Abstract
This paper is intended to provide information on the verbal and written language skills of students to be admitted into higher education institutions in Mexico. It uses information from students gathered through the Basic Knowledge and Skills Test (exhcoba), used as part of the admission process in five public universities, in 2006 and 2007. Scores from 30 verbal and 15 written language items were analyzed, from a sample of 28,925 students, which represented 30% of the whole population for both 2006 and 2007. Results show that: 1) among universities, the students language skills levels are very similar and consistent over time; 2) students have not acquired many of the skills that should have been learned at the basic education level.

Keywords
Learning evaluation, Verbal skills, Written language, Admission tests, Higher education, exhcoba.