



French and International Languages

learning | **as unique** | as every student



**Calgary Board
of Education**

International Recognition of Language Proficiency



- Why study languages ?
- How do we acquire internationally recognized language proficiency credentials?

Today's context

To promote consistent learning, teaching and assessment, the Council of Europe (COE) has produced the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Linguistic/Default_en.asp



Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

Basic User	A1	Discovery stage; simple interaction about self and immediate environment
	A2	Communicates in simple and routine tasks; uses most common polite phrases and information exchanges
Independent User	B1	Can maintain interaction ; discussion and opinions; can deal with spontaneous situations that arise
	B2	Construct arguments and defend a position; explain viewpoint and negotiate; self-correcting; fluency & spontaneity
Proficient User	C1	Independent, fluent, spontaneous; extensive vocabulary; clear, well-structured discourse without hesitation
	C2	Precise; fluent, sophisticated use in advance-level and academic situations

CEFR 6-POINT GLOBAL SCALE:

Proficient - Independent - Basic

Proficient User

- C2** Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
- C1** Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

Independent User

- B2** Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

CEFR 6-POINT GLOBAL SCALE:

Proficient - Independent - Basic

- B1** Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

Basic User

- A2** Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
- A1** Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

What does this global scale mean for CBE students and teachers?



Considering we have no common tool in Canada to measure language proficiency overall, this internationally recognized scale provides both an opportunity and a service:

- *Many internationally used language proficiency exams are being standardized according to this scale,*

AND

- *These tests are made available globally.*

CBE Language Programs Impacted:

French

- French Language Arts
- French Language Arts IB
- French Language AP
- French Second Language
- French Second Language IB

Chinese (Mandarin)

- Chinese Language & Culture
- Chinese Language Arts

Spanish

- Spanish Language & Culture
- Spanish Language & Culture IB
- Spanish Language Arts

German

- German Language & Culture
- German Language Arts



French Language Proficiency in Canada

Public Service Commission of Canada (PSC)

SLE

Tests of Oral and Written Proficiency

Levels A-B-C (beg–int–adv)

<http://www.psc-cfp.gc.ca/ppc-cpp/sle-els/wrtng-test-xprssn-ecrt-eng.htm>

These exams are ONLY available to current civil service employees or to individuals at advanced levels of the application process for a position requiring second language proficiency.



French

DELF/DALF

DELF Diplôme d'études en langue française

[= A1, A2, B1, B2 of Common European Framework of Reference]

DALF -Diplôme approfondi de langue française

[= C1 and C2 of Common European Framework of Reference]

Examination centres: CBE, CCSD, Alliance Française de Calgary

Authorized by: French Ministry of Education

Cost (2015): **A1/A2** \$70 - **B1/B2** \$120

Valid term: Life



*** B2 (and higher) credentials establish post-secondary opportunities in many francophone universities.*

German

Goethe Zertifikat

<https://www.goethe.de/en/spr/kup/prf/prf.html>

Levels: A1 to C2

Examination Centre: University of Calgary

Cost: \$100 - \$110 - \$130 - \$150 - \$180 - \$250

Valid Term: Life



Spanish

DELE – Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera

<http://diplomas.cervantes.es>

Levels: A1 to C2

Examination centre: Instituto Cervantes – U of C

<http://fis.ucalgary.ca/home/instituto-cervantes>

Authorized by: Spanish Ministry of Education

Cost: \$130 - \$151 - \$183 - \$204 - \$214 - \$241

Valid term: Life



Chinese (Mandarin)

HSK –Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (Chinese Proficiency test)

http://english.hanban.org/node_8002.htm

YCT -Youth Chinese Test (under 15 years old)

Levels: HSK 1 - 6
YCT 1 – 4

Examination Centre: Department of Linguistics
Languages & Culture

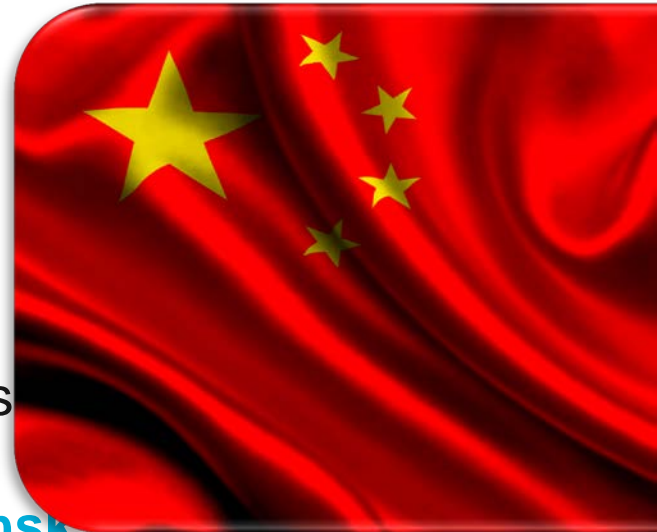
<https://llc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/chinese/hsk>

Authorized by: HANBAN –National Office for the
teaching of Chinese as a Foreign Language

Cost (2015):

HSK level 1-6 \$20 to \$70

YCT(1) \$10 YCT(2) \$15 YCT(3) \$20 YTC (4) \$25



Language Portfolios

European Language Portfolio (ELP)

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/elp/>

To motivate language learning and to record progress.

The ELP is composed of 3 parts:

Language Passport - reports competence/testing

Language Biography - reflects the learning process & language experiences

Dossier - documents/samples of work



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