

French & International Languages Course Challenge

Course Challenge Guide for Students & Family



Table of Contents

What is Language Course Challenge?2

Is Language Course Challenge Right for Me?2

How Does This Process Work?3

Programs of Study/Locally Developed Course Curriculum6

Example Rubric for Oral Exam7

Example Rubric for Written Exam8

Language Course Challenge Student Checklist9

Frequently Asked Questions10

Language Course Challenge Student Handout.....14

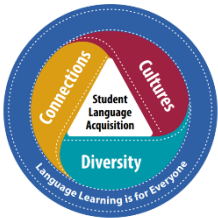
Language Course Challenge Consent Form15

Our Mission

Each student, in keeping with their individual abilities and gifts, will complete high school with a foundation of learning necessary to thrive in life, work and continued learning.

Last update: August 2026

CONTACT US
CBE Languages
cbelanguages@cbe.ab.ca



What is Language Course Challenge?

A Language Course Challenge gives you the opportunity to earn high school credits for a language you already know. This is a two-part assessment process.

You will show what you can do in the language by completing:

1. **Part 1: Portfolio**
2. **Part 2: Course Challenge Exam**

If you successfully complete the process, you receive a final mark and credits for the 30-level course. You may also receive credits for the 10- and 20-level courses, if applicable.

Before You Apply

You should consider a Language Course Challenge if you can already:

- **Speak** the language
- **Understand** the language when people speak
- **Read** the language
- **Write** the language

You do not need to take the course at school before challenging it. But you do need to be ready to demonstrate the full 30-level course outcomes.

Is Language Course Challenge Right for Me?

- You are a CBE high school student.
- You are ready to demonstrate your skills in **reading, writing, listening and speaking**.
- You are not currently registered in the 30-level course.
- You have not already received credit for the course.
- You have not already received credit for a higher-level course in the **same language** sequence (e.g. Spanish Language Arts 30, French Language Arts 30).

Important! Knowing how to speak the language is not enough. You must be able to read and write in the language at the 30-level expected for the course.



How Does This Process Work?

Step 1 | Talk to Your School

Talk to your school's Language Course Challenge delegate, guidance counsellor, or principal.

Your school will help you:

- Decide if you are ready to challenge the course (language ability).
- Check that you are eligible.
- Tell you the school's registration deadline.

Step 2 | Register

If your school determines that you are ready and eligible:

1. Complete the [Language Course Challenge Consent Form](#).
2. Have the form signed as required.
3. Submit it to your school's Language Course Challenge delegate by the school's deadline.

After you register, CBE Languages will:

- Confirm your registration by email to your CBE email address
- Enroll you in the D2L course for your language.

Important! Check your CBE Email (including the junk folder) regularly. After the initial confirmation email, all further instructions for language course challenge will be communicated to you through D2L.

Step 3 | Preparation for Your Part 1 Portfolio

Once you are registered, read the instructions in D2L carefully.

You will prepare two things **before** the Part 1 Session.

1. Audio Recording
 - Choose one Field of Experience from the instructions.
 - Record yourself speaking about the topic for about 1–2 minutes.
2. Written transcript
 - Write down exactly what you said in your audio recording.
3. Submit both the audio recording and the written transcript through D2L by the deadline provided

Important! What you hand in must be your own work.



Step 4 | Part 1: Portfolio

Attend Part 1 Portfolio session **in person** at the location, and on the date and time provided to you by CBE Languages.

You will:

- Confirm the submission of your audio recording and transcript on D2L.
- Complete **three writing tasks**.

You must bring:

- Student/school ID
- Pens or pencils
- Eraser
- Optional: paper dictionary or verb conjugation book
- **Electronic devices are not permitted.**

Tip! The Calgary Public Library often has dictionaries or verb conjugation books available to borrow for free.

Step 5 | Find Out if You Can Continue to Part 2

An examiner will assess your Part 1 Portfolio. The examiner will determine whether you have demonstrated enough readiness to continue to Part 2.

- If you are recommended to continue, you will receive information about Part 2.
- If you are **not** recommended to continue, you and your school delegate will be informed and your Language Course Challenge ends after Part 1. No course challenge result is reported on your transcript at this point.

Step 6 | Part 2: Course Challenge Exam

If you are recommended to continue, attend the Part 2 Exam **in person** at the location and on the date and time provided to you by CBE Languages.

You will complete four parts of the exam:

Speak

- Oral interview
- Approximately 10-15 min



Listen

- Listening Comprehension
- Approximately 30-45 min

Read

- Reading comprehension
- Approximately 45-60 min

Write

- Written production
- Approximately 60-90 min

Important! You must complete all four parts of the exam.

What should I bring?

- Student/school ID
- Pens
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Optional: paper dictionary for your language
- **Electronic devices are not permitted.**

Step 7 | Receive Your Results

- Your exam is assessed by a CBE Languages examiner.
- If you complete Part 2, you will receive a final mark for the 30-level course.
- You may also receive credits for the 10- and 20-level courses in the same language sequence, if applicable.
- Your final mark will be reported to Alberta Education and will appear on your official transcript.
- You can check your mark through MyPass once your school has completed the reporting process.

Remember! You can choose to stop the process before Part 2 without receiving a course challenge mark or notation on your Detailed Academic Report. Once you complete Part 2, a final mark is issued.



Programs of Study/Locally Developed Course Curriculum

It is the student's responsibility to review the relevant Alberta Program of Study/Locally Developed Course Curriculum for their language to understand the skills required to succeed in the Course Challenge process. Below is a list of Languages currently available for challenge and where to obtain a copy of the Program of Studies/Locally Developed Course Curricular document.

Alberta Education – New LearnAlberta

<https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/curriculum/en>

Chinese (Mandarin) 30-3Y

French 30-3Y

French 30-9Y

German 30-3Y

Spanish 30-3Y

Italian 30-3Y

Japanese 30-3Y

Punjabi 30-3Y

Ukrainian 30-3Y

Locally Developed Course Curriculum

Ask your school for a copy – available on [CBE Insite](#)

Arabic 35-3Y

Cantonese 35-3Y

Filipino 35-3Y

Persian 35-3Y



Example Rubric for Oral Exam

Example: French 30-3Y Course Challenge (rubrics & weightings may vary)

	COMMUNICATIVE ACTS		LINGUISTIC REPERTOIRE		
	Message	Coherence	Language Structures & Discourse	Vocabulary	Pronunciation & Intonation
0	The student has not reached the standard described by any of the descriptors given below.		The student has not reached the standard described by any of the descriptors given below.		
1-2	The message has not been developed with the necessary components.	The message is not organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is not evident.	The use of language structures is inaccurate. The sentences are poorly constructed. The many errors render the message incomprehensible.	The vocabulary is mostly inadequate.	The intonation and rhythm are not accurate. The pronunciation impedes the message.
3-4	The message is partially developed with few details to support the necessary components.	The message is partially organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is partially evident.	The use of simple language is partially accurate. The sentences are sometimes well constructed. The errors impede the clarity.	The range of vocabulary is simple with many errors.	The intonation and rhythm are sometimes accurate. The pronunciation is sometimes clear and correct.
5-6	The message is mostly developed with some details to support the necessary components.	The message is mostly organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is mostly evident.	The use of language is generally accurate. The sentences are mostly well constructed. The errors sometimes impede the clarity.	The vocabulary is simple but generally accurate.	The intonation and rhythm are generally accurate. The pronunciation is mostly clear and correct.
7-8	The message is developed with details to support the necessary components.	The message is organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is evident.	The use of language is accurate. The sentences are well constructed. The few errors do not impede the clarity.	The use of vocabulary is accurate.	The intonation and rhythm are accurate. The pronunciation is clear and correct.
9-10	The message is well developed with relevant details to support the necessary components.	The message is well organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is very evident.	The use of appropriate grammatical and syntactical structures enhances the clarity.	The use of vocabulary is precise and rich.	The intonation and rhythm show precision and fluidity. The pronunciation is consistently clear and correct.



Example Rubric for Written Exam

Example: French 30-3Y Course Challenge (rubrics & weightings may vary)

	COMMUNICATIVE ACTS		LINGUISTIC REPERTOIRE	
	Message	Coherence	Language Structures Discourse Development	Vocabulary
0	The student has not reached the standard described by any of the descriptors given below.		The student has not reached the standard described by any of the descriptors given below.	
1-2	The message has not been developed with the necessary components.	The message is not organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is not evident.	The use of language structures is inaccurate. The sentences are poorly constructed. The many errors render the message incomprehensible.	The vocabulary is mostly inadequate; the spelling impedes intelligibility.
3-4	The message is partially developed with few details to support the necessary components.	The message is partially organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is partially evident.	The use of simple language is partially accurate. The sentences are sometimes well constructed. The errors impede the clarity.	The range of vocabulary is simple with many errors. Spelling may impede intelligibility.
5-6	The message is mostly developed with some details to support the necessary components.	The message is mostly organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is mostly evident.	The use of language is generally accurate. The sentences are mostly well constructed. The errors sometimes impede the clarity.	The vocabulary is simple but generally accurate. Spelling does not usually impede intelligibility.
7-8	The message is developed with details to support the necessary components.	The message is organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is evident.	The use of language is accurate. The sentences are well constructed. The few errors do not impede the clarity.	The use of vocabulary is accurate. Spelling rarely impedes intelligibility.
9-10	The message is well developed with relevant details to support the necessary components.	The message is well organized in a logical structure. The fluidity is very evident.	The use of appropriate grammatical and syntactical structures enhances the clarity.	The use of vocabulary is precise and rich. Correct spelling is consistently used.



Language Course Challenge Student Checklist

Before I register

- ☐ I talk to my school Language Course Challenge Delegate
- ☐ I know whether I am eligible.
- ☐ I understand what I will need to demonstrate.

To Register

- ☐ I submit my signed [Language Course Challenge Consent Form](#) to my school's Language Course Challenge Delegate.

After I register

- ☐ I check my @educbe.ca email for confirmation from CBE Languages.
- ☐ I check D2L for access to the challenge course.
- ☐ I know my Part 1 date, time and location.

Before Part 1

- ☐ I read the D2L instructions.
- ☐ I submit on D2L my audio recording
- ☐ I submit on D2L the written transcript of my audio recording.

Part 1

- ☐ I attend the session in person.
- ☐ At the session, I complete three writing tasks.

After Part 1

- ☐ I wait for confirmation of my next steps.

If I continue to Part 2

- ☐ I know my Part 2 date, time and location.
- ☐ I am ready to demonstrate my reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

After Part 2

- ☐ I will wait for confirmation that marks have been posted.
- ☐ I check MyPass to see my mark on my Detailed Academic Report.
- ☐ I talk to my school Language Course Challenge Delegate if I have questions about my credits.



Frequently Asked Questions

Before You Register

- **Who can challenge a language course?**

Eligible CBE high school students may challenge a 30-level language course. Your school Language Course Challenge Delegate will confirm that you are ready and eligible before you register.

- **What languages can I challenge?**

CBE Languages offers Language Course Challenges in a variety of languages. Not every language is offered during every session. Ask your school Language Course Challenge Delegate about the languages available for the current session.

- **Can I challenge more than one language course?**

You may only challenge **one** language course.

- **How do I know if I am ready to challenge a 30-level course?**

You must be able to **listen, speak, read and write** at the level expected for the 30-level course. Your school Language Course Challenge Delegate will help determine whether you are ready.

- **I speak this language at home. Does that mean I am ready?**

Not necessarily. Speaking a language is only one part of the course challenge. You must be able to read and write in the language at the 30-level.

- **Who can help me prepare?**

Your teacher may explain the assessment criteria, but cannot tutor you, prepare your answers, or provide specific preparation or resources for the course challenge. You may practice and study independently with your family or friends. However, all work submitted as part of the course challenge must be your own.

- **Can I receive accommodations if I have an Individualized Program Plan (IPP)?**

Yes. CBE Languages can provide appropriate accommodations for students who have an Individualized Program Plan (IPP). When you complete the [Language Course Challenge Consent Form](#), **you must indicate any accommodations you require** for the Language Course Challenge. CBE Languages will contact your school's delegate to confirm your accommodation needs and determine how they can be provided during the assessment. Please tell your school about your accommodation needs when you register so that there is enough time to make arrangements.



- **What is the registration deadline? What if I miss the deadline?**

Your school will give you a deadline for submitting your Consent Form. If you miss it, contact your school's Language Course Challenge delegate as soon as possible. Late registrations may not be possible.

- **What if I have already received credits for another course in the same language?**

Previous credits can affect whether you are eligible to challenge a course and which additional credits you may receive. Talk to your Language Course Challenge Delegate about your specific situation.

- **What if I already have credit for a higher-level course?**

You may not be able to challenge a lower-level course in the same language sequence. Your school can check your records and explain how the rules apply to you.

After You Register: Preparing for the Challenge

- **How will I know if my registration is confirmed?**

CBE Languages will send confirmation to your **@educbe.ca email address** and register you in the D2L course for your language.

- **What is the 'written transcript' in Part 1?**

The transcript is a written, word-for-word record of what you said in your audio recording.

- **Do I have to write the transcript myself?**

Yes. You must create your own transcript of your own recording, typed and submitted through D2L.

- **Are the tasks the same for every language?**

The overall assessment structure is similar, but specific topics, tasks and instructions may vary by language. You will receive language-specific information through D2L.

- **What if I change my mind after I register?**

If you decide not to continue, you must let your school's Language Course Challenge Delegate **and** CBE Languages know as soon as possible.



Completing the Course Challenge

- **Do I have to arrange my own transportation?**

Yes. Students are responsible for getting themselves to and from the exam location.

- **What do I need to bring?**

- Student/school ID
- Pens
- Pencils
- Eraser
- You may also bring a paper dictionary or printed grammar book if you have one.

- **Can I use my phone or electronic dictionary for the exam?**

No. Electronic devices such as cell phones, smartwatches and electronic dictionaries are not permitted.

- **What happens if I am late to the in-person sessions?**

You are responsible for arriving on time. If something unexpected happens, contact CBE Languages by email as soon as possible.

- **What happens if I miss Part 2?**

Contact your school's Language Course Challenge Delegate and CBE Languages as soon as possible. If you successfully completed Part 1, you may be able, in special circumstances, to complete Part 2 during a future session if space is available

- **What happens if I am not recommended to continue after Part 1?**

Your Language Course Challenge ends after Part 1. No course challenge result is reported on your Detailed Academic Report. Your school can help you decide what to do next.

- **How long is the Part 2 Exam?**

The length of each component varies. You should expect a few hours to complete the full assessment.

- **What is the exam assessing?**

The exam assesses your ability to listen, speak, read and write and measures your achievement of the full 30-level course outcomes.



Results, Credits, and Next Steps

- **What happens if I complete Part 2, but I am unsuccessful? Can I try again?**

A final mark is issued after you complete Part 2, regardless of your level of achievement. You may attempt a particular course challenge **only once**. If you are unsuccessful, you may choose to take the course at your school if it is available. The highest final mark earned will appear on your Detailed Academic Report.

- **When will I receive my mark?**

Your results will be processed after the Part 2 Exam and should be available to you before the end of the semester. You can check **MyPass** once your school has completed the reporting process.

- **Will I receive credits for the 10- and 20-level courses?**

You may receive credits for lower-level courses in the same language sequence if you have not already received those credits. Your school can explain how the credit rules apply to your situation.

- **Will the credits help me graduate from high school?**

Yes. Course challenge credits may help you meet the requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma.

- **Will universities and colleges accept my course challenge mark?**

Post-secondary institutions have different admission policies. If you plan to use your course challenge mark for admission, check directly with the institution you plan to attend.

Will the credits count toward my CBE language program certificate?

No. Language Course Challenge credits do not count toward the requirements for a CBE language program certificate, such as French Immersion or Spanish Bilingual.

- **Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Start with your school's Language Course Challenge Delegate. If you have questions after registering, check your **@educbe.ca email and D2L** first.





FALL 2026

Registration confirmations are sent via email approximately 10 days prior to each Part. Please contact CBE Languages if your delegate submitted your consent form, but have not received a confirmation by the Monday prior to the exam.

Part 1 Portfolio Checklist

For the 2026-27 school year, portfolio writing will take place at:

Western Canada High School

641 17 Avenue SW, Calgary T2S 0B5

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| ▪ Arabic 35-3Y | ▪ Mandarin 30-3Y |
| ▪ French 30-3Y | ▪ Persian 35-3Y |
| ▪ French 30-9Y | ▪ Punjabi 30-3Y |
| ▪ Cantonese 35-3Y | ▪ Spanish 30-3Y |
| ▪ German 30-3Y | ▪ Ukrainian 30-3Y |
| ▪ Japanese 30-3Y | |

St. Mary's High School

111 18 Ave SW, Calgary T2S 0B8

- Filipino 35-3Y*
- Italian 30-3Y*

*These course challenges are administered in partnership with the Calgary Catholic School Division.

On **Saturday, October 24, 2026**, Part 1 Exam, you must arrive no later than **8:30 a.m.** at your designated site.

You must bring:

- ☐ school ID (or government ID)
- ☐ black or blue pens
- ☐ a HB pencil
- ☐ an eraser

Optional:

- ☐ a dictionary in your language, and/or a translation dictionary
- ☐ a printed verb conjugation book (electronic devices will not be used as a resource)

Part 2 Exam Checklist

If your portfolio review is successful, you will be invited to complete the Part 2 Exam on **Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.** at your designated site.

You must bring: Same as above.



Language Course Challenge Consent Form

Please complete and submit to your school principal or course challenge designate. Please print **clearly** and **legibly**.

Student Name: _____ **CBE ID:** _____
(Last Name, First Name, Initial) (Student ID Number)

School Name: _____ **School Year:** (YY-YY) _____

Language Course Name: _____ **Current Grade:** _____
(For Filipino 35 or Italian 30, use CCSD registration form instead)

IPP Accommodations (if applicable): _____

CBE Student Email: (@educbe.ca) _____ **Student Phone Number:** _____

I acknowledge the following:

- ☐ I have had an opportunity to read and/or discuss the guidelines on participating in the course challenge with my child.
- ☐ I understand that challenging a course does not always mean credits will be granted. To be awarded a final mark, a student must have successfully attempted ALL components of the course challenge.
- ☐ My child is registered as a fee-paying international student (if applicable).

Print Parent / Legal Guardian Name **Signature Parent / Legal Guardian** **Date (mmm-dd-yyyy)**

Print Parent / Legal Guardian Name **Signature Parent / Legal Guardian** **Date (mmm-dd-yyyy)**

Authorization for Collection of Personal Information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the *Education Act* and Alberta's *Protection of Privacy Act* (POPA). This information will be used to support the student with the language course challenge requested above. Personal information may be input into automated systems for processing and management purposes. It will be treated in accordance with the privacy protection provisions of POPA. If you have any questions regarding the collection of this information, contact the Languages department at 403-817-7661 or cbelanguages@cbe.ab.ca.

Office Use Only		
Classification:	☐ Category 1	☐ Category 2 ☐ Category 3
I have reviewed the Language Course Challenge eligibility requirements and verify that this student meets the criteria to participate.		☐ Yes
Print Principal / Delegate Name	Signature Principal / Delegate Name	Date (mmm-dd-yyyy)