French Test-out Study Guide

French Test-out

For this test, you will participate in a variety of activities to measure your proficiency.

Interpretive Reading

You will be given a piece of text and will answer questions about it in English.

Interpretive Listening

You will watch a YouTube video of somebody telling a story. You will then answer multiple choice questions in French about what you heard.

Presentational Writing

You will write in French a paragraph or two about each of the following topics: 1) things to do in your town, 2) describe your friends and why you are friends with them, 3) activities that keep you and your friends fit, 4) questions to pose to an exchange student to get to know her better, 5) explain the concept of a shopping mall to include its layout and a personal recount of an experience at a shopping mall, and lastly, 6) describe school clubs to include which one is your favorite and why, and recount a personal experience as a member of that club, elaborating on why it was so memorable. Many of these occur in the context of an email or letter so you should also be familiar with the linguistic conventions of correspondence.

Presentational Speaking

You will speak for 1:30-2:00 minutes about a given topic. You should answer with many details, use transition words, and demonstrate control of grammar, syntax, and pacing. You can record your answer using a Google Chrome Audio Recorder extension then upload the audio file to the Google Form. You can also record your answer on your phone, upload the file to your @howellschools.com Google Drive then upload the file to the Google Form used for the test.

Earning Credit

In order to earn credit, your overall approximate proficiency, as determined by the French teacher grading the test, must be the following:

French 1: Novice Mid or better
French 2: Novice High or better
French 3: Intermediate Low or better
French 4: Intermediate Mid or better

Superior-Distinguished Advanced — Paragraph Level Narrate and describe in past, present and future and deal effectively with an unanticipated complication Intermediate — Sentence Level Create with language, initiate, maintain and bring to a close simple conversations by asking and responding to simple questions Novice — Word Level Communicate minimally with formulaic and rote utterances, lists and phrases

[ACTFL Proficiency Guide]

Year 1: NOVICE, words, phrases, not conversational

Year 2: INTERMEDIATE, sentences, small conversations on everyday topics

Year 3: *INTERMEDIATE*, connected sentences, conversations with some details, different time frames (past, present, future)

Year 4: *ADVANCED*, paragraphs of sentences, can ask questions to collect information and respond in all time frames