

Credit Program Exam for World Languages

2009



What is the purpose of the Credit Program for World Languages?

This program is designed to test students' native language proficiency so that they earn credit toward fulfilling the world language requirement for the Advanced Studies Diploma. The following information will answer questions concerning the program. If you have additional questions, please call the Office of World Languages at 703-208-7724.

Who is eligible?

The exam is for students in grades 7-12 whose native language is listed below. These students must demonstrate proficiency in writing that language. Students who already have two or more credits in that language on their transcript (from another country or from the U.S.) or who are currently enrolled in an FCPS course in that language are not eligible to take this exam.

What languages are included in the program?

For the 2009-2010 school year there are 18 languages included in the program: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali/Bangla, Chinese/Mandarin, Farsi/Persian, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog/Pilipino, Twi, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

What language proficiency is expected?

Students must demonstrate in writing that they have reached at least the intermediate range of proficiency as described by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) K-12 Performance Guidelines. This means that students can write about personal experiences using complete sentences in cohesive paragraphs on a variety of topics.

What are the world language requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma?

In order to earn the Advanced Studies Diploma, students must earn three credits in one world language or two credits in each of two different world languages. The credit program addresses the second option because students who pass the credit exam earn two world language credits.

Are there other ways to earn the additional two world language credits?

Students who participate in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program during grades 7-12 may apply two units of credit from Level 2 (course code 5720) towards fulfillment of the world language requirement for the Advanced Studies Diploma.

Can a student take Level 3 of the language and fulfill the requirement?

Yes, if a student earns two credits in the program and the third level is offered at the school, successful completion of Level 3 would complete the required courses.

How and where does the exam take place?

Students take the written exam at a designated area high school. The schedule for this year's exam is on the back of this brochure. Students are given two topics, and must write two compositions. Each composition must consist of at least three well-written, cohesive paragraphs.

How will students and their schools be notified of the results?

Students will receive a certificate indicating their successful exam results. A copy of this certificate will also be sent to the Director of Student Services at the middle or high school. Students who are not successful will receive a letter indicating this with a copy also sent to the Director of Student Services.

How many times may a student participate in the exam?

A student may participate in the exam twice between grades 7-12. In other words, students who are not successful the first time may try once more.

How do students register for the exam?

Students should register via the Internet by going to www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/creditexam. Online registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, **September 21, 2009** and must be completed by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, **October 19, 2009**. It is recommended that students print a copy of the completed online registration form, including the registration number.

What should students bring to the exam?

Students **MUST** bring a photo ID to the testing site. Examples of a photo ID are a driver's license, photo school ID, or passport. Students should also bring a pen or a pencil and their student ID number. They may **NOT** bring texts, dictionaries, or other materials into the exam room.

Exam Schedule for 2009

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

3:30 p.m.

J.E.B. Stuart High School
3301 Peace Valley Lane
Falls Church, Virginia 22044

Thursday, November 5, 2009

3:30 p.m.

West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

Monday, November 9, 2009

3:30 p.m.

Lake Braddock Secondary School
9200 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015

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