

TEST TIPS FOR ACING THE AAPPL!

Thank you for thinking about taking the AAPPL to earn the Seal of Biliteracy or the Commendation Toward Biliteracy! For complete information on how to qualify for and earn the Seal or the Commendation, visit this website:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AWaWf32fYfDeifcUYzEntTfw3JBehM2/view>

To earn the Seal through the AAPPL test, you need scores of Intermediate High (I5) or Advanced in all four domains: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. To earn the Commendation through the AAPPL test, you need scores of Intermediate Low (I1) and above in all four domains.

Why Go for the Seal?

- It looks great on your resume and college applications!
- It is highly sought-after by universities and employers.
- A state law that went into effect at the beginning of 2017 says that all Illinois public universities must accept the Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to two years of foreign (world) language coursework taken in high school. It also says that all public universities in Illinois must establish criteria for awarding equivalent course credit for the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Recipients of the Seal will receive a certificate and a medal at Senior Awards Night.
- It's an honor and a distinction that will remain on your diploma and transcript FOR LIFE!
- It's an amazing way to celebrate how far you have come and demonstrate that you are in the top 1% of World Languages students in the State of Illinois!

Helpful Website

<https://www.actfl.org/assessment-professional-development/assessments-the-actfl-testing-office/aappl/demo>

This AAPPL demo website has practice tests. Just be sure to Practice with Form B, since it's the most challenging and the one you need to "pass" to earn the Seal. If you are testing with a language that doesn't have a practice test, use another language you know, such as ESL (English) to get an idea of what will be on the test.

Test-Taking Tips

General

1. **Relax!** When you are calm, it's easier to produce and understand language. That's a scientific fact!

2. **Take the time you need to do your best.** The AAPPL is not timed, except for the speaking test, which has time limits because you are having a conversation. You may be approved for a make-up test on the section or sections you need to retake, but if you do your best the first time, you can avoid having to test again!

Listening and Reading

1. Play it again! You are often able to **listen to selections more than once**. Don't hesitate to do so if it will help you!
2. If there are words you don't understand, **think about words or word families that you know that might help**. For example, in Spanish, if you hear or read *lamentablemente*, you can tell that the person is lamenting—or being sad—about what he or she is about to say. You know that they will be talking about something that's unfortunate.
3. When reading, **go back to the text** to look for the right answers.

Speaking and Writing

1. You need to **be understood** by native speakers of the language who are NOT used to speaking with non-native speakers. Make sure you are **not using any English** and that your speech or writing can be understood.
2. You will need to use a **variety of sentence structures** (for questions and non-questions) and tell stories using **paragraphs**. To do that, you will need to employ **transition words, sequence words, cohesive devices**, and whatever time frame(s) is/are appropriate for the prompt. You have to be able to **narrate in the past** (preterit and imperfect, in some languages), **present, and future** (will and/or going to) time frames, depending on the prompt!
3. **Be ready for some complications.** Intermediate High and Advanced speakers of a language are able to deal effectively with unanticipated complications. An example of this would be not having enough money to pay for dinner, missing a flight and needing to catch another one, or wanting to buy something that is sold out.
4. **Produce as much as you can.** Don't ramble on, but **show off!** Show what you know and can produce in the language. Show that you can **be accurate and confident** when speaking and writing about different topics, especially in a school or work setting.
5. **Ask questions.** If a prompt asks you to ask questions, ask several relevant, quality questions. For example, if you are talking about why you are interested in studying abroad, you might ask questions about the program: How many students will participate? Will there be fun excursions? Do the students sleep in dorms or in family homes? How much spending

money should I bring? What did last year's participants say about the experience? You WILL be asked to ask questions, so please be prepared!

6. **Use the right register.** Some languages have formal and familiar registers, like *tú* and *usted* in Spanish or *tu* and *vous* in French. When speaking with a peer (another student), use the informal register. When speaking with a parent (that is not yours), teacher, or other adult, use the formal register consistently.

7. When speaking, **don't be shy!** Now is NOT the time to be quiet, embarrassed, or worried about what other testers will think. Your objective is to pass, so do that "showing off" thing we talked about! You have come SO far in your language; be proud!

Questions? Comments? Dilemmas?

Please see your World Languages teacher or contact Mrs. Escalante via e-mail at descalante@dist113.org or by phone at 224-632-3181. You can also visit her in X117.

BEST OF LUCK TO YOU! YOU CAN DO IT!



Still unsure about testing? Know that DHS students (from both standard and honors classes) do an outstanding job!

The class of 2020 earned 90 Seals and 90 Commendations! The class of 2021 earned 71 Seals and 71 Commendations!

Come join this amazing group of award-winning students!