Quality control:
the journey of a test question

Every test question in the Oxford Young Learners Placement Test goes through the same journey before being used in a test to ensure quality, accuracy and reliability.

STAGE 1
WRITING

Every question is commissioned and written to meet quality-reviewed specifications. Our question writers are assessment professionals, with many years of experience in young learner pedagogy and testing.

STAGE 2
PRE-EDITING

Every question is analysed by a team of assessment experts to check it meets the specifications and that it actually tests what we want it to. The writer then makes any suggested improvements to the question.

STAGE 3
EDITING

The revised questions are checked by the same team of assessment experts, joined this time by members of the item writing team who further review and improve each question to ensure it is clear, fair, and is testing the appropriate language.

STAGE 4
VETTING

The edited questions are quality checked by independent reviewers. Each question is checked again against the specifications to ensure that it is at the right level, and is suitable and fair for young learners, and meets OUP's quality standards.

STAGE 5
PRETESTING

The vetted questions are put into pretests. The pretests are taken by young learners in primary schools all over the world.

STAGE 6
QUALITY CHECK

The results of the pretests are analysed. Only those questions which meet OUP standards are selected to be used in live tests.

STAGE 7
LIVE TEST

The questions are released into the online system with OUP's quality seal of approval, ensuring accurate, reliable and valid results.