



Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems

July 15, 2015

Life and Work Listening 980 Series Receives Extended Approval Date for NRS Reporting

CASAS is pleased to announce that the **Life and Work Listening 980 series** (Forms 981-986) has received approval from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) for NRS reporting purposes **through February 2, 2017**.

The Life and Work Listening 980 series is available in CASAS eTests Online, as well as in the CASAS eTests desktop version and in the CD-delivered version with test booklets for Level A.

The original Life and Work Listening 80 series (Forms 81 – 86) will continue to be available in CASAS eTests Online, in the CASAS eTests desktop version, and in the CD-delivered version for agencies that do not need to report these results to NRS. Agencies may continue to use the Life and Work Listening 80 series for state-level reporting or for local program use.

Programs that transition to the Life and Work Listening 980 series from a previous CASAS Listening assessment (i.e., Life Skills Listening 50 series, ECS Listening 60 series, or Life and Work Listening 80 series) must pretest and post-test using the new series (Forms 981-986).

CASAS values the long-term relationship with all adult education program providers and state leadership staff. Please do not hesitate to contact us at casas@casas.org with any questions or to send inquiries about ordering listening tests or any CASAS test series.

For more information about Life and Work Listening, review the FAQs below and visit the CASAS website at <https://www.casas.org/product-overviews/assessments/life-and-work-listening>

CASAS LISTENING ASSESSMENT FAQs

We understand there are two Life and Work Listening series, an 80 series and a 980 series. Which should we use to report results to NRS?

For reporting, use only the NRS-approved Life and Work Listening Forms 981-986 which are approved through **February 2, 2017**. The 980 series is available on CASAS eTests Online, CASAS eTests desktop, or CD. The LWL 81-86 series is **not** approved for NRS reporting.

How is the 980 series different from the 80 series?

All of the 980 series CD tests are slightly longer to improve content coverage. There are additional items at the beginning of Level A and at the end of Level C. The Level A booklet that accompanies the CD contains color photos. The scale score ranges were revised, as shown in the chart below.

NRS ESL Educational Functioning Levels and CASAS Listening Series Scale Score Ranges

NRS ESL Level	980L series	50L, 60L, and 80L series
	Scale Score Ranges	Scale Score Ranges
1. Beginning ESL Literacy	162-180	180 and below
2. Low Beginning ESL	181-189	181-190
3. High Beginning ESL	190-199	191-200
4. Low Intermediate ESL	200-209	201-210
5. High Intermediate ESL	210-218	211-220
6. Advanced ESL	219-227	221-235
Exit from Advanced ESL	228 and above	236 and above

We do not report listening test results to NRS. Can we continue to use Life and Work Listening Forms 81-86?

Yes. CASAS will continue to provide the 81-86 series for state-level reporting or for local program use.

How long can we use Life and Work Listening Forms 981-986 for NRS reporting?

Life and Work Listening Forms 981-986 are approved through **February 2, 2017** for NRS reporting.

Will Life and Work Listening Forms 981-986 be approved beyond February 2, 2017?

CASAS is hopeful the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), Department of Education will extend approval beyond February 2, 2017.

Can we pretest with one Life and Work Listening series and post-test with the other?

No. Programs should pretest and post-test using the same Life and Work Listening series.

Which Listening Appraisal should we use to place learners into the new Listening 980 series?

Use the Form 80 Appraisal to place into the Listening 980 series.

If we plan to switch to the Listening 980 series, what should we do with other listening test materials we no longer plan to use?

Retired test materials should **never** be used for test practice in the classroom. **DO NOT DESTROY Appraisal Form 80 materials.** All other test materials (no matter how old they are) must be disposed of by the school or agency according to the following process:

1. Shred the test booklets and materials.
2. Send a letter written on school or agency letterhead to CASAS with the following information:
 - a) Statement of number of test booklets and test forms that were shredded
 - b) Statement of when they were shredded
 - c) Signature of the school or agency administrator
3. Keep a copy of the letter for your records.
4. If the school or agency cannot shred the test booklets, the test booklets can be sent to CASAS to be shredded. If that is the case, the school or agency must keep a letter on file (on letterhead) noting which test booklets were sent, how many and when they were sent, signed by the administrator.