

Swedish National Tests in English: A corpus resource for teacher training

This poster presents an ongoing project at Mid-Sweden University which aims to develop a searchable digital database of complete past papers of the Swedish National Test in English. Swedish school students are required to take National Tests in English, similar to Standardised Achievement Tests (SATS), in years 6 and 9. These assess students' productive and receptive skills in written and spoken English through a range of tasks: an oral test carried out in pairs, listening and reading comprehensions with a range of texts and tasks, and a writing test. Assessment is carried out at individual school level, with national guidance provided, including test specifications, commented answers and authentic samples of benchmarked oral and written performance, cut-off scores etc. (Erikson 2020).

A collection of past papers from recent years has been gathered from a range of municipal and private schools in the Sundsvall Municipality. The written components of these tests will be digitized in full, to include anonymized student responses and teacher assessments. These will be compiled into a database, and coded in order to provide quick access to students' answers sorted by a range of criteria, for example, year, subject area, type of question, and the score achieved. The resulting database will be an invaluable resource for English teacher training programmes, giving student teachers the opportunity to analyse authentic assessed material at a range of levels in a structured environment, helping them to develop competence in assessment and grading. It will also be available as a corpus for broader linguistic and didactic research by students and researchers at the university.

The poster will show samples of the digitized material, demonstrate how it is coded and the possibilities for sorting. It will also show sample tasks envisaged for teacher training using the material, and other potential uses.

Erikson, G. 2020. "National assessment of foreign languages in Sweden." University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Available at <https://www.gu.se/nationella-prov-frammande-sprak/information-om-projektet-nafs>