QUESTIONNAIRE

A SURVEY ON TRAINEE TEACHERS’ READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES AND RELATED PROBLEMS IN ENGLISH

This survey is limited to the English option trainee teachers of Maktab Perguruan Batu Pahat. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information on the trainees’ comprehension strategies adopted when reading English texts and reference materials and the problems they face in reading.

 Hopefully, this information will shed some light on the areas mentioned above with the view to improve reading habits and comprehension of English texts among the English option trainee teachers of Maktab Perguruan Batu Pahat.

Instructions: Please answer all the questions. Please fill in your own response(s) wherever necessary. Please tick in the appropriate responses unless otherwise stated.

SECTION I: Personal particulars and background

1. Sex: Male ( ) Female ( )

2. Age: ___________________________ years

3. Schools attended:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom size</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Primary school</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small (10-20 pupils)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (21-30 pupils)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large (Above 31 pupils)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) Secondary school
4. General scholastic achievement

a. SPM: Arts( ) Science( ) Vocational( )

SPM Grade: 1( ) 2( ) 3( )

b. Others: (please state examination/qualification and grade)

______________________________________________________

c. STPM: Arts( ) Science( ) No STPM ( )

5. Highest English qualification. (Please fill in the grade)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Qualification</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. SPM Bahasa Inggeris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1119</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Others (please state):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. a. Parents' Occupation (please state in the space provided)

i. Mother: ____________________________________________

ii. Father: ___________________________________________

b. Salary of parents per month. (Mother’s + Father’s)

i. less than RM 400 ( )

ii. between RM 401 and RM800 ( )

iii. between RM 801 and RM1200 ( )

iv. between RM1201 and RM1500 ( )

v. more than RM1500 ( )
7. Level of education of parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nil</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary 1-3</th>
<th>Secondary 4-5</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Others (please state)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Father</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. How would you describe your standard of English in the following skill?

Reading skill: 
- Very ( )
- Good ( )
- Average ( )
- Poor ( )
- Very ( )
- Poor

SECTION 2: Usage of English

Questions 9–11: Please circle based on the ranking scale below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eg. I like to read English materials. 5 4 3 2 1

9. How often do you speak English to the following people?

a. Father
   5 4 3 2 1
b. Mother
   5 4 3 2 1
c. Sisters/Brothers
   5 4 3 2 1
d. Friends
   5 4 3 2 1
e. Lecturers
   5 4 3 2 1
10. How often do you read the following English materials?
   a. Newspapers 5 4 3 2 1
   b. Books for pleasure 5 4 3 2 1
   c. Books for academic purposes 5 4 3 2 1
   d. Magazines/journals 5 4 3 2 1

11. How often do you watch/listen to the following media?
   a. English television programmes 5 4 3 2 1
   b. English films and videos 5 4 3 2 1
   c. English radio programmes 5 4 3 2 1

Sections 3, 4 and 5: Please circle the appropriate response with reference to the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 3: Importance of English

12. Knowledge of English means availability of more information. 5 4 3 2 1

13. English will help to develop my country in various fields. 5 4 3 2 1

14. English is of great importance in today’s world. 5 4 3 2 1

15. To be successful professionally I need English. 5 4 3 2 1

16. I feel I can survive without English. 5 4 3 2 1
SECTION 4: Perception of the English Language

17. English is associated with the British colonization.  
   5 4 3 2 1

18. I've never liked studying English in school.  
   5 4 3 2 1

19. There are too many difficult words in English.  
   5 4 3 2 1

20. If I speak English my friends won't like me.  
   5 4 3 2 1

21. People who speak English are snobbish/proud.  
   5 4 3 2 1

22. If I had a choice I won't learn English.  
   5 4 3 2 1

SECTION 5: Attitude towards the English course

23. I'm taking up this English course because
   
   a. I chose to become an English teacher  
      5 4 3 2 1

   b. I would like to teach English  
      5 4 3 2 1

   c. I like learning about English although I do not like being an English teacher  
      5 4 3 2 1

   d. I was not offered the course I wanted  
      5 4 3 2 1

   e. I was advised (by parents, friends and teachers) to take up this English course  
      5 4 3 2 1

   f. I don't know what else to do  
      5 4 3 2 1

SECTION 6: Reading strategies and reading problems

24. Have you received clear and specific instructions or training in any of these skills? Are you able to

   a. do Library research?  
   b. take notes in English?  
   c. carry out project work in English?  
   d. use the English dictionary?

   YES   NO
   [Table]

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Questions 25 – 28: Please circle the appropriate response with reference to the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
<th></th>
<th>4</th>
<th></th>
<th>3</th>
<th></th>
<th>2</th>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Always</td>
<td>Usually</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Seldom</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. How often do you read an article or a reference book for the following purposes:
   a. Before lectures, to prepare for a new topic  
   b. To prepare for discussion in class  
   c. After lectures, to fill gaps in notes  
   d. To expand on notes taken in class  
   e. To clear doubts  
   f. To write an assignment  
   g. Interest in the content – for knowledge

26. When you are required to read a book or article in English, what do you do?
   a. Start reading straightaway.  
   b. Study the title, subheadings and any graphic displays to get a rough idea of what it is about  
   c. Go through the table of contents and/or the index to decide which parts are relevant to your purpose  
   d. Count the number of pages to plan how long you’ll take to read it
27. While you are reading what do you do?

a. Underline or highlight all the parts you consider important  5  4  3  2  1
b. Make notes in the margin or on a piece of paper  5  4  3  2  1
c. Take down only those points that are relevant to your task  5  4  3  2  1
d. Try to understand every word  5  4  3  2  1
e. Use a bilingual dictionary to check all the words you don’t know  5  4  3  2  1
f. Ignore difficult words or phrases and only look up the meaning of some really important ones  5  4  3  2  1
g. Try to guess the main idea of each paragraph  5  4  3  2  1
h. Try to guess the meaning of some of the difficult words  5  4  3  2  1
i. Write down your own comments, eg. ‘confusing’, ‘I don’t agree’, etc.  5  4  3  2  1
j. Go on reading even if something isn’t very clear because you expect the meaning would get clearer as you read  5  4  3  2  1
k. Keep in mind the purpose of reading the assignment  5  4  3  2  1

28. When you have problems understanding an English reading assignment, you would

a. give up reading  5  4  3  2  1
b. get friends who have read it to tell you what it is about  5  4  3  2  1
c. discuss the assignment with coursemates and get help from them  5  4  3  2  1
d. see the subject lecturer for help  5  4  3  2  1
29 a. Do you have any particular method or strategy for tackling reading assignment?

Yes ( ) No ( )

b. If yes, please write down briefly the main steps in your method or strategy.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

30. The following is a general list of what you are required to read while undergoing the English course. Indicate the degree of difficulty you have in reading each of these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very difficult</th>
<th>Difficult</th>
<th>Some difficulty</th>
<th>Easy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. English articles from professional journals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Textbooks in English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Chapters or sections from English reference books</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Lecture notes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Magazines/newspapers in English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 31: Please circle the appropriate response with reference to the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31. The following are factors which hamper your reading comprehension.

a. The subject matter is new
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

b. The concepts are too abstract
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

c. The subject matter is uninteresting
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

d. There are too many difficult words
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

e. The style of writing is too complex with too many long sentences
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

f. The reasoning is often too difficult to follow
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

g. The text is too dense - too many ideas one after the other
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

h. There is not enough practice in reading in English
   - 5
   - 4
   - 3
   - 2
   - 1

32. Do you have the confidence that you will be a good English teacher.

   YES ( )
   NO ( )

Why? __________________________________________

END OF QUESTIONNAIRE! THANK YOU and Good Luck for your examinations.
Appendix B

Interview Questions

A. General Information

Profession/Area: .............................................

Gender: ......................................................

Age: ........................................................

Ethnicity: ....................................................

Years of teaching experience: ................................

B. Questions

1. Based on your experience and expertise, how important do you think is ‘reading’ to the English option trainee teachers?

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

2. Do you think that improved reading proficiency can help improve proficiency in the English language? Why?

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
3. What is your view regarding the reading proficiency of the English option trainee teachers in semester two?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

4. Why do you think it is such?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

5. What do you think are the problems they face in reading comprehension?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

6. How can the problems in reading comprehension be overcome?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
7. Can you suggest ways to improve the present training programme for the English option trainees?


THANK YOU.
Appendix C

English Studies Syllabus Components and Subjects

And The Reading List
References

Suggested Readings

Teaching of Listening and Speaking

Malayan Diploma in Teaching (July 1939)
principles & practice (and teacher development)


