



Designing Integrated Reading-into-Writing Tasks

MAXIMISING COGNITIVE AUTHENTICITY AND COMPLEXITY

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Integrated R-W Tasks

DEFINITION

“Integrated writing tasks are tasks in which test takers are presented with one or more language-rich source texts and are required to produce written compositions that require:

- (1) mining the source texts for ideas
- (2) selecting ideas
- (3) synthesising ideas from one or more source texts
- (4) transforming the language used in the input
- (5) organising ideas and
- (6) using stylistic conventions such as connecting ideas and acknowledging sources.”

Knoch and Sitajalabhorn (2013, p.306)

Context Validity and Cognitive Validity

TASK CHARACTERISTICS

Expected Output

Input

Interaction between input and output



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFORMATION

CONSTRUCTIVE PLANNING

CONCEPTUALISATION

Planning & constructing task representation

Reconstructing writing plans

DISCOURSE CONSTRUCTION

Connecting & Generating Ideas

Search Reading

Careful Reading

DIALOGIC READING

MONITORING & REVISING

Higher-level checks

Lower-level checks

ORGANISATION

Organising intertextual relationships

Organising ideas in a textual structure

Context Validity and Cognitive Validity

TO READ ABOUT:

PLEASE GO TO:

A) EXPECTED OUTPUT

tiny.cc/expected-output

B) INPUT 1

tiny.cc/input1

C) INPUT 2

tiny.cc/input2

D) INTERACTION BETWEEN INPUT - OUTPUT

tiny.cc/inter-action

Evaluating an Integrated RW Task

Assessment Context	“Academic Writing” support course
Candidates	post-entry, in-sessional “1 st year university undergraduates
Purpose	end of course achievement test

TASK
Read the text below and write a summary paragraph presenting the issue of cashless economy the information in the text but do not copy directly from it.

The ‘Cashless Economy’: A Cause for Concern
The modern rise of digital payments has been cheered as being a cornucopia of increased efficiency - but this rosy picture obscures serious problems on the horizon as the shift continues.

[adapted from] James Moran; November 14, 2020; www.oxfordbusinessreview.org

Alternatives to cash have been around for centuries, but the term ‘cashless economy’ is a modern invention. It is typically used to denote a shift in how we store and spend our money, moving away from a physical currency, towards all transactions being done digitally.

This shift brings with it a number of benefits. Money-laundering and cash-based crime become less prevalent, transactions become faster for consumers, and business expenditure on the storage and safe transmission of cash is reduced. There are, however, some serious concerns over what an increasingly cashless economy and society may bring. The most pressing of these concerns broadly fit under the following headings: exclusion, surveillance, vulnerability.

Exclusion
A worrying number of individuals and businesses could suffer from an increased phasing out of cash and they are often the most vulnerable in society – the elderly, the homeless and the disabled. These individuals are at risk of being alienated by an increasing abandonment of cash, or, in some cases, finding themselves severely adversely affected.

Surveillance
Secondly, as payments made over card are far easier to trace than cash payments, this opens up concerns about privacy and surveillance. Whereas some see this increased surveillance as a positive – enabling governments to more effectively intervene in criminal activity – there are also many (myself included) who feel discomfort at the idea of their every purchase being tracked by corporations and the government.

Vulnerability
Lastly, the vulnerability of cashless payments to fraud and other security issues is a major concern, with criminals now able to commit crime through digital means. The worrying accumulation of data discussed above becomes even more concerning when combined with this vulnerability. Fraud, identity theft, and the ransoming of data are all potential problems that arise with an increased reliance on digital methods of payment.

Whilst cash may not be fully phased out in the near future, cashless transactions look like they will only become more dominant and therefore continue to cause the problems laid out above. The issues of exclusion, surveillance, and vulnerability are all significant, and all will be keenly felt if steps aren’t taken to obviate them.

Task Evaluation Form

Expected output (rhetorical context)

Task Characteristics	Describe	Evaluate
What is the purpose for writing?	to persuade / to inform / to entertain	Is it clear? Is it suitable? What would you change?
Who is the intended audience?		
What is the main rhetorical function expected in the output?	narrative / descriptive / expository / argumentative	

Input

Task Characteristics	Describe	Evaluate
What purpose does the text serve?	to persuade / to inform / to entertain	Is it clear? Is it suitable? What would you change?
What is the main rhetorical function of the text?	narrative / descriptive / expository / argumentative	
What is the number of input texts?	single / multiple	
How would you evaluate the readability?	easy / readable / too difficult	
Is the text well structured / easy to read?		
Are there any repetitive features of macro-organisation?		

Interaction between input and output

Task Characteristics	Describe	Evaluate
How much of the information from the input text is relevant to the output text?	all / most / some / none	Is it clear? Is it suitable? What would you change?
What is the writer expected to do with the information given in the input text?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reproduce it organise it evaluate it & generate new representations 	

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