

Diagnostic Instrument for the Measurement of English (DIME™)



*Latin American
Educational Services*

The Reality

- For its generalization in national English programs, ministries of education require the recruiting and training of many new English teachers, in addition to the development of English teachers currently teaching.
- States and institutions must dependably measure, evaluate and monitor large numbers of English teachers at low cost and they require tools to help them do this.
- Many teachers and employment candidates lack any formal certification in English.

The Need

- States implementing national English programs require access to a rapid and dependable diagnostic exam to measure and classify many teachers, to determine their advances in language learning and for recruiting purposes.
- States would like to have unlimited access to their diagnostic exam and not enter into per-use payment obligations.
- The exam should measure all 4 language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- The exam should be predictive of results in other exams such as the TOEFL, TOEIC, First Certificate, IELTS, etc. and estimate the classification of an English language learner on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and derivative scales used in given countries.

What is DIME™?

- A large and flexible test bank of English proficiency exams for adults
- Measures all four language domains (communicative skills):
 - ✓ Reading comprehension
 - ✓ Listening comprehension
 - ✓ Writing production
 - ✓ Speaking production
- Easy to apply and score, does not require training nor proficiency in English to administer
- Unique version for every customer
- Sold with unlimited usage rights
- Paper-and-pencil based for now; will migrate to computer-based



DIME includes four complete exams

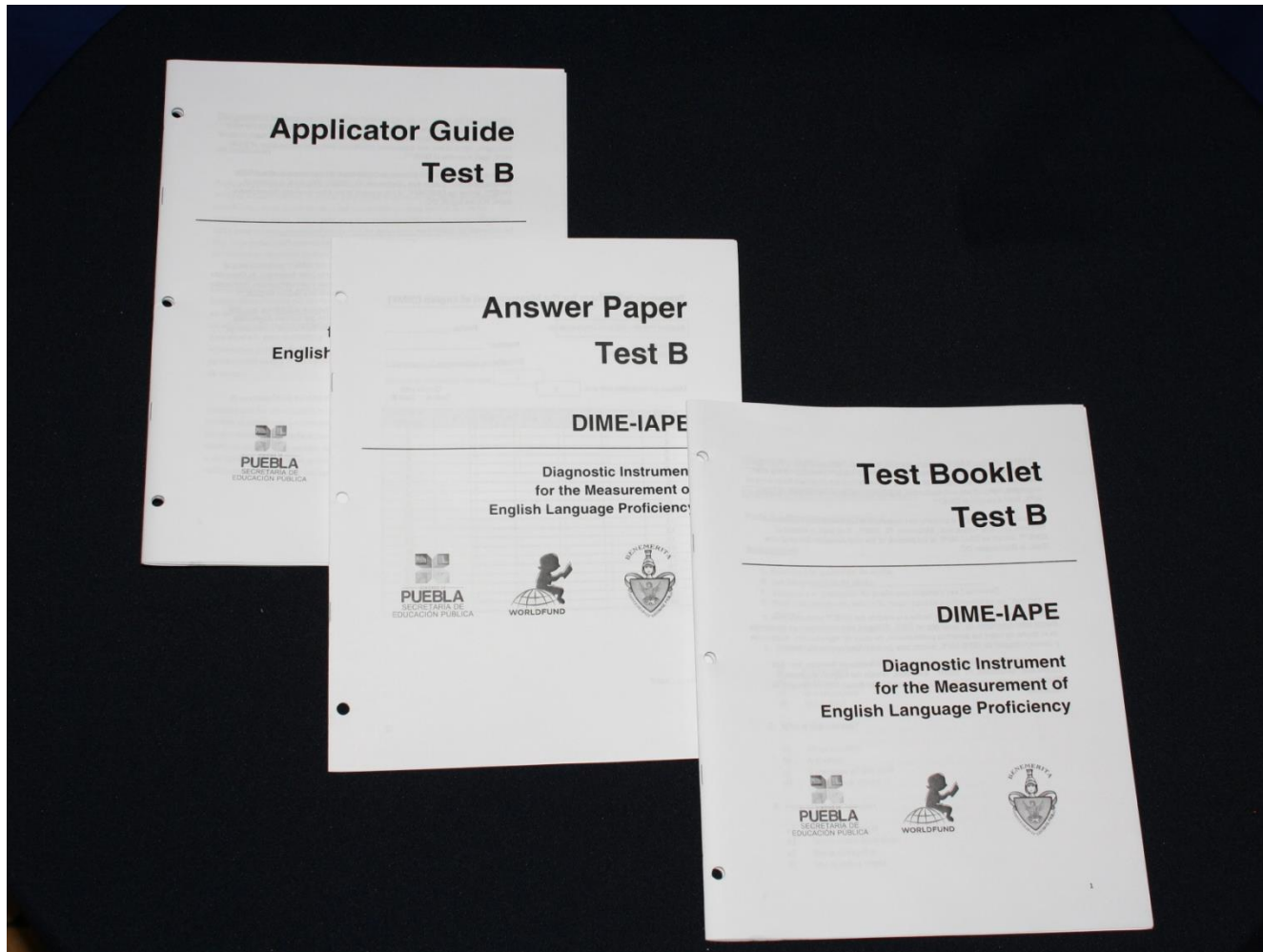
What is the reach of DIME?

- Includes four exams: A, B, C and D
- Each exam includes four tests: reading, listening, writing and speaking
- A total of 16 exams
- The parts are interchangeable (it is possible to use Reading A with Writing B)
- It is possible to use all or part of the exam
- Uses American English; may use British English if desired

Structure of DIME

(for **each** exam A, B, C and D)

Language domain	Type of test	# of test items	Time required
Listening comprehension	Monologue; 4-answer multiple choice	10	15 min
	Dialog: 4-answer multiple choice	10	15 min
Reading comprehension	History: 4-answer multiple choice	10	15 min
	Science: 4-answer multiple choice	10	15 min
Writing production	Fill-in-the-blank Re-phrase Written description Short letter	20	20 min
Oral production	Personal description Likes and dislikes, etc. Discourse Opinion (prompts)	20	20 min
TOTAL		80	1 hour 40 min



The most common DIME format is that of the Test Booklet with questions for the candidate, a blank Answer Paper for the candidate to write his/her answers, and a guide for the applicator.

How does the application of DIME work?

- May be applied by anyone without previous training.
- May be self-applied if desired and record speech samples.
- Scoring of the listening, reading and the first part of the writing tests may be scored by anyone using the answer key.
- Paper-and pencil based evaluation with a personal interview

Where does DIME come from?

- Developed by ex-Cambridge people
- Made in the USA and Mexico by native English speakers
- Edited in the USA
- Used by various states in Mexico
- Adopted and used by the World Bank, the World Fund, Dartmouth University
- Formally validated in 2012
- Experienced in ministry-level evaluation

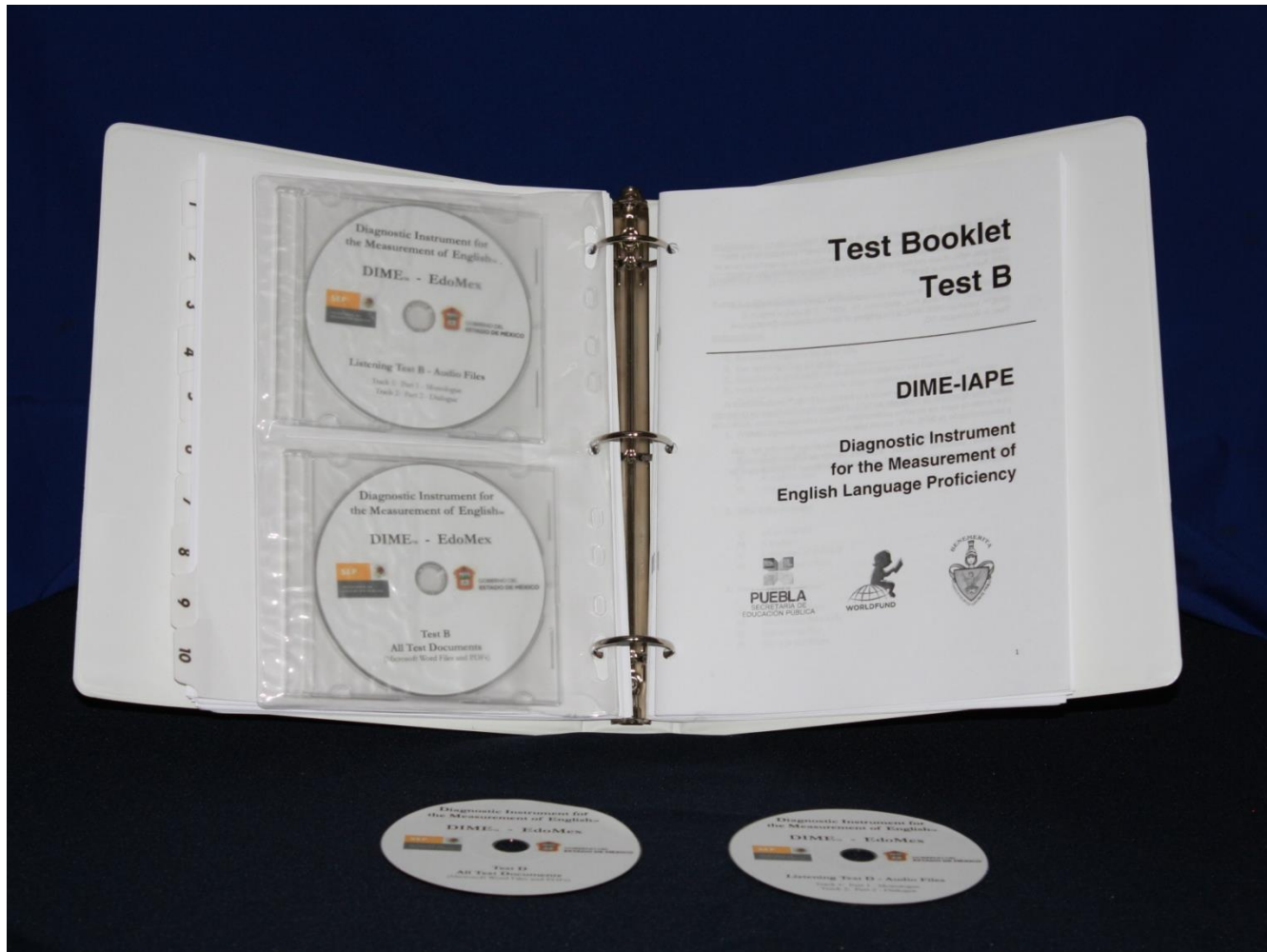
Validation of DIME

- Validated by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), a part of the World Bank system
- Formal and rigorous validation process using a group of more than 100 teachers and 100 students from “telesecundarias” or middle schools in Puebla, México
- Application of psychometric processes
- Analysis and determination of the Cronbach Alphas of each test ítem, and measurement of each ítem’s respective level of reliability
- Corresponding use of the Stanford 10 exam to corroborate DIME’s reliability.

What does the DIME package include?

Among tests A, B, C and D:

- Four complete and unique listening comprehension exams
- Four audio CDs with recordings of the monologues and dialogues from the listening comprehension tests
- Four reading comprehension exams using science and history topics
- Four writing production exams
- Four speaking comprehension interview guides with prompts, images to compare/contrast and interview script
- Answer sheets
- Applicator guides with answer keys, scoring guides and rubrics



Each test includes CDs with the audios as well as all test documents



The Speaking test includes an interview script/guide and images to describe, compare and contrast

DIME is customized

- The exam is flexible and permits customization to meet the needs of each customer
- Each DIME is unique and made-to-order for that customer
- Special content, vocabulary or grammar structures may be included, such as those forming part of individual school, district, state or national curricula
- Versions of DIME may be created with more or fewer test items to respond to customer needs
- Periodic updates may be contracted to keep the test item bank fresh and substitute items that are compromised with time
- There may be separate student and Teacher versions

Price and comercial model

- Price for a customized, field- validated test in four versions with unlimited rights is \$75,000.00 USD. Payment is 50% upon signing of contract, and 50% upon completion and delivery of the project.
- May be invoiced by a third-party distributor in-country as designated by Latin American Educational Services, Inc.
- Delivery time is 4-6 weeks

In conclusion

DIME is:

- A valuable, flexible and economical tool;
- Produced to order for institutional customers;
- A useful product for new teacher recruiting; serves as a screener for candidates without other credentials and confirms English proficiency without extra investment;
- An essential resource for the evaluation and monitoring of English skills among teachers and students;
- An evaluation that responds to the needs of ministries hiring English teachers;
- An intelligent investment that does not create recurring costs;
- A tool that helps classify individuals within the accepted scales of accepted English language proficiency measurement.

DIAGNOSTIC INSTRUMENT
FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY (DIME)

Produced for the State of Mexico
DIME EdoMex

Test B



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Test A



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Test D



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