

## Exam Format: French Language



The AP French Language Exam is approximately two and three-quarter hours long, and consists of two sections. In Section I, students are given 85 minutes to answer approximately 80 multiple-choice questions that test their listening and reading skills; in Section II, they have 75 minutes to demonstrate their writing and speaking skills through their essays and taped responses. The portion of the examination devoted to each skill counts for one-fourth of the final grade.

- In Section I, Part A, students are asked to listen to a series of brief exchanges between two speakers. After listening to these exchanges twice, they must identify the most appropriate rejoinder from the four choices printed in their exam booklets. Next, students are played recorded dialogues or brief monologues and then listen to and answer questions about what they have just heard. Note: Beginning with the 2008 AP French Language Exam, the questions based on listening dialogues (that is, both questions and suggested answers) will be printed in the exam booklets. No part of these questions will appear on the recording.
- In Section I, Part B, students read several prose passages and an occasional poetry passage that are each followed by multiple-choice questions on their content. Some questions testing knowledge and understanding of grammatical structure may be included.
- In Section II, Part A, students demonstrate their knowledge of French grammatical structure by filling in omitted words or verb forms within paragraphs. They also show their ability to express ideas in written French by writing a 40-minute essay on a given topic.
- In Section II, Part B, students tape-record their responses to a series of questions based on a picture or series of pictures. The questions are printed in the exam booklet as well as played on a master recording; there are two sets of questions with two or three questions per set. Students may be asked to tell the story presented in the pictures, to comment on the content of the pictures, or to discuss a topic suggested by the pictures.

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	<b>% of Grade</b>	<b>Number of Questions</b>	<b>Minutes Allotted</b>
<b>Section I</b>	50		
Part A		40-42	30
Part B		40-45	55
<b>Section II</b>	50		
Part A		30 fill-ins, 1 essay	60
Part B		5	15

\*\*The date of the exam for 2012 is: **Tuesday, May 15 at 12:00pm**. If you are taking *AP Government* class as well, this exam will be on the same day at 8:00am!

The Foreign Language Department at **GRACE** collectively decided to set the same standards for the both foreign language AP courses.

Grading will be as follows:

**Homework/Quizzes: 25%** - Homework and quiz grades will be one of the same. Every homework assignment is as important as a quiz grade. Therefore, it will be graded as such.

**Participation: 25%** - Participation in any foreign language class is key. It is particularly important that students are willing to get outside of their comfort and speak freely in the target language at all times.

**Test, Paper, Project: 50%** - There will be 2-3 tests per quarter until the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. By the time we arrive at the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, we focus on the exam solely. We will do the practice exam which will count as a test grade. There will be several writing assignments, but at least one paper per quarter. There will be one major project per semester.

May 26, 2011

Dear AP Students and Parents,

I am excited about our growing AP Program at GRACE! I am thrilled that you are going to embark in this journey with me! The foreign language AP courses and exams are known to be quite challenging. Fortunately for us, we have the ability to work one-on-one due to the small size of our classes. It's going to require a lot of work and diligence, but I have no doubt you will be able to meet your goals!

With this in mind, you will need to stay committed to your coursework over the summer. It is imperative that you continue to expose your mind to French as much as you possibly can. Our class will be conducted strictly in French from the very first day! This means you need to practice over the summer. Any opportunity to use the language is greatly encouraged! I will need to get your e-mail addresses, as I will be contacting you throughout the summer. As you already know, the format of the foreign language exams will become the same for all languages in 2012. This is good news for us!

The focus of the new exam will be on *interpersonal skills*. With this in mind, I would like to have you communicate with me and with each other throughout the summer. For example, if you listen to a newscast that you found particularly interesting, I encourage you to e-mail your classmates as well as myself. Don't forget that these e-mails WILL BE written in the target language! No more English! The reason this letter is written in English is to ensure parents can read it as well.

As we begin the new school year, we will focus on AP French grading scales. Don't be surprised if you end up receiving grades lower than you are accustomed to at first. Remember, the College Board standards are quite high. Receiving a 3 or above on the AP French exam is quite an accomplishment. Obtaining this level is considered the equivalence of a third semester college level class. The pace will be fast and demanding. There is a tremendous amount of vocabulary to cover. What you will find however, is that after a few weeks, we will be conversing quite fluently. It may be difficult to adjust at first, but you will enjoy the level you will eventually reach. It will require patience on your part! As a result, your writing, speaking and reading will flourish. Therefore, the more you expose yourself to new words over the summer, the better. **Stay focused and motivated!** These skills are what make YOU an AP student in the first place. The homework load will be approximately one hour per night. You will be required to do a fair amount of independent work. I will give you your assignments at the beginning of the week. You will be responsible for completing it at your own pace throughout the week. You can do this! I believe in your ability which is why I recommended you for the class in the first place.