



I.F.D.C. LENGUAS VIVAS - BARILOCHE (A-52)

DISTANCE EDUCATION

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION PROCEDURES AND CONTENTS

Hello Everyone!

You are about to take one of the first steps in your teacher training career. So, start getting ready to tackle your entrance examination!

Here you will find all the necessary information regarding contents and procedures:

- ▶ General description of the exam
- ▶ The language benchmarks or standards required
- ▶ Type of tasks that will be included
- ▶ Tips and procedures for this on-line entrance examination

▶ **General Description**

The purpose of this entrance examination is to measure your general language ability and the results of it will not be credited to your performance in any of the subjects/courses that form part of the curricula.

The feedback following the exam will help teachers and students alike to determine what steps ought to be taken, if any, in order to improve students' language level.

The information below will help you to revise some of the main language points that will be assessed.

▶ **Language Benchmarks**

These are language standards used for describing, measuring and recognizing second language proficiency. Meeting the standards required will mean a successful start of your career.

The standards we use have been adapted from the Canadian Language Benchmarks. The linguistic level required is post intermediate.

Measuring Standards of Language Ability

Description of the abilities a candidate must possess at post-intermediate level:

- Candidate should be able to follow main ideas, key words and important details in authentic texts. He should demonstrate his ability to skim a text to obtain general information or to scan it in order to obtain detailed information in a variety of texts such as charts, letters, and articles

from newspapers. He should be able to analyse, compare, and contrast the ideas contained in the texts.

- Candidate should be able to get information about familiar topics from reading or listening to mostly factual texts with clear organization, and within familiar background knowledge and experience.
- Candidate should show ability to guess meaning of unknown words by inferring it from context.
- Candidate should demonstrate ability in performing moderately complex writing tasks.
- Candidate should be able to comment on previous experience, abilities, and strengths, and form reports and ask questions.
- Candidate should reproduce information received orally or visually, and can take simple notes from short oral presentations or from reference materials. Candidate should be able to convey information from a table, graph, or chart in a coherent paragraph/text.
- Candidate should be able to identify key words and important details in oral discourse in moderately demanding contexts of language use (formal and informal conversations, audio tapes and radio broadcasts) on everyday topics.
- Candidate should understand a range of common vocabulary and a number of idioms.
- Candidate should be able to communicate facts and ideas in some detail and describe, report, and provide a simple narration using a variety of language structures.
- Candidate should show an acceptable knowledge of the grammar structures of the English language and a capacity to use verb tenses appropriately.

Grammar Structures

Revision of Tenses:

Present Simple, Present Continuous, and Present Perfect, uses of since and for
Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect
Future Simple, Future Continuous, Future with "Going to"

Modal Verbs: can, could, must, may, might, would, should, will, shall, ought to

Conditionals: If- sentences (Types 0, 1, 2 and 3)

Reported Speech (all tenses)

Passive Voice (all tenses)

Causative: get/have something done

Question framing

Prepositions: time, position, reason, movement, place

Time Expressions

Linkers: Concession, contrast, addition, time, sequencers, purpose and reason

Comparative and Superlative

Compound nouns and adjectives

Adjectives – Word order (e.g. a nice new house), Adjectives ending in –ed / -ing, So/such, enough / too

Relative Clauses- Use of relative pronouns

Preference (would rather, prefer)

Idioms

Phrasal Verbs

Verb Patterns: Verb + infinitive vs. Verb + -ing

► **Type of Tasks included in the exam**

- Write notes and letters expressing simple ideas and information about personal experience within contexts of everyday situations such as invitations, apologies, thanks, etc.
- Write short messages; postcards, notes, directions, application forms.
- Write compositions telling stories in the past or describing future plans.
- Read and/or listen to a text and answer questions on it, underline main ideas, select True/False statements or choose the correct option in multiple choice exercises.
- Fill in gaps with correct verb forms, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, highlight the word, the opposite, the synonym.
- Match the word with the definition, the question with the answer, the statement with the explanation.
- Select the odd one out (lexical items)
- Listen to messages, instructions, public announcements, TV/Radio news and take down notes or complete the chart/gaps.

► **Some tips and procedures**

Exam dates will be announced on our Web Site, make sure you have checked date and time well in advance. Remember there is one exam date in December 2006 and another one in February 2007.

A few weeks before the exam you will be able to download some exam practice from our Website containing the same type of exercises that will be given in the exam. This will give you plenty of time to read and understand the instructions belonging to each exercise and to know exactly what you are expected to do in each of the tasks. (Exam practice will be available only for students who have already enrolled.)

- On the day and at the time set for the examination, it will be necessary for you to download the test which will only be available for two hours, the period of time allowed for the entrance examination.
- Before the exam, you should make sure that everything is working properly: Internet connection, e-mail account, computer speakers or headphones, word processor.
- You should also see to the following details: adequately ventilated room, comfortable seat, no disruptive elements such as telephone, cell phone or other factors that might upset concentration.

- After checking all these factors you will be ready to download your exam at the appointed time.
- How to download the exam: Go to www.lenguasvivas.org, click on Distance Education section and you will find a notice on the right hand side of the screen announcing “ENTRANCE EXAMINATION DOWNLOAD”. When the notice appears, it means the exam is on. Click on it and off you go: exam time. You have two hours as from this moment on.
- Once you have downloaded your exam, you should read the instructions carefully and start working on it immediately after that, remember you should not exceed the time allowed.
- After completing the exam, you will have to send it through e-mail to the address we will set for that purpose. The address will appear on the instructions. Do not forget to attach the word file to your e-mail.
- The results of the assessment will be e-mailed to you by the administration within two weeks from the exam dates.

Do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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