

Question 1:
**Why is initial
assessment important
for all learners?**

- To ensure that learners are on appropriate courses.
- To help teachers and trainers plan to meet learners' needs.
- To enable learners to meet course and personal objectives and maximise progress.

Question 2:
**Why assess learners
who have been in the
same group for years?**

- To identify starting points for new learners joining the group.
- To identify starting points for existing learners progressing from one course to another.

Question 3:
**What should be
identified during initial
assessment?**

- Competence at an appropriate level in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Any previous learning of the taught language or other languages.
- Personal objectives for learning the language.

Question 4:
**When can you carry out
initial assessment?**

- At enrolment sessions prior to registering for a course.
- At any pre-course information, advice and guidance sessions.
- During learners' initial sessions on the course.

Question 5:
**How can you assess
learners who join
beginners' courses?**

- Assess any previous experience of learning other languages, including community languages.
- Establish learners' reasons for learning a language.
- Identify learners' previous knowledge of the taught language from holidays and other sources.

Question 6:
**What if learners do not
want to be assessed?**

- Adopt a positive attitude and ensure the activity is a natural part of the learning session.
- Explain that it will help you to meet their individual needs and personalise their learning.
- Emphasise the benefits of initial assessment for making maximum progress.

cont. >>>

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Question 7:
How can you undertake initial assessment of non-beginners in sessions?

- To assess listening and speaking skills, use role-plays, icebreakers or discussions.
 - To assess reading skills, use signs, public notices or newspaper articles.
 - To assess writing skills, ask learners to write messages, postcards, shopping lists or letters.
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Question 8:
Why record the results of initial assessment?

- To measure learners' progress over time.
 - To show learners what progress they have made and motivate them.
 - To inform future planning of courses and sessions.
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Question 9:
What next?

- Support learners in setting realistic goals for their individual learning plans to maintain motivation.
 - Use the information gathered to plan your sessions to meet learners' diverse needs and to personalise learning.
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Encourage participants to add additional responses on the blank cards