



From Needs to Test: Analysis of Needs – Curriculum – Test

Example: Denmark

Berlin September 2009



Act on Danish Language Courses (2003)

§ 1. The object of the courses in Danish as a second language (Danish courses) is to assist adult foreigners, on the basis of their individual backgrounds and integration goals, in acquiring the necessary Danish language proficiency and knowledge on Danish culture and society so as to make them participating and contributory citizens on an equal footing with other citizens of society.

(The first act on Danish courses in 1999, adjusted in 2003)



The Danish language educational system

- **Three Danish language educations (according to target groups)**
 - **Up to three years of duration (approx. 2.000 hours)**
 - **6 modules at each education** (achievement tests after each module)
 - **Final exams (A2/B1, B1, B2, C1)**
 - **Free of charge**
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- Yearly approx. 37.000 students and 7.000 testtakers**
 - Yearly expences approx.: 100.000 million €**
- (Foreigners in Denmark: 500.000 = 9,1% of the total population)



Danish Language Education 1

Target groups

- Illiterate foreigners and foreigners with no or a very short educational background
- Approx.: 5.000 participants (14 % of the 37.000)

Exam in Danish 1 (general language test)

- Level B1 (oral) & level A2 (written)
- Approx: 600 persons a year

Aim

- Active citizens in civil life
- Unskilled work





Danish Language Education 2

Target group

- Foreigners with a short educational background
- Approx.: 14.000 participants (37% of the 37.000)

Exam in Danish 2 (general language test)

- Level B1-B2 (oral) and B1 (written)
- Approx: 1.700 persons a year

Aim

- Skilled work
- Active citizens in civil life
- Further education at middle level/vocational education





Danish Language Education 3

Target group

- Foreigners with middle or higher educational background
- Approx.: 18.000 participants (49 % of the 37.000)

Exam in Danish 3 (general language test)

- After module 5: Exam in Danish 3: Level B2 (oral & written)
- Approx.: 4.000 persons a year
- (After module 6: [Studieprøven: test for specific purpose](#))

Aim

- Employment & active citizens
- Module 5 => work or further education
- Module 6 => access to university studies



**Danish Courses for Adults
Model with CEFR levels**

			<i>Studieproven</i>				
			Written	Oral			
			<i>Exam in Danish 3</i>		Module 6	<i>Effective Operational Proficiency</i>	C 1
			<i>Exam in Danish 2</i>				
			<i>Exam in Danish 1</i>		Module 5	<i>Vantage</i>	B 2
			Module 6				
			Oral		Module 4	<i>Threshold</i>	B 1
			Module 5				
			Written		Module 3	<i>Waystage</i>	A 2
			Module 6				
			Module 4		Module 2	<i>Breakthrough</i>	A 1
			Module 5				
			Module 3		Module 1		
			Module 4				
			Module 2				
			Module 1				
			Module 1				
			Module 2				
			Module 3				
			Module 4				
			Module 5				
			Module 6				
			Oral				
			Written				
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			Module 6				
			Oral				
			Written				



Language proficiency and rights

Immigration test:

Family reunification & foreign religious ministers

⇔ **Political agreement on welfare and future immigration concluded in June 2006**

(the government (the liberal Party and the Conservatives) and the the Danish People's Party)

⇔ **Two exams: Basic Danish language skills & knowledge of Danish society and fundamental values => level A1 minus**

⇔ **Expected to come into force in 2010**

(Yearly: 1.500 - 2.000 persons)



The aim with the immigration test

”The immigration test shall contribute to reassuring that each foreigner who wants residence permit in Denmark at an early stage takes responsibility for his or her own integration process and that the person is able to document having motivation and a wish to be part of the Danish society”

www.nyidanmark.dk



Language proficiency and rights (II)

“Integration exam”: Permanent residence permit

⇔ **Political agreement on welfare and future immigration concluded in June 2006**

(the government (the liberal Party and the Conservatives) and the Danish People’s Party)

➤ **Exam in Danish 2 (B1/B2 oral and B1 written)**

or

Exam in Danish 1 (B1 oral and A2 written) *plus* an English test on B1)

(Ordinary occupation for 2½ year)



The aim with the “Integration exam”

“The purpose of the Integration exam is to prompt foreigners to learn the Danish language at to get a work. (...)

It is important to send a clear signal about what is expected from all citizens – and that rights and duties go together.”

The previous Minister of Integration, Rikke Hvilshøj



Language proficiency and rights (III)

Danish citizenship: Applicants have to pass Exam in Danish 3 (B2 level) and a naturalisation test.

Naturalisation test (knowledge test): Foreigners applying for a Danish citizenship

- ⇔ Political agreement concluded in December 2005**
- ⇔ Aim: Knowledge about Danish history, culture and society**
- ⇔ Political agreement concluded in September 2008 => tightening up the demands (language and knowledge test)**



Naturalisation test (knowledge test)

- **History, culture & society – especially the political democratic system**
- Multiple-choice
- 45 minutes
- A curriculum (textbook)
- 40 questions – 32 correct answers





Summing up:

- **1999 and 2004:** A second language teaching and testing model
 - constructed according to target groups and integration needs
 - curriculum constructed according to CEFR levels
- **2003:** B1 level test as citizenship test
- **2005:** B2 level test as citizenship test
- **2007:** B2 level test and a naturalisation test (knowledge test)
- **2008:** Tightening up the demands (language test and knowledge test)
- **2009:** "Integration exam" for permanent residence permit (language test and occupation)
- **2010:** Immigration test for family reunification and religious ministers (language test and knowledge test)



For further informations

www.nyidanmark.dk

Thank you for your attention!