Ideas for Listening Assessment

Here are some different summative listening assessments that I use:

1. Dictation: It is so important to have the illustration piece so that this is still a listening comprehension assessment

2. Incorrect dictation: Read five-ish FALSE statements to students about something that you’ve just discussed. Students must first transcribe the statements in L2 and then correct the information, demonstrating comprehension both of the discussion and the statements.

3. First, Second: I like this because putting events in their correct order requires a different kind of processing than just interpreting what you hear.

4. True/False: It’s so easy, how could I not include it!!

5. Read a paragraph to the students (usually three times) and have them circle pictures of things that meet a certain criteria,. (Other ideas are things that the person does in the morning, places that s/he likes to go, items of clothing that s/he buys at the store, etc.).

6. Write a series of five(ish) questions in English on the board, then read a paragraph and have the students answer the questions in English based on what they heard. I think that it is important that the questions and answers be written in English so that you are truly assessing listening comprehension, and not writing or reading. If you have them in Arabic, you won’t know if students are getting stuck on the reading, writing, or listening piece.

7. Same/Different: Show students a picture (or give them a reading) and then read aloud a selection “about” the picture that has some errors. Have students write down two-three things that are the same and two-three things that are different between the picture/reading and the listening selection.