to high-stakes testing and accountability with ELL students.
- Impact of high-stakes testing on language and content-area teaching of ELL students.
- Development and use of alternative, authentic classroom-based language assessments in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Development and use of alternative, authentic classroom-based content-area assessments.
Interpreting and using the results of different types of tests and assessments to inform instruction.

**Key Authors, Researchers, Theorists, Etc.**

*Rather than provide a list, consider the following as you prepare for this area:*

- Who were the main authors of the books and articles read in BBL 5053, or of assessment related readings in other courses?
- Who are the major scholars cited by the authors in these readings?
- Who are the authors who addressed one or more aspects of the important issues listed above?
- Who are some authors of recent work you have read in journals or books as related to the above important issues?