

## **Assessment I: Content Knowledge**

### **1. Description of the Assessment**

We have adopted the Praxis II Content Knowledge tests in French and Spanish as assessments of content knowledge. Because New Hampshire does not require standardized licensure tests, we have not previously used these tests. However, nearby states, for example Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut, do require Praxis II. Since many of our students come from these states, and graduates often seek employment there, it makes good sense for us to require at the outset what they would need to do anyway. Furthermore, because relatively few students complete our teacher certification programs each year, it makes little sense for us to develop our own tests, and it would be impossible to establish valid norms comparing them to a nationwide pool of beginning language teachers.

### **2. Alignment with ACTFL Standards**

The Praxis II Content Knowledge tests in French and Spanish relate to ACTFL standards 1, 2, and 3. The Interpretative Listening, Grammatical Analysis, and Interpretive Reading portions of the test examine test takers' language proficiency. The Cultural Perspectives section addresses ACTFL Standard 2, focusing on the "practices and products" of the target language culture.

The Grammatical Accuracy portion of the test requires that test takers "identify, correct, or describe" errors and error patterns. These competencies address ACTFL standard 3, which requires that "candidates demonstrate an understanding of language acquisition at various developmental levels."

### **3. Analysis of Data Findings**

In the fall of 2006, teacher certification in modern languages was overseen by a part-time adjunct professor who also teaches at a local high school. The Praxis II for the fall of 2006 was completed by only one of the three teacher candidates who completed their methods course followed by their student teaching experience in the spring of 2007. This was an unfortunate oversight that probably resulted from a number of factors. The adjunct professor was teaching the methods course here at Keene State College while still performing her duties at her full-time high school position. Meanwhile, the department of modern languages was busy preparing for a national search for a tenure track professor to assume the responsibilities for teacher certification in modern languages.

During the spring of 2007, the institution hired a full-time tenure track professor (Dr. Stephen Hawes) to oversee the modern language teacher certification program. Hence, Professor Hawes made it his priority to familiarize himself with all that NCATE requested from the institution. Unfortunately, since his hire commenced in the fall of 2007, the Praxis II data from the 2006/2007 academic year is not complete with only one of the three student teacher candidates having taken the test.

In the fall of 2007 Professor Hawes made sure that the three methods students enrolled take the Praxis II. Early in the fall semester, the Praxis II has to be taken and passed prior to the candidate entering student teaching in the spring.

#### 4. Evidence of Meeting ACTFL Standards

Praxis II tests are widely accepted as assessments for content knowledge.

#### 5. Assessment Documentation

### Assessment I: ETS Praxis II Test: Content Knowledge

*Note: French is used as a sample here. The Spanish Praxis II test follows the same format.*

#### 5a. Assessment Tool

##### French: Content Knowledge (0173)

Test Name	<i>Test at a Glance</i> French: Content Knowledge			
Test Code	0173			
Time	2 hours (total test): four sections			
Pacing	<i>Suggested time: Section I — 30 minutes; Section II — 35 minutes; Section III — 35 minutes; Section IV — 20 minutes</i>			
Number of Questions	120			
Format	<i>Multiple-choice questions based on recorded and printed materials in French; some questions (on language analysis and cultural perspectives) in English</i>			
	Content Categories (Knowledge and Competencies Tested)	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination	Time (in Minutes)
	I. Interpretive Listening ( in French)	32	27%	30 (approximate)
	II. Structure of the Language (Grammatical Accuracy)			

(in French and English)	34	28%	35 (suggested)
III. Interpretive Reading (in French)	31	26%	35 (suggested)
IV. Cultural Perspectives (in French)	23	19%	20 (suggested)

### Recorded Portion: Section I and Section II, Part A

- The questions in Section I (Interpretive Listening) and Section II, Part A (Speech Analysis) are recorded on CD. The CD will be played **only** once. Some of the recorded material is not printed in the test book; pay special attention to whether the test material is presented on CD, printed in the test book, or both.

Representative descriptions of the knowledge and competencies tested in each category are provided below.

#### I. Interpretive Listening

- Test takers listen to: audio recordings of native French speakers that consist of short conversations, followed by one or more questions; short narrations, followed by one or more questions; and long narrations and dialogues, followed by several questions.
- From the four choices in the test book, the test taker selects the best response.
- Questions are designed to test phonemic discrimination, understanding of idiomatic expressions, familiarity with vocabulary and structures typical of conversational French, and comprehension of relevant cultural information contained in the spoken material.
- All spoken and written questions in this section are in French.

#### II. Structure of the Language (Grammatical Accuracy) Focus is on the test takers' ability to recognize errors and error patterns in spoken and written French and to analyze the structural components of the language, including speech analysis, writing analysis, language analysis, and grammar analysis.

- **Speech Analysis:** Test takers will listen to recordings of spoken French and identify, correct, or describe the type of errors and error patterns they hear, such as basic grammatical errors, pronunciation errors, register, false cognates, and use of slang.
- **Writing Analysis:** Test takers identify, correct, or describe errors and error patterns in grammar, mechanics, including punctuation, spelling, and capitalization, word choice, and register in passages printed in the test book.
- **Language Analysis:** Test takers demonstrate knowledge of the structure of the French language, including morphology, word analysis, and vocabulary.
- **Grammar Analysis:** Test takers select the most appropriate completions for sentences and short paragraphs in which words or phrases have been omitted.

#### III. Interpretive Reading

- Reading selections are on a variety of topics at various levels of difficulty, from print and nonprint sources such as periodicals, the Internet, advertisements, and literature.
- Questions focus on content and organization, implied content, and use of language.
- Test takers answer questions in French based on what has been stated or implied in the

selections.

#### IV. Cultural Perspectives

- Questions focus on: history, contemporary issues, geography, literature and the arts, lifestyles and societies of the French-speaking world, and sociolinguistic elements of French.
- The Culture questions are in French.

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#### 5b. Scoring Guide

Scoring is done by ETS; therefore we have not furnished a scoring guide here.

#### 5c. Data table

##### Praxis II (French)

Academic Year	Number of candidates	Approaches Standard (1)	Meets Standards (2)	Exceeds Standards (3)
2006/2007	0			
2007/2008	0			

##### Praxis II (Spanish)

Academic Year	Number of candidates	Approaches Standard (1)	Meets Standards (2)	Exceeds Standards (3)
2006/2007	1*			1
2007/2008	3	1	2	

\*Only one candidate took the Praxis II during this year.



# THE PRAXIS S E R I E S

Telephone: 800-772-9476 or 603-771-7395

## EXAMINEE SCORE REPORT

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Examinee's name: GELSOMINI, LESLIE  
 Candidate ID Number: 03568541 Social Security Number: 002-72-7143 Sex: F Date of Birth: 07/12/1985

### EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

College Where Relevant Training Was Received: KEENE STATE COLLEGE  
 Undergraduate Major: SPANISH  
 Graduate Major: UNDECIDED  
 Educational Level: SENIOR (FOURTH YEAR)  
 GPA: 3.5 - 4.0

### SCORE RECIPIENT(S) REQUESTED

Code #	Recipient Name
R3472	KEENE STATE COLLEGE
R7660	NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPT OF EDUC

LESLIE GELSOMINI  
 38 WINDSOR BLVD  
 LONDONDERRY NH 03053

**CURRENT TEST DATE:** 11/17/2007

Test Code	Test Name	Your Score	Possible Score Range	Average Performance Range**	Score Recipient Code(s) from Current Administration					
					R3472	R7660				
0191	SPANISH CONTENT KNOWLEDGE	184	100 - 200	163 - 187	N	N				

**HIGHEST SCORE AS OF** 12/14/2007

Test Date	Test Code	Test Name	Your Highest Score	Possible Score Range	Score Recipient Code(s)					
					R3472	R7660				
11/17/2007	0191	SPANISH CONTENT KNOWLEDGE	184	100 - 200	N	N				
06/11/2005	0710	PPST READING	179	150 - 190	Y	Y				
06/11/2005	0720	PPST WRITING	174	150 - 190	Y	Y				
06/11/2005	0730	PPST MATHEMATICS	186	150 - 190	Y	Y				

Scores will be available for reporting for ten years.

For more information on Understanding Your Praxis Scores, refer to the enclosed interpretive leaflet and visit [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis).

### MESSAGE CODES

N TEST NOT REQUIRED BY DI. SCORE NOT REPORTED.  
 Y SCORE REPORTED TO RECIPIENT LISTED.



