

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR THE BILINGUAL/ESL EDUCATION COMPS

ESL EDUCATION

1. What is the holistic approach in teaching ESL? Describe how it can be implemented in the ESL classroom. Is the holistic approach the most effective way to teach ESL? Support your view with some sources.
2. What is Sheltered Instruction? Describe how it can be implemented in a classroom serving English Language Learners (ELLs). Is Sheltered English the most effective way to teach ELLs? Support your view with some sources.
3. Describe the stages of First Language Acquisition. Explain Noam Chomsky's innate-hypothesis which describes how children acquire adult grammar in a period of about five years.
4. What are the stages of second language acquisition? Describe student competencies at each level and describe activities in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening at each stage.
5. Is the use of different content areas of the high school curriculum a very effective way to acquire English as a second language? Describe how it can be implemented in the classroom in at least two subject areas of the high school curriculum.
6. What are Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)? Describe activities for English Language Learners (ELLs) that can build BICS and CALP.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

7. Some states have declared English the official language of their states. Take a stand for or against Illinois adopting English as the official language. Support your view with historical background information.
8. Trace four historical events in Bilingual Education. Explain the importance of each event.
9. Describe and critically analyze all available assessment instruments for ELLs.