Proficiency Testing Project

Structural List (Pashto)

Novice 1

1. Pronouns:
   - demonstrative: 'this’, 'that’.
   - personal: 'we’, 'they’, etc.
   - interrogative: 'who?'，'where?’, 'what?', 'which?', 'which one?’, etc.

2. Interrogative particle: ایاً.

3. Copulative sentences: تاسی محصل یاست؟ 'Are you a student?'


6. Irregular plural of nouns: مادر (مادرات’، 'sister (sisters);

7. Numerals;

8. Numerical plurals: دری کتابه 'three books’;

9. Cases: ببړک 'in the room’، پې کښې 'from America’، 'Karim’s son’، افغانستان ته 'to Afghanistan’، پې چاقو 'with a knife’، etc.


11. Inflection of adjectives: مصرف - مصرفه - مصرفی busy;

12. Expressing availability: شته 'there is’, 'available’، 'there is no’, 'not available.’

13. Basic tenses:
   a. Imperative: ماته غوښ ونیسی! 'Listen to me!'، 'Repeat (it) please!'
   b. Present tense of the verb “to be”: بې 'am’, 'are’, ته 'is’، 'are’، etc.;
   c. Present continuous (imperfective): خوری 'eats’، 'Lolam ‘I am reading’;
   d. Present potential: دی تلی شی 'He is able to go’.

14. Combining conjunction: او 'and’;

15. Contrasting conjunction: 'but’;

16. Temporal adverbs: اوس 'always’، 'now’، نن ‘today’، etc.

Common errors:

Errors in spelling;
Improper use of the second person pronoun in formal and informal registers:
نئ، ته;
Gender of nouns confused: داکټران 'doctors’ (m) – داکټرانی 'doctors’ (f) – نرس، نرښه 'nurse’ (m) – نرښه 'nurse’ (f);
Gender agreement of adjectives is broken: دا کړی کړنی ده 'This room is small’.
Disagreement of the verb “to be” with a feminine subject: ‘I like apples’;
Cases omitted (mostly dative) or confused (usually dative and locative): ‘I am going to the university’;
Problems in perception and production of specific Pashto sounds, such as [x], [r], [g], [c], [n] [j], distinguishing [u] from [o] which might impede meaning: ‘daughter’, ‘direction’.
Problems with word stress: learners’ assignment of word stress varies, usually on penultimate or word-initial positions (in Pashto stress is mobile and may locate on various positions depending on the word).
Word order confused.
Improper locating of adverbs of place and time.

Novice 2

1. Basic tenses:
   - Future tense of the verb “to be”: I’ll be, we’ll be, etc.;
   - Future continuous (imperfective): We will be going.
   - Present subjunctive: ‘I must read’, ‘if (she/he) does not come’;
   - Future definite (perfective): ‘I will read it’.
   - Future potential: ‘I will be able to go’.
   - Past tense of the verb “to be”: ‘Yesterday (the weather) was hot’;
   - Present perfect: ‘He has gone’.
   - Past perfect: ‘He had gone’.

2. Reflexive pronoun: خیل;
3. Pronouns بل ‘another’ and نور ‘others’.
5. Combination of prepositions and postpositions, prepositions and weak pronouns: ‘in’, ‘from him / her’, ‘at him / her’;
6. Present participle – attributive function, nominalization: ‘a boy walking on the road’ (lit.: ‘walking on the road boy’); teacher, instructor;
8. Verb usage with the adverbs close and far: ‘He is very close to …’; ‘far from …’;
10. Paired adverbs ‘slowly’ and ‘quickly’;
11. Use of pre-postpositions with deleted elements: 'Today Spozhmey is going to the cinema with Rokshana.'

12. Use of day words and words referring to the times of day with deleted pre-postpositions: 'On Saturday we are going on a picnic.'

13. Expression of possibility, necessity, obligation: modal verbs and phrases ('I want', 'must', 'maybe', 'must, should') + present perfective form of verbs;

14. Expression of comparative and superlative meanings: 'taller than me', 'biggest';

15. Relative subordinate clauses with conjunctions 'as ... as';

16. Subordinate clauses of time: with conjunctions 'when', 'as ...

17. Present conditional subordinate clauses ('if' clauses): 'If Spozhmey does not come, ...';

18. Weak pronouns in attributive constructions: 'His / Her father', 'Your house / home';

19. Frequently used denominative and compound verbs: 'to build', 'to close', etc.

20. Directional pronouns:

21. Use of a number 'one' as an indefinite article;

22. Double conjunctions: 'as well', 'neither ... nor', 'or ... or';

23. Derivational suffix -[-tun].

Common errors:
Errors in spelling;
Improper use of aspects: 'We want to go to a restaurant';
Misuse of the words of times of a day with prepositions and postpositions: 'Zeh sehar kordi ne khoro.' instead of 'Zeh sehar kordi ne khoro.'
Error in agreement of a verb and subject in ergative sentences: 'You hurt me.'
Improper use of the reflexive pronoun 'myself';
Errors in creating the oblique form of nouns.

Intermediate I

1. Past imperfective and perfective participles: 'gone';
2. Passive voice;
3. Tenses:
a. Past continuous (imperfective): 'Babrak was going home';
b. Past definite (perfective): 'Babrak went home';
c. Past habitual: 'Babrak used to spend every day in play.'
d. Passive voice: 'has been beaten';

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4. Weak pronoun as an agent: I ate.
5. Agreement of adjective modifiers with the nouns in oblique form: 'Dear friends!
6. Transitive and false transitive verbs;
7. Location of components (adverbs, direct and indirect objects, modifiers, etc.) in a sentence;
8. Order of location of perfective particle, future marker, weak pronoun in a sentence: I will see him;
9. Combination of post positions with directional pronouns: 'with me, from you, to him / her;
10. Order of modifiers in noun phrases: 'Aligol's new car', 'that white building';
11. Cohesive devices: 'on the other hand', 'in short', 'in addition', 'generally', 'unfortunately', 'happily';
12. Compound prepositions: 'about', 'before of', 'concerning', 'as ..., similar to', 'in spite of';
13. Denominative perfective verbs' conjugation: 'it should be mentioned';
14. Agreement of transitive verbs in the past tenses with a direct object;
15. Noun subordinate clauses;
16. Subordinate clauses of time;

Common errors:

Problems forming sentences with transitive verbs in the past tense; Disagreement between adjectival modifiers and nouns in vocative case: 'in reality'; 'generally'; 'fortunately'; 'happily';
Errors in locating adverbs of time and place: 'in spite of';
Errors in conjugation of denominative verbs in a perfective form: 'in spite of';
Errors in the word order when different cases are combined: 'in spite of';

Intermediate II

1. Direct and indirect speech;
2. Tenses:
   a. Past conditional: 'If Babrak had told';
   b. Past potential conditional: 'If Babrak was able to do';
   c. Present perfect with perfective and imperfective past participles;
   d. Past perfect with perfective and imperfective past participles.

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3. Verbal phrases: ‘to finish’, ‘to keep in mind, to take into account’, ‘to make clear, to say openly’.
4. Agreement between components of transitive verbal phrases in the past tense: ‘respected’.
5. Sentences with unreal conditions:
6. Subject oriented subordinate clauses: ‘anyone who might have seen this man …’.
7. Subordinate clauses of place;
8. Derivation of compound verbs;

Common errors:
Problems in forming sentences with transitive verbs;
Errors in agreement between components of transitive verbal phrases in the past tense: instead of 
Errors in forming conditional and potential conditional sentences in the past tense;
Confusing different types of past participles:олог کړی، چوپېدلی، جورېدلی، جور شوې;

Advanced I
1. Tenses:
   a. Past conjectural: ‘maybe you have heard’,
   b. Future tense of doubt: ‘… may come’;
2. Reported speach;
3. Object oriented subordinate clauses: ...
4. Extended use of compound verbs;
5. Verb form in blessing phrases: ‘May God keep you healthy!’
6. Questions of uncertainty: ‘he might have gone home?’
7. Pragmatic competence in usage of formal style in the second and third person;
8. Expressions ‘the best (best among goods)’, ‘the worst (the worst among bads)’, ‘the prettiest (the prettiest among pretties)’.
10. Paired words: ‘sitting together, association’;

Common errors:
Confusion in usage of direct and reported speech;
Errors in agreement between a transitive verb and a direct object in the past tense;
Confusion of the past conjectural and future perfect;
Errors in forming of sentences with modal verbs and phrases.
Advanced II

1. Future perfect: 'You will have gone', 'He will have gone', 'Babrak will not have built a house.'
2. Intensive commands: 'Eat it, it is getting (becoming) cold.'
3. Expressing obligation: 'The boy must go home.'
4. Use of some verbs with particular prepositions and postpositions:
   - 'go to…'  
   - 'exit from',  
   - 'love …'.
5. ‘to blame …', 'to face with …';
6. Compatibility of nouns with certain verbs:
   - ‘to blame …', 'to face with …';
7. Synonymy:
   - ‘to be annoyed', ‘to insult', 'to become united';
8. Use of idioms:
   - ‘to commit’  
   - ‘to submit, accept’
9. Onomatopoeic words:
   - 'to work in cooperation', etc.
10. Common errors:
    - Still some mistakes in sentence structure;
    - Errors in agreement between various parts of speech;
    - Lack of pragmatic competency;
    - Errors in usage of prepositional, verbal, and noun phrases;
    - Improper use of idioms;