

## **Assessment I: Content Knowledge**

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

We will adopt 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. 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**

We will administer these tests for the first time in fall 2006, and begin collecting data at that time. We anticipate that we will need to compare national norms for these tests with our students' performance.

### **4. Evidence of Meeting ACTFL Standards**

Praxis II tests are widely accepted as assessments meeting ACTFL standards. As soon as we have data on candidate performance, we will be able to furnish evidence.

### **5. Assessment Documentation**

#### **5a. Assessment Tool**

## **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.*

### **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	Approximate 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**

Data for the Praxis II tests will be collected and charted as of fall 2006, when we begin to administer the tests.