

## World Language Competency Test – Study Tips for Students

These study tips have been developed using the benchmark and rubric guides provided by Avant Assessment, ACTFL proficiency guidelines, as well as experience taking both the STAMP and ALTA tests.

Regardless of which test you take, you are likely to encounter similar types of questions, whether online, in writing or on the phone.

### General test taking tips:

- Be sure to read prompts carefully and attend to all the parts of the prompt
- Pay attention to specifically what the prompt is asking you to do, for example: describe, discuss, etc.
- Always check your work and use the time you have – don't rush!

### Types of writing: narrative, opinion, descriptive, email

- It is important to elaborate and provide as much detail as possible, even if the prompt doesn't specifically ask for it
- Write in the highest, most academic level of the language you can

### Things you can expect:

- Prompts that ask you to create imagined scenarios
  - For example, working for the school newspaper
  - For these types of questions, it is important not to let a lack of actual experience throw you off! It's okay to make it up.
- Prompts that ask you to create imagined processes
  - For example, making an appointment to see a counselor

### Ways to prepare:

- Read a variety of real-world texts in the language
  - Newspaper articles
  - Advertisements
  - Restaurant menus
  - Books
  - Websites
- Listen in the target language:
  - Commercials
  - Radio
  - Watch TV
- Talk with native speakers as much as possible!
- Write – practice the types of writing described above, and write for a real audience. For example, send a letter or email to a friend or relative. Write your opinion on an important topic and share it with someone else who speaks the language.

The information on the next two pages will help you to understand how your responses are scored, and what each level of proficiency looks like.