

Preparing for the STAMP Test

What is the STAMP test?

STAMP stands for **ST**Andards-based **M**easurement of **P**roficiency. This means that this test will assess what you can **DO** with the language that you are studying, not simply assess what you know **ABOUT** the language. How well you do on the STAMP test is reported in terms that correlate with nationally recognized levels of proficiency as defined by ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). STAMP will assess your **READING** ability by measuring how well you comprehend actual texts written by native speakers of the language for native speakers of the language. It will assess your **WRITING** ability by measuring how well you can write in real world situations. It will assess your **SPEAKING** ability by measuring how well you can speak about everyday situations.

Preparing for the STAMP test...

It is not possible to cram for a proficiency-based assessment, so don't spend time trying to do this. The STAMP test will deliver items from a number of topics across several levels. Take time to review the topics outlined below and review the vocabulary connected with each of the topics. For the writing and speaking sections you will be asked to write on three different prompts/topics and speak about three different prompts/topics. The best way to prepare for these kinds of tasks is to actually practice by writing and speaking.

Levels and Topics

Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four	Level Five
Calendar/Time Colors/Shapes Family Pets/Animals School/Classroom Self Weather/Seasons	All previous topics plus: Clothing Food/Beverage Friends Home Leisure/Activities Places/Geography	All previous topics plus: Community Daily Routines Shopping/Stores	All previous topics plus: Health Holidays Celebrations Occupations Professions Transportation Travel/Vacations	All previous topics plus: Future plans Culture / Contemporary Issues (Current events, Economics, Culture, Literature, Science, Social Science, etc.)

Taking the STAMP test...

The STAMP test will take about 60 minutes to complete if you are doing the reading and writing sections and about 75 minutes if you are doing all components, reading, writing and speaking. The reading section is computer adaptive and will adjust the item difficulty to how well you are doing on the assessment. Because this section is adaptive, each test taker may receive a different number of items. Once the reading section is complete, you will be given three writing prompts at an appropriate level. If you are doing the speaking section as well, you will be given three speaking prompts to complete after the writing section. You must continue taking the test and submitting items until you reach the page that reads "Thank You", indicating that you have completed the assessment.

Test Taking Hints: In the reading section, take time to read the question and all of the answers **BEFORE** you actually attempt reading the text. This will help guide your reading and you will move through the items more quickly. For both the writing and the speaking items, take time to look at the scoring guide below each item, **BEFORE** completing the task, so that you know how your response will be evaluated. Remember that this is a proficiency test and that these items will be scored by trained raters who will evaluate your sample using the scoring guide. Write and speak as much as you possibly can for each item. Do not just do the minimum to "get by." The more you write or speak, the greater the possibility of scoring higher on the task.

Your teacher will give you the **TEST CODE** and **PASSWORD** that you must use to access your test just before the test will begin. You will also be asked to input your **Student ID number** on the Student Profile Page. **Please be prepared to enter that number at the appropriate time.**