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Recently, an increasing interest has been mounting around the CLIL - Content and Language Integrated Learning methodologies and thus, around the offer of CLIL courses, opened to teachers of non-linguistic disciplines, whose intention is teaching their subject matter in a foreign language. This, as easily supposable, not only holds a superior didactic value for the students, but it also raises the level of quality of the whole Italian teaching system, bringing it to standards when compared to the other European education systems and further.

It is believed that the ability to learn and teach in a foreign language, enlarge the students' job perspectives and, at the same time brings an invaluable advancement for the teachers at all levels; Primary, Secondary, High-School or University teachers will benefit in terms of career fulfillment, teaching effectiveness and, last but certainly not least, reputation. However, the Master Course CLIL would be incomplete, without a solidly reputable Language Certification. This is when I would like to introduce you to the ESOL International: Test of Interactive English (a.k.a. TIE Exam).

Amongst the most popular competitors, the TIE Certification, awarded by Gatehouse Awards UK, proves to be the most academic structured of all. Differently from its competitors, what the TIE Exam focuses on is, first the abilities of the candidates to use the language and the language skills they have acquired to date. Second, the TIE Exam is based on consolidated academic principles, making it very suitable for teachers. For instance, candidates to the TIE Exam must be able to interact both with the examiner and the other candidate(s) in order to not only explain, but also answer questions on topics they have been asked to research whilst and as part of their preparation for the exam.

For the aforementioned reasons, academic values such as understanding-not-memorising, understanding and fulfilling a task, the inclusion of elements of Critical Thinking and the ability of moving further than just being able to describe, requiring the ability of analyse and evaluate, are just some of the outstanding features of this exam. Altogether, these academic values foster student's autonomy, which is the prelude to the implementation of Soft Skills, namely Teamwork, Problem-solving, Dependability, Positive attitude, Organisation and Creativity.

In its very nature, the TIE Exam integrates the Receptive Skills and the Productive Skills, so that they support each other, as it is in real life contexts. These are just some of the main features of this innovative exam which completely revisits the old-style exam formats, now becoming increasingly outdated.

We are extremely confident that the TIE Exam could be the perfect exit exam for your CLIL study path, offering your candidates the added value of changing, refining, trimming and refreshing their teaching methodologies and in doing so, obtaining much more than just a language certification.

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