

French Proficiency Test General Information

The exam is designed for students who have taken French in high school and/or some courses at the college level who wish to demonstrate that they can perform at the second year (151 and/or 152) level of language study at the University at Buffalo. If a student is clearly capable of responding appropriately in all three categories, s/he will be exempt from the language requirement. Individuals who can do some, but not all work – or who perform inconsistently or inaccurately – in all three categories will be encouraged to enroll in coursework at a level designed to complete or repair deficiencies.

The test has three parts:

Part A Reading comprehension

Two passages of normal newspaper or everyday prose describing a cultural or social phenomenon, accompanied by 4-5 true/false and short answer questions designed to demonstrate students' ability to read for the general gist of the passage, as well for detail.

Each passage and question section is followed by a question to the students designed to elicit a 3-4 sentence reaction or response to the issue raised in the reading.

Part B Language use

Short answers to approximately 10 open-ended, general questions about students' own life and activities, public attitudes or social condition utilizing a variety of tenses and grammatical constructions (e.g. pres, passé, composé, futur, subjonctif, if/then clauses) used in everyday conversation. These are followed by a series of fill-in-the-blank questions designed to check on students' linguistic competence (specific verb forms, use of preposition with verbs, and subordinating conjunctions).

e.g.

Que faut-il faire chaque jour pour rester en forme?

Qu'est-ce qu'on prend normalement au petit déjeuner?

e.g.

Nous viendrons chez toi ce soir si nous _____ le temps.

Il n'oublie jamais _____ sortir les ordures.

Part C Specific Knowledge

Ten to fifteen sentences with multiple-choice options from which to choose. Examines tenses and subjunctive use, relative clauses, and prepositions as well as selected vocabulary items.

e.g.

Elle ne _____ pas la famille Robinson

A. sait

B. connaît

C. pense

D. sourit