

# **Somali**

# **Defense Language Proficiency Test5**

# **Familiarization Guide**



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## **Introduction**

This Familiarization Guide is designed to provide prospective examinees with information about the Somali Defense Language Proficiency Test 5 (DLPT5) in constructed-response format. This guide contains general information about the test design, the format of the test, its length, its content, the skills tested, and procedures used in scoring and reporting the scores. In addition, screen shots of what the examinees will see when taking the test on the computer as well as information on testing procedures are provided.

## **Part 1**

### **Overview of the DLPT5 Constructed-Response Test**

The DLPT5 is designed to assess the general language proficiency in reading and listening of native speakers of English who have learned a foreign language as a second language, as well as native speakers of other languages with strong English skills. The DLPT5 tests measure proficiency as defined by the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Skill Level Descriptions, levels 0+ through 4 (see Appendix). All DLPT5s will be delivered on the computer.

DLPT5s in many languages include both a Lower-Range Test and an Upper-Range Test. The Lower-Range Test measures ILR proficiency levels 0+ through 3, while the Upper-Range Test measures ILR proficiency levels 3 through 4. Examinees will normally take the Lower-Range DLPT5; those who receive a score of 3 on the lower range test may be eligible to take the Upper-Range Test, depending on the policy of their institution. The DLPT5 will be used to make operational readiness, incentive pay, and training decisions for civilian and military language analysts in the United States government.

## **1. Test design**

The Lower-Range Reading Test contains 60 questions with about 30 authentic passages. Each passage has two questions. The reading passages will be presented in Latin script.

The Lower-Range Listening Test contains 60 questions with 30 authentic passages. Each passage has two questions and is played twice.

Examinees have 3 hours to complete the Reading Test and 3 hours to complete the Listening Test. Approximately halfway through each test, examinees will be given a 15-minute break. The break does not count toward the test time. For both the Listening Test and the Reading Test, examinees may take as much or as little time as they wish to answer the questions. Managing the time effectively is the examinee's responsibility.

## **2. Test content**

The DLPT5 is designed to measure proficiency in the target language regardless of how it has been acquired. For this reason, and because of the broad proficiency orientation of the test, its content is not tied to any particular language-training program.

The passages included in the test are sampled from authentic materials and real-life sources such as signs, newspapers, radio and television broadcasts, the Internet, etc.

The passages cover a broad range of content areas, including social, cultural, political, economic, geographic, scientific, and military topics.

## **3. Test format**

The test includes instructions for how to take the test, examples of how to answer the questions, and question sets containing the following parts:

**Orientation:** This is a short statement in English that appears before each passage. Its purpose is to identify the context from which the passage is taken.

**Passage:** This is the only element of the test that is in the target language being tested. The maximum length of a listening comprehension passage in the test is approximately 2 minutes. The maximum length of a reading comprehension passage is approximately 300 words. Most of the passages are much shorter than the maximum length.

**Question statement:** Each individual question is based on the passage, is written in English, and is posed in the form of a complete question or an incomplete statement. The questions may ask about what is explicitly stated in the passage or, in some cases, what is implied in it. Occasionally questions may ask about idioms or expressions that are used in the passage. There are usually two questions for each passage; some passages may have three questions.

**Answer box:** For each question, there is a box on the screen in which examinees type their answer in English. Examinees may also type notes in these boxes if they wish.

## 4. Scoring

Examinee scores are reported in terms of ILR levels, including “plus” ratings. Lower-Range Tests are intended to cover ILR levels 0+ through 3. Possible scores are 0, 0+, 1, 1+, 2, 2+, and 3. Upper-Range Tests are intended to cover ILR levels 3 through 4. Possible scores are 3, 3+, and 4. Separate scores are reported for Reading and Listening.

Scores on either type of test reflect current functional language proficiency in reading and listening as defined in the ILR Skill Level Descriptions (see Appendix). Scores do **not** reflect proficiency in speaking or writing, nor do they reflect examinees’ job-related performance or ability to perform specific language-related tasks under special circumstance (e.g., reading or listening to a target language passage repeatedly with the aid of supplemental reference materials and information sources).

For the Lower-Range Test, scores will be based on the number of questions answered correctly at each ILR level. Each question targets a specific ILR level. Examinees generally have to answer at least 70% of questions correctly at a given level to be assigned that level. Examinees must pass each lower level in order to pass a higher level. Examinee answers will be evaluated by scorers trained by testing experts at the Defense Language Institute according to a detailed scoring protocol.

Scores on the Upper-Range Test will be based on the number of passages for which the examinee demonstrates comprehension. Each passage targets a specific ILR level. Comprehension of a passage is demonstrated by supplying certain information from the passage specified by the test’s developers. Examinees generally have to demonstrate comprehension of at least 70% of the passages at a given level to be assigned that level. Examinees must pass each lower level in order to pass a higher level. Examinee answers will be evaluated by scorers trained by testing experts at the Defense Language Institute according to a detailed scoring protocol.

## 5. Preparing for the test

The purpose of this publication is to familiarize prospective examinees with the DLPT5 constructed-response format and general testing procedures. Other than carefully reading this guide so that the test instructions and format are familiar, there is very little to be gained from “studying” for the test. The best preparation for the DLPT5 is the acquisition of a solid base of general proficiency in the target language, both through formal training and through language exposure and use in a variety of real-life language-use settings. Examinees should know that study aids (i.e., dictionaries, reference books, etc.) are not permitted for this test.

## 6. Instructions for answering DLPT5 CRT questions

This section is meant to familiarize prospective examinees with how to answer DLPT5 Constructed-Response Test (CRT) questions. Sample Somali passages from ILR levels 1 through 3 in reading and listening with their associated questions and sample expected answers are presented in Part 3.

Answers should be complete, concise, and relevant. Examinees are not expected to write essays or word-for-word complete translations. An example passage with explanations is given below to illustrate the types of answers that would be expected to receive credit.

*According to an official spokesperson, the government of Treden has started a new program to help solve the growing refugee problem there. The program, announced last week by the Tredenian Minister of the Interior, involves the resettlement of refugees to vacant apartment buildings in the Tredenian capital. These refugees are currently being housed in overcrowded camps near Treden's border with war-ravaged Norland. The camps were instituted in 2003 in response to the war. Since that time, the number and size of camps has grown, and the war is still going on. The average population of the camps is 3,000, and most camps were designed for at most 1,000 people. It is hoped that the new program will help alleviate this situation.*

In order to receive credit, examinees must provide all the information requested. As stated above, answers should be complete, concise, and relevant:

**Complete:** Examinees must provide all the information requested to receive credit. The examinee must not leave out information that was included in the passage and could reasonably be expected as part of an answer to the question being asked. If, based on the above passage, there had been a question “What action was taken by the government of Treden?” a complete answer would include all of the information that the government started a program to resettle refugees from camps near the Norlandian border to vacant apartment buildings in the capital.

It would not be acceptable simply to write, “The government started a program,” or “The government helped some refugees,” or “The government supplied some people with apartments.” Where the question is in two parts, such as “What action was taken by the government of Treden AND what was the reason for its action?” **Both** parts must be answered; i.e. the examinee must say both **what** action was taken and **why** the action was taken in order to receive credit.

**Concise:** Examinees should not write more than is called for by the question. The amount called for by questions tends to increase as the length and difficulty of the passages increases; nevertheless, examinees are not expected to write essays. As long as the answer

is complete (see above), if it can be written in a sentence or even just a phrase, it should not be “padded.”

**Relevant:** Examinees should not include information that does not answer the question, even if that information appears in the passage; the examinee’s entire answer should relate directly to the question being asked. Examinees are not expected to write a word-for-word translation of large parts of the passage or even of the entire passage in response to a question.

With regard to the example passage cited above, if the question asks for the reason for the government’s action, the examinee should not offer a translation of the last five sentences of the passage; even though that part of the passage contains the critical information, it also contains some extraneous information.

**Sense:** The examinee’s response should make sense as an answer to the question asked. Examinees who use the text box for note-taking should ensure that they end up with a coherent answer that appears somewhere within the text box and that can be understood by an English-speaking rater.

**Translation:** As noted above, translation of the entire passage is not acceptable as the answer to any single question. Additionally, the strategy of translating pieces of the passage as answers to questions should be used with caution.

It is common for questions to require inferences from what is directly stated in the passage or the synthesis of ideas and information from various parts of the passage, especially as the passages become longer and more difficult. Therefore, the answer to a question is sometimes not to be found in one or two key sentences or sections of the passage.

**Time management:** In both the Reading section and the Listening section, the examinee controls the amount of time used to answer a question. It is therefore the examinee’s responsibility to monitor time usage while answering and to manage time spent during the overall test.

The examinee should **not** spend too much time on any one answer. Also, because of the way the test is scored, the examinee should use the time carefully to ensure that all of the questions at or below his or her ability are answered thoroughly. For the Upper Range Test, examinees should ensure that, for any particular passage, all of the questions related to that passage are answered.

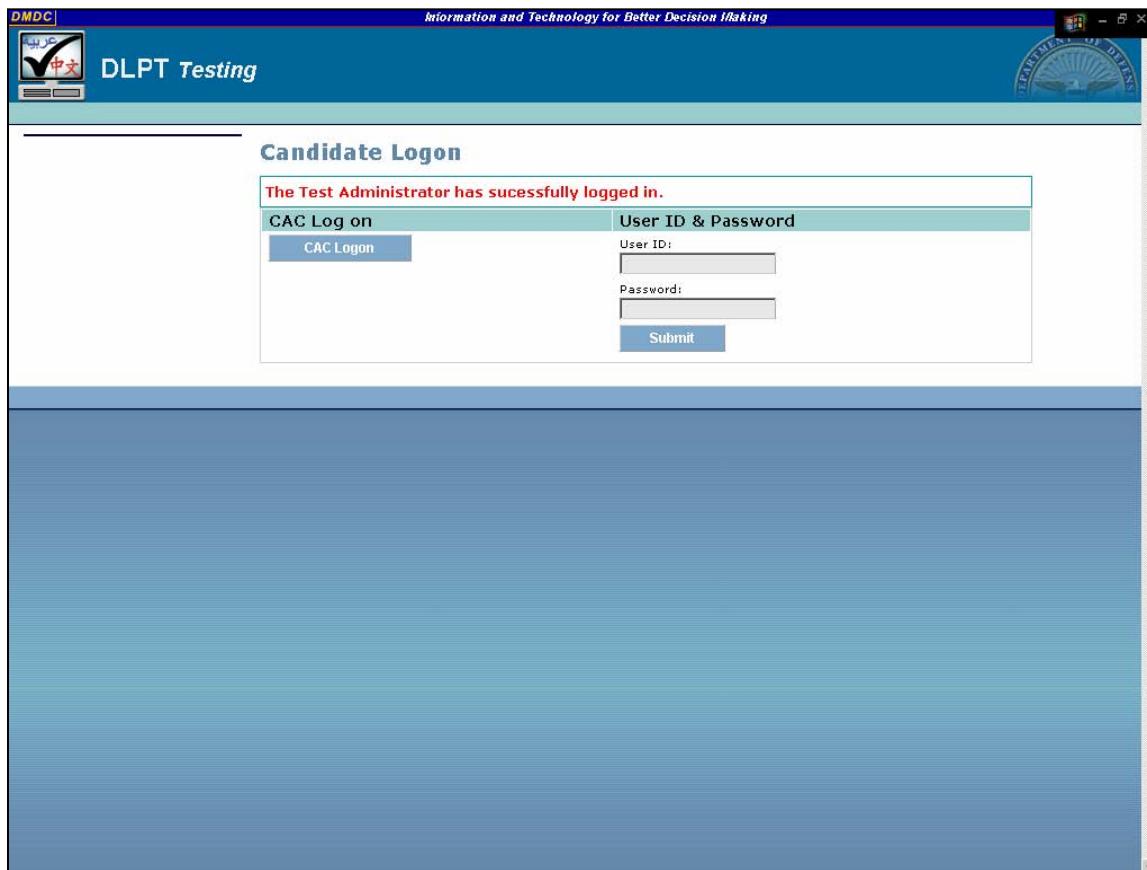
## **Part 2**

### **Test Procedures**

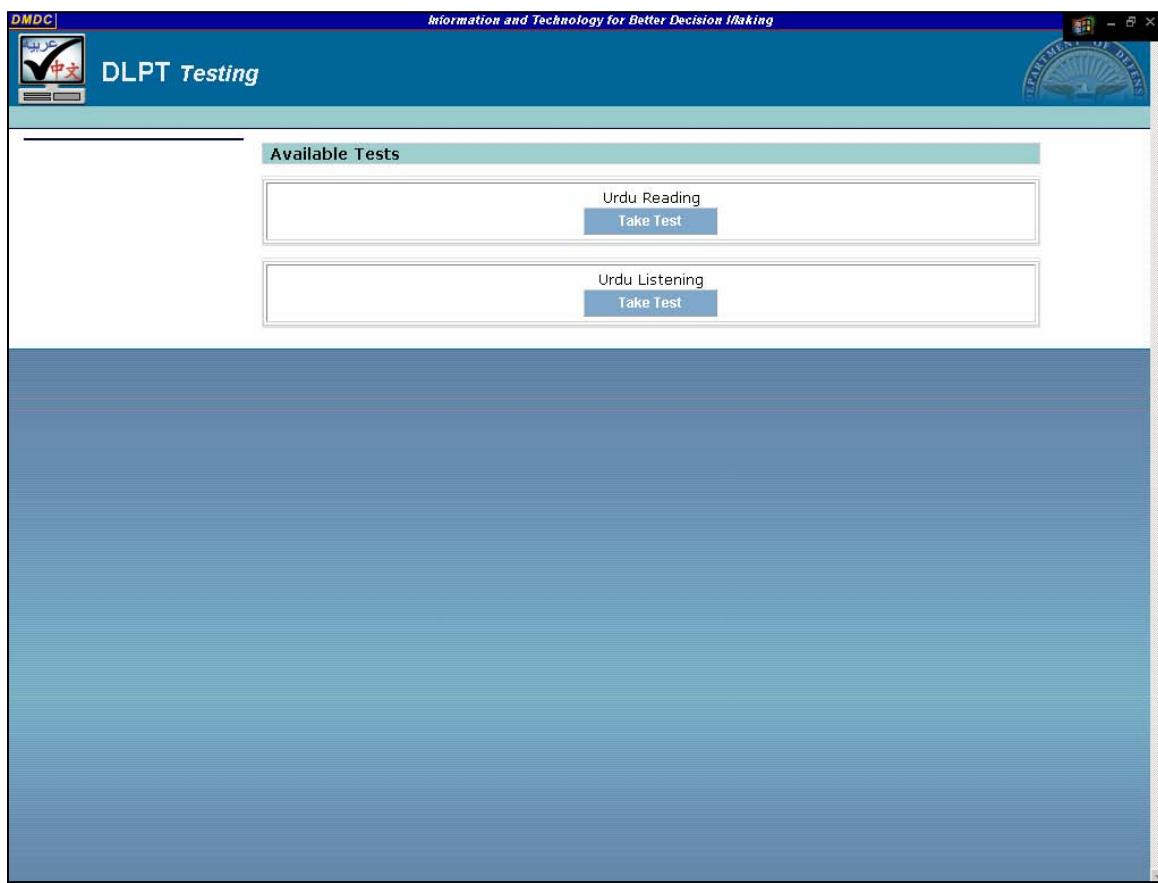
#### **7. Test Procedures Overview**

This section is to help prospective examinees become familiar with the test procedures of the DLPT5 constructed-response Reading and Listening tests. First, there will be a short description of what the examinees see before the actual test begins. Then screen shots of what examinees will see on the computer screen will be provided.

At the beginning of the test session, the examinee logs on to the system using a Common Access Card (CAC) or a user ID and password that were provided when the examinee registered to take the test. The examinee must click on the [CAC Logon] or [Submit] button before moving to the next screen.



The next screen provides a list of tests for which the examinee is eligible; the examinee selects the appropriate test from the list.



Once the test has been selected, a series of introductory screens appears. These screens contain the Privacy Act Statement, the Disclaimer for Defense Language Institute Tests, the Test Administration Statement (of the examinee's ability to take the test at that time), and the Non-Disclosure Statement. The examinee must click on the indicated checkboxes under the Disclaimer and the Non-Disclosure Statement before moving to the next screen.

DLPT5 Lower Range Reading Comprehension Test for Language X

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Defense Language Proficiency Test 5**  
Constructed Response Format



**Language X**  
Language Code Xx

**Lower Range Reading Comprehension Test**

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**Controlled Item (Test Material)**



Not to be shown to unauthorized persons  
Not to be reproduced without authority granted by the Commandant  
Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

If you have difficulty with the instructions or any functions of this test, click the [Help] button in the lower left-hand corner of the screen.

To begin, click the [Next] button below.

[Help](#)      Introduction: Screen 1 of 6      [Next](#)

**Privacy Act Statement:**

Disclosure of requested information is solicited under the authority of Title 10, United States Code 3012, Executive Order 9397 and Army Regulation 600-2 and is mandatory. Social Security Number is used as the personal identifier number of all personnel under control of the Department of Defense, and is used in connection with updating information in official records and training files. Use of Social Security Number provides for objective scoring of Defense Language Institute tests, as the examinee's Social Security Number is the only identifier so as to maintain confidentiality when reporting test scores to examinees. Failure to provide Social Security Number may result in misidentification and non-credit for tests, and/or inadequate counseling and guidance.

**Disclaimer for Defense Language Institute Tests:**

Materials for this test come from authentic sources within the target culture. These sources often include conversations or written material of a controversial nature which are essential for understanding world events. As a result, there may be topics, ideas, and language in the areas of politics, international relations, mores, etc., that may be considered contentious. The presence of controversial statements on a test should not be construed as representing the opinions of the test development team, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, or the Department of the Army.

I confirm having read and understood both the Privacy Act Statement and the Disclaimer.

Click on the checkbox above to confirm.

[Help](#)

Introduction: Screen 2 of 6

**Test Administration Statement:**

I understand that I am not required to take the Language X Reading Comprehension Test at this time if there are extenuating circumstances such as fatigue, illness, emotional distress, family or financial problems, etc., which may interfere with my performance on the test; and that the test will be administered at another time acceptable to me, the Test Administrator, and my unit commander.

**Non-Disclosure Statement:**

I understand that this test is **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY** and the unauthorized discussion, disclosure or possession of any part of this test is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and will result in appropriate administrative action to fix responsibility for such unauthorized behavior with criminal sanctions of up to two years hard labor and dishonorable discharge for those involved. Such unauthorized discussion or disclosure refers to RELATING ANY ASPECT OF THIS TEST TO ANYONE, including an instructor, fellow service member, spouse, or class member.

I confirm having read and understood both the Test Administration and the Non-Disclosure Statements.

Click on the checkbox above to confirm.

Help

Introduction: Screen 3 of 6

Next

The next few screens contain examples of the screen layout for examinees to familiarize themselves with the features of the test, instructions for taking the test and a sample test passage. The text and questions in these screens appear smaller than the text and questions on the actual test passages.

## 8. Reading Comprehension Test

Presented here are examples of screen layouts for the Reading Comprehension Test. The example text represents a generic foreign language; it is not meant to be legible. Explanations of the parts of the screen are provided.

**ORIENTATION STATEMENT**

- \* explains the source of the passage in English.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE PASSAGE**

- \* Paragraphs may be marked ¶1, ¶2, etc.
- \* If a question asks about a specific word or phrase, it is highlighted in red in the text.

(The text shown here represents a generic Foreign language. It is not meant to be legible.)

- \* A red line indicates the end of a passage.
- \* To see an entire passage, you may need to scroll.

Click on this button if you have any technical difficulties.

**TITLE BAR**

- \* indicates the test title.

**QUESTIONS**

- To answer a question, click in the textbox and begin typing.
- To change an answer, erase it and retype.
- If a question asks about a specific word or phrase, it is highlighted in red.

**STATUS BAR**

Instructions screen for the Reading Comprehension Test:

**DLPT5 Lower Range Reading Comprehension Test for Language X**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This test measures your reading comprehension. It contains a number of reading passages, and there are two or three questions based on each passage. In taking the test you should do the following:

- Read the short statement before each passage that tells you where the passage came from.
- Read the passage and questions carefully.
- Type your answers in English in the text boxes provided. Your answers should be complete, concise, and relevant. You must provide all the information requested to receive credit. The answer to each question may be stated overtly in the passage or only implied.
- Click on the [Next] button at the bottom right of the screen to go to the next passage.

---

**A sample passage follows on the next screen.**

**If you need help during the test, click on the [Help] button.**

**Help**      **Introduction: Screen 6 of 6**      **Back**      **Next**

Example of a Reading sample passage with its associated question or questions:

**DLPT5 Lower Range Reading Comprehension Test for Language X**

**Sample Passage**

*A note to a daughter*

Xxxxx Xxxxxx,  
Xxyyxy yyyyyydyxxxxxy xyxyyxyy xyxy yyyx  
yxyxyyxx xx. X yyxyx xyx xyx xyxyy .Yxyy  
yxyx yxy xyy yyyxy xyx yyyyxyy. Yuxxuuy  
xyu xuuxyxx.

Yxyy yxy xxx yxyy,  
Yxyy Xxyy

---

End of Sample Passage  
Mark this passage for later consideration.

Type your answers in the boxes below.

S1. What did Mrs. Xxyy request?

S2. Why did Mrs. Xxyy make the request?

---

End of questions for Sample Passage

[Help](#)[Sample Passage 2 questions](#)[Back](#)[Next](#)

After the sample passage, the examinee clicks on the [Next] button and moves to the test navigation information screen.

The Test navigation information screen contains instructions on how to go back to review answers at the end of the test and information on the length of the test. By clicking on the [Start Test] button, the examinee moves to the first passage of the test and starts the clock.

DLPT5 Lower Range Reading Comprehension Test for Language X

**End-of-Test Review Information**

- After the last passage, *if there is still time on the clock*, you will have the opportunity to review your answers before submitting the test.
- From the review page you will be able to jump to any given passage.
- You will be able to respond to any questions you have not answered, or you can change an answer.
- Detailed instructions for this review will be given at the end of the test.

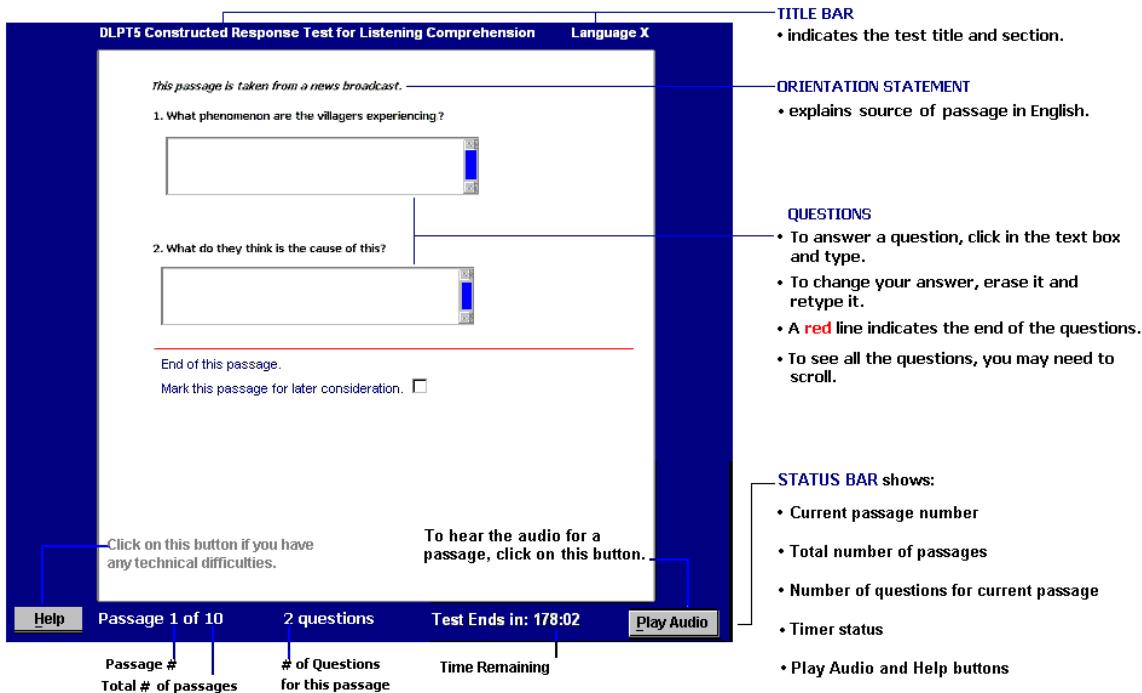
**Start of Test**

- This reading test contains 30 passages and 60 questions.
- You are allowed 3 hours to complete the test.
- There will be a break at approximately 90 minutes. The break does not count against your time.
- When you are ready, click on the [Start Test] button below.
- The screen will move to Passage 1 and the clock will begin.

[Help](#)      [End of Instructions](#)      Test ends in: 180:00      [Back](#)      [Start Test](#)

## 9. Listening Comprehension Test

Presented here are examples of screen layouts for the Listening Comprehension Test. Explanations of the parts of the screen are provided.



The next two screens contain instructions for the Listening Comprehension Test.

**DLPT5 Lower Range Listening Comprehension Test for Language X**

**Test Sequence**

- When a passage screen opens, you will see the passage number, orientation statement, and questions with their text boxes.
- At the very bottom of the screen a [Help] button and a [Play Audio] button will be visible.
- When you click on the [Play Audio] button, the audio will begin. The phrase 'Audio Playing' will be displayed in the status bar at the bottom of the screen. The [Help] button will not be active while the audio is playing. If you experience technical difficulty when the [Help] button is not visible, raise your hand.
- You may answer questions at any time during the playing of the audio. You may also use the text boxes to take notes.
- You may not move to the next passage until the audio finishes playing. When the audio finishes, the [Next] button appears at the bottom of the screen. Click on it when you are ready to move on to the next passage. You will not be able to go back to previous passages until the end of the test.
- The [Help] button reappears at the end of the audio playing for each passage. If you need help concerning a passage, make sure that you click on the [Help] button before moving to the next passage.

**The Clock**

- The amount of time allotted for this test is 180 minutes (3 hours).
- There is a break in the middle of the test. It does not count against your time.
- It is your responsibility to keep track of where you are in the test, and how much time is remaining.

---

**BEFORE YOU PROCEED, adjust your volume.**

[Test Volume](#)

Click on the [\[Test Volume\]](#) button to hear a short audio file.

[Help](#)      **Introduction: Screen 6 of 7**      [Back](#)

**ATTENTION: You should hear a voice reading the instructions below.**

If the audio is not clear or loud enough, raise your hand now to alert the Test Administrator.

- When a passage screen opens, you will see a short statement in English that explains the context from which the passage was taken, and below that, the questions associated with the passage.
- When you are ready to hear the passage, click on the [Play Audio] button located at the bottom right corner of the screen.
- You will then hear the short statement in English followed by the passage. Each passage will be played twice. There will be a short tone signal between the two playings.
- You do not have to wait until the passage has finished playing to begin answering the questions. You may also use the text boxes to take notes.
- After hearing the passage you will be reminded to answer the questions. Read each question carefully.
- Type your answers in English in the text boxes provided. Your answers should be complete, concise, and relevant. You must provide all the information requested to receive credit. The answer to each question may be stated overtly in the passage or only implied.
- Click on the [Next] button at the bottom right of the screen to go to the next passage.

---

**A sample passage follows on the next screen.**

**If you need help during the test, click on the [Help] button.**

Introduction: Screen 7 of 7

Audio Playing

Presented here are examples of listening sample questions. The sample passage audio is played while the screen is displayed. After the sample passage, the examinee clicks on the [Next] button and moves to the test navigation information screen.

**DLPT5 Lower Range Listening Comprehension Test for Language X**

**Sample Passage      Type your answers in the boxes below.**

**From a conversation between a woman and her sister**

**S1. What problem did the woman have?**

**S2. What suggestion did the sister have?**

---

End of questions for Sample Passage  
Mark this passage for later consideration.

[Help](#)      [Sample Passage 2 questions](#)      [Play Audio](#)

As with the Reading Test, on the test navigation information screen, the examinee clicks on the [Start Test] button to hear the first passage and start the clock.

DLPT5 Lower Range Listening Comprehension Test for Language X

**End-of-Test Review Information**

- At the end of the test, *if there is still time on the clock*, you will have the opportunity to review your answers before submitting the test.
- From the review page you will be able to jump to any given passage.
- You will be able to respond to any questions you have not answered, or change an answer.
- You **will not hear** the audio again during this review period.
- Detailed instructions for this review will be given at the end of the test.

**Start of Test**

- This listening test contains 30 passages and 60 questions.
- The test is 180 minutes (3 hours) long.
- There will be a 15-minute break after Passage 18. The break does not count against the total time allowed for the test.
- When you are ready, click on the [Start Test] button below.
- The screen will move to Passage 1 and the clock will begin.

Help      End of Instructions      Test ends in: 180:00      Back      Start Test

When a passage screen opens, examinees can start the audio by clicking on the [Play Audio] button whenever they are ready to listen to the passage. Each passage will be played twice. There will be a short tone between the two playings. When the audio finishes, the [Next] button will appear.

Examinees can move on to the next passage once the audio has finished playing by clicking on the [Next] button. Examinees can type in the text boxes at any time after the passage screen opens. They can take as much or as little time as they wish to answer. Examinees will not be able to go back to previous passages until the end of the test. (Note: for the Reading Test, examinees will be able to go back to previous passages if they wish.)

## 10. End-of-test review information

At the end of each test, a review screen appears for examinees to review their responses to the questions before submitting the test. From the review page, examinees will be able to jump to any given passage. They will be able to respond to any questions they have not answered, or they can change an answer. The audio for the Listening Test will **not** be played again during this review period.

Example of the review screen:

**DLPT5 Lower Range Listening Comprehension Test for Language X**

**End of Listening Test**

- In the chart below, an asterisk (\*) in the Answer column means that you have answered a question.
- If you see the word **BLANK**, it means that no answer has been registered for this question.
- If you see an **X** next to a passage number, it means that you marked that passage for further consideration as you were taking the test.
- To review/change any answer, click the row in the chart which corresponds to the question number.

Passage	Q #	Answer	Passage	Q #	Answer	Passage	Q #	Answer	Passage	Q #	Answer
1	1	*	9	17	*	17	33	*	25	49	*
2	2	*	10	18	*	18	34	*	26	51	*
3	3	*	11	19	*	19	35	*	27	53	*
X	4	*	20	*		20	36	*	28	55	Blank
	5	*	21	*		21	37	*	29	57	*
6	6	*	22	*		22	38	*	30	59	*
7	7	*	23	*		23	39	*	40	56	*
8	8	*	24	*		24	40	*	41	57	*
9	9	*	25	*		25	41	*	42	58	*
10	10	*	26	*		26	42	*	43	59	*
11	11	*	27	*	X	27	43	Blank	44	60	*
12	12	*	28	*		28	44	Blank	45	*	
13	13	*	29	*		29	45	*	46	*	
14	14	*	30	*		30	46	*	47	*	
15	15	*	31	*		31	47	*	48	*	
16	16	*	32	Blank		32	48	*			

- When you are satisfied and are ready to submit your test, click the [Submit] button below.

[Review Answers](#)      Test ends in: 05:32

## **Part 3**

### **Sample Passages**

#### **11. Reading Comprehension sample passages**

Below are some sample passages, questions, and answers. Note that it is not necessary to provide the exact wording of the answers in order to get credit; any response that expresses the KEY IDEAS is correct.

#### **Level 1**

From an announcement in a local newspaper

Maqaayadda Amiira waxaa laga rabaa kuug cusub. Qofka shaqada doonayo waa in uu leeyahay khibrad wax karineed oo labaatan sano ah. Waa in uu yahay qof baran kara farsamooyin cusub. Haddii la qaato kuuggu toddobada beriba wuu shaqayn doonaa.

Haddii aad danaynaysid, imow maqaayadda Amiira.

#### **What is the purpose of this announcement?**

*Any one of the following*

- To announce a job opening.
- To hire a cook.

This passage is an announcement from a local newspaper. The announcement indicates that a new cook is needed in the restaurant of Amiira and it wants to hire people for that position. Any formulation that includes the idea that the purpose of the announcement is to announce a job opening or to hire a cook will be awarded credit.

#### **What is one requirement mentioned in this announcement?**

*Any one of the following*

- 20 years of experience.
- Ability to learn (new) techniques/skills.
- Ability/Willingness to work seven days a week.

This passage also includes requirements of this position. According to the announcement, the applicant should have twenty years of experience, can learn techniques, or needs to work seven days a week. Any formulation that includes one of these ideas will be credited.

## Level 2

From a national news report

Wararka ka imanayo degmada Baardheere ee gobolka Gedo ayaa sheegaya in meel duleedka waqooyi kaga beegan uu ka dhacay shil gaari oo ay dad ku dhinteen, kuwa kalana ku dhaawacmeen.

Laba ruux ayaa ku geeriyootay, saddex kalana way ku dhaawacantay markii gaari safar ah oo marayey wadada u dhexeysa Baardheere iyo Ceelwaaq uu rogmaday. Meel god ah ayuu gaariga oo ahaa nooca Xaajiyadda uu galay halkaas oo uu shil ku dhacay.

Dadka dhintay iyo kuwa dhaawacmay waxay ahaayeen rakaabkii baabuurka la socday, dhaawacyada oo qaarkood culus yihiin ayaa la dhigay isbitaallada gaarka loo leeyahay ee Baardheere. Shilalka noocaan oo kale ah ayaa u muuqanayey bilihii u dambeeyey kuwa Baardheere agaggaaraheeda ku soo badanayey.

### What caused the incident described in this report?

*Any one of the following*

- The car fell into a hole.
- The car overturned.

This passage is a national news report about a car accident in Gedo. It provides detailed causes of the car accident. According to the report, the car fell into a hole and then overturned. Any formulation that includes one of the causes of the car accident will be awarded credit.

### What was one outcome of the incident?

*Any one of the following*

- (Two) Passengers/ People were killed.
- (Three) Passengers/People were wounded.
- (Three) Passengers/People were injured.
- The wounded were taken to hospitals.
- The wounded were (placed) in hospitals.

The news report provides a description of results of the accident, as well. According to the report, two passengers died, and three others were injured, and the injured were sent to hospitals. Any formulation that includes one of the details mentioned will be awarded credit.

## Level 3

An editorial in a newspaper

Haddii aad rabto in aad hesho cunto aan jirin suuroggal ma aha. Haddaad rabto in aad wax cunto horta cuntadi in aad samayso weeye. Ummad haddaad rabto madax in aad u noqoto, horta ummaddii in la diyaariyo weeye. Maslaxadeeda in laga shaqeeyo weeye. Heer ay si xor ah wax ugu doorato in la gaarsiiyo weeye.

In la sameeyo nabadjelyo wax lagu dooran karo weeye. Laakiin ummad siyaasiyan iyo nabadjelyo iyo dhaqaale iyo ijtimaciyan aan u jirin haddaad tiraahdo waxaan ka billaabi uun madax baan u noqonahayaa, wax fiican ma soo saari kartid, adiguna **hal bacaad lagu lisay** ayaad noqonaysaa. Wuxaana laguu arki karaa nin maslaxa asagu isu doonahaya, laakiin maslaxada ummadda aan ka shaqaynaynin.

Marka hore waa in laga shaqeeyaa umaddii Soomaaliyeed ee madaxda loo noqon lahaa in la keeno horta, taa weeye guusha hore.

Muqdisho in wax lagu doortaayi waa fikrad caafimaad qabta, laakiin anigu waxaan qabaa markii aan fiirinno duruufa hadda ummaddu ay marayso, oo aynu ka billowno dadka hadda maamulka siyaasada gacanta ku haya, baarlamaanka iyo dawladda iyo mashaakilka iyaga ka dhixeyya, taa nafteedaan lugahaba lagala bixi karin. Hadda baarlamaanka waannu la soconnaa iyo dawladda waxa kala dhextaagan ilal'aan waxay ku heshiiyen ma jiro.

Xataa hadday suuroggal tahay, waxaa la oran kari lahaa maamul marxaladan waddanka dhaafiya oo gaarsiiya duruuf wax lagu dooran karo ha la sameeyo. Xataa dawladda joogta nabadjelyo awood uma leh in ay samayso. Marka anigu waxaan, ma aragtay, talo ku jeedin lahaa wixii suuroggal ehee lagu meel gaari karo ha la sameeyo, si loo gaaro duruuf wax lagu dooran karo oo xor ah.

**What is the author's purpose in using the analogy of **hal bacaad lagu lisay** to describe the Somali leadership?**

*Any one of the following*

- To indicate it is a wasted effort to assert leadership before establishing security in Somalia.
- To indicate it is useless to assert authority before holding an election.
- To show it is futile to declare authority before improving people's well-being.

This passage is an editorial in a newspaper in which the author argues that the country's security should be established before an election is held. The literal meaning of the highlighted phrase **hal bacaad lagu lisay** is "female camel milking on sand." By using this

analogy, the author shows his opinion that it is useless to assert leadership before establishing security. Any formulation that includes the idea that the leadership being asserted is a wasted effort will be awarded credit.

**What are TWO conditions that the author indicates must exist before an election is possible?**

*Any TWO of the following*

- The parliament and government must work together / reach an agreement.
- Security (for elections) must be established / a situation conducive to free election must be established.
- People must be united/led.
- The country must be prepared for free elections.

Throughout the passage, the author indicates conditions that must exist before holding an election: the parliament and government must reach an agreement; security or a situation conducive for an election must be established; people must be united; and the country must be prepared. Any formulation that includes two of the conditions indicated by the author will be awarded credit.

## 12. Listening Comprehension Sample Passages

Note: Examinees will not see passage transcripts in an actual DLPT5 Listening test.

### Level 1

An automated phone message at a business

Halkani waa Bakhaarka Kuraawe. Fadlan si taxaddar leh u dhegayso farriintan saacadihii bakhaarku way is beddeleene. Laga billaabo bisha soo socota ee Juun saacadaha Bakhaarka Kuraawe waxay isu beddeleen sida soo socota.

Sabti, Axad, Isniiin, Talaado, iyo Arbaco waxaannu furaynaa siddeedda subaxnimo, waxaannuna xiraynaa sidddeeda fiidnimo.

Khamiista waxaannu furaynaa kow iyo tobanka subaxnimo, waxaannuna xiraynaa shanta galabnimo. Jimcada waannu xiran nahay.

Haddii aad doonaysid in aad qof la hadashid fadlan riix eber. Haddii aan doonaysid in aad farriin dhaftid, fadlan riix saddex. Haddii aad doonaysid in aad dhigtidna, fadlan riix xiddigta ama iskaba dhig.

Waad ku mahadsan tahay wiciddaada.

#### What is the purpose of this message?

*Any one of the following*

- To provide information about the hours of operation for the store.
- To inform listeners about the changes in store hours.

This passage is a message about the Kurawe Store. In this message, the speaker mentions a number of details about store hours. Any formulation that includes the idea that the message is about store hours or the idea that store hours have changed will be awarded credit.

#### What are TWO keypad instructions given to callers?

*Any TWO of the following*

- Press zero to talk to a person.
- Press three to leave a message.
- Press star to hang up.

This message includes three keypad instructions at the end of the message. Any formulation that includes the idea of two of the instructions mentioned will be credited.

## Level 1+

An announcement heard over an intercom

Waad ku mahadsan tiiin in aad doorateen Diyaaradda Daalo. Wuxuu ka cudurdaaranaynaa in uu qaddar yar dib u dhacay waqtigii bixidda diyaaradda. Duullimaadku wuxuu u daahay sabab dhinaca farsamada la xiriirta. Wuxuu samaynaynaa wax kasta oo suuroggal ah si aannu u yarayno waqtiga daahidda. Diyaaraddu waxay bixi doontaa laba iyo tobanka iyo barka caawa. Hargeysana waxaad gaari doontaan labada subaxnimo ee maalinta berri ah.

Mar kale wuxuu ka cudurdaaranaynaa dib u dhacaas yar iyo wixii niyad jab ah ee uu idinku keeni karo. Fadlan ha ka fogaanin albaabka diyaaradda, gacantana ku hayso tigidhkaaga iyo baasabboorkaaga.

### What issue has prompted this announcement?

*Any one of the following*

- The plane is delayed.
- The plane has technical problems.

This passage is an announcement about a plane delay. The speaker mentions that the flight was delayed due to a technical problem, and the airline is trying to fix the problem as quickly as possible. Any formulation that includes the idea that there is a delay or that there is a technical problem will be awarded credit.

### What are TWO [of the] instructions people are asked to follow?

*Any TWO of the following*

- Not to go far away from the gate.
- To have a ticket in hand.
- To have a passport in hand.

This announcement also includes two specific instructions for passengers of the delayed flight. Any formulation that includes two instructions mentioned will be awarded credit.

## Level 2+

From an Internet news broadcast

REPORTER: Hawlgalkan oo billowday saaka aroornimadii ayaa ciidamada Booliska Puntland waxay ay ku soo qabteen 47 qof oo isugu jira rag iyo dumar oo ay sheegeen in ay ka mid yihiin dadka ka ganacsada khamriga. Wuxuu kala oo ciidamadu saldhiga bartamaha ee magaalada Boosaaso soo dhoobeen jirigaanno iyo dhalooyin ay ka buuxdo khamro iyo waliba qalabka lagu kariyo khamriga. Taliye ku xigeenkii ciidamada Booliska Puntland Maxamed Siciid Jaqanaf ayaa sheegay in xabsiga si toos ah loo geynayo dadkaan inta maxkamad laga hor geynayo. Isagoo arimaha ka hadlayana wuxuu yidhi.

DEPUTY: Hawlgalkaa baadhista ah waxa lagu soo qabtay dad gaadhaya 41 qof oo laga soo qabtay meelaha lagu gado mukhaadaraadka siiba khamriga, waxa lasoo qabtay khamri aad u fara badan oo isugi jira kuwa jirigaannada lagu shubo oo caraqda ah iyo kuwa dhalooyinka "dry gin" iyo wax noocaasa ah iyo alaabtiil lagu karin jiray caraqda. Dadkaas waxa laga soo qabtay guryihii khamriga lagu gadayay, waxa laga soo qabtay ilaa toddoba goobood oo magaalaga Boosaaso gudeheeda ah, iyagiina xabsi xalaaleed ayaa loo sameeyey, xabsiga ayaa hadda loo gudbiyyah maxkamad degdeg ahna waa la saarayaa hadii ilaahay idmo.

REPORTER: Maaha markii ugu horraysay ee ay ciidamada Booliska Puntland ay ha kale ah ka fuliyaan gudaha magaalada Boosaaso waxaana dhawr goor meel fagaar khamri, xashiish iyo irbadaha daroogada ee jirka lagu duro kuwaas oo lagu soo qa waxaana ay ciidamadu sheegeen in loo dhoofin lahaa dalka Yaman.

**For what reason were the mentioned people arrested AND what has the deputy chief of police announced regarding the fate of those arrested?**

- (Illegal) Alcohol sales.
- (Illegal) Alcohol production.

*AND any one of the following*

- They will be taken to jail.
- They will be transported to jail.
- They will go to trial.

This passage is about a police operation in which alcohol sellers were arrested. In this broadcast, details about the arrest of people who sell alcohol were mentioned. Both the reporter and the Deputy Chief mention that those arrested will be taken to jail and will face trial. Any formulation that includes both the reason behind the arrests and one detail expressed about the people who were arrested will be awarded credit.

**According to the reporter, what have police done in the past to publicly discourage the discussed actions?**

*Any one of the following*

- Burned alcohol.
- Burned drugs.
- Burned drug paraphernalia.
- Conducted similar raids.

The end of the broadcast includes details about recent police operations related to alcohol and drugs. Any formulation that includes one idea expressed about these police operations will be awarded credit.

## **Appendix: Interagency Language Roundtable Language Skill Level Descriptions**

### **Preface**

The following descriptions of proficiency levels 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 characterize spoken-language use. Each higher level implies control of the previous levels' functions and accuracy. The designation 0+, 1+, 2+, etc. will be assigned when proficiency substantially exceeds one skill level and does not fully meet the criteria for the next level. The "plus-level" descriptions, therefore, are subsidiary to the "base-level" descriptions.

A skill level is assigned to a person through an authorized language examination. Examiners assign a level on a variety of performance criteria exemplified in the descriptive statements. Therefore, the examples given here illustrate, but do not exhaustively describe, either the skills a person may possess or situations in which he/she may function effectively.

Statements describing accuracy refer to typical stages in the development of competence in the most commonly taught languages in formal training programs. In other languages, emerging competence parallels these characterizations, but often with different details.

Unless otherwise specified, the term "native speaker" refers to native speakers of a standard dialect. "Well-educated," in the context of these proficiency descriptions, does not necessarily imply formal higher education. However, in cultures where formal higher education is common, the language-use abilities of persons who have had such education is [sic] considered the standard. That is, such a person meets contemporary expectations for the formal, careful style of the language, as well as a range of less formal varieties of the language.

These descriptions may be further specified by individual agencies to characterize those aspects of language-use performance which are of insufficient generality to be included here.

## **Interagency Language Roundtable Language Skill Level Descriptions: Listening**

### **Listening 0 (No Proficiency)**

No practical understanding of the spoken language. Understanding is limited to occasional isolated words with essentially no ability to comprehend communication. (Has been coded L-0 in some nonautomated applications.)

### **Listening 0+ (Memorized Proficiency)**

Sufficient comprehension to understand a number of memorized utterances in areas of immediate needs. Slight increase in utterance length understood but requires frequent long pauses between understood phrases and repeated requests on the listener's part for repetition. Understands with reasonable accuracy only when this involves short memorized utterances or formulae. Utterances understood are relatively short in length.

Misunderstandings arise due to ignoring or inaccurately hearing sounds or word endings (both inflectional and non-inflectional), distorting the original meaning. Can understand only with difficulty even such people as teachers who are used to speaking with non-native speakers. Can understand best those statements where context strongly supports the utterance's meaning. Gets some main ideas. (Has been coded L-0+ in some nonautomated applications.)

### **Listening 1 (Elementary Proficiency)**

Sufficient comprehension to understand utterances about basic survival needs and minimum courtesy and travel requirements in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics, can understand simple questions and answers, simple statements and very simple face-to-face conversations in a standard dialect. These must often be delivered more clearly than normal at a rate slower than normal with frequent repetitions or paraphrase (that is, by a native used to dealing with foreigners). Once learned, these sentences can be varied for similar level vocabulary and grammar and still be understood. In the majority of utterances, misunderstandings arise due to overlooked or misunderstood syntax and other grammatical clues. Comprehension vocabulary inadequate to understand anything but the most elementary needs. Strong interference from the candidate's native language occurs. Little precision in the information understood owing to the tentative state of passive grammar and lack of vocabulary. Comprehension areas include basic needs such as: meals, lodging, transportation, time and simple directions (including both route instructions and orders from customs officials, policemen, etc.). Understands main ideas. (Has been coded L-1 in some nonautomated applications.)

### **Listening 1+ (Elementary Proficiency, Plus)**

Sufficient comprehension to understand short conversations about all survival needs and limited social demands. Developing flexibility evident in understanding a range of circumstances beyond immediate survival needs. Shows spontaneity in understanding by speed, although consistency of understanding is uneven. Limited vocabulary range necessitates repetition for understanding. Understands more common time forms and most question forms, some word order patterns, but miscommunication still occurs with more complex patterns. Cannot sustain understanding of coherent structures in longer utterances

or in unfamiliar situations. Understanding of descriptions and the giving of precise information is limited. Aware of basic cohesive features (e.g., pronouns, verb inflections) but many are unreliably understood, especially if less immediate in reference. Understanding is largely limited to a series of short, discrete utterances. Still has to ask for utterances to be repeated. Some ability to understand facts. (Has been coded L-1+ in some nonautomated applications.)

### **Listening 2 (Limited Working Proficiency)**

Sufficient comprehension to understand conversations on routine social demands and limited job requirements. Able to understand face-to-face speech in a standard dialect, delivered at a normal rate with some repetition and rewording, by a native speaker not used to dealing with foreigners, about everyday topics, common personal and family news, well-known current events and routine office matters through descriptions and narration about current, past and future events; can follow essential points of discussion or speech at an elementary level on topics in his/her special professional field. Only understands occasional words and phrases of statements made in unfavorable conditions, for example through loudspeakers outdoors. Understands factual content. Native language causes less interference in listening comprehension. Able to understand facts; i.e., the lines but not between or beyond the lines. (Has been coded L-2 in some nonautomated applications.)

### **Listening 2+ (Limited Working Proficiency, Plus)**

Sufficient comprehension to understand most routine social demands and most conversations on work requirements as well as some discussions on concrete topics related to particular interests and special fields of competence. Often shows remarkable ability and ease of understanding, but under tension or pressure may break down. Candidate may display weakness or deficiency due to inadequate vocabulary base or less than secure knowledge of grammar and syntax. Normally understands general vocabulary with some hesitant understanding of everyday vocabulary still evident. Can sometimes detect emotional overtones. Some ability to understand implications. (Has been Coded L-2+ in some nonautomated applications.)

### **Listening 3 (General Professional Proficiency)**

Able to understand the essentials of all speech in a standard dialect including technical discussions within a special field. Has effective understanding of face-to-face speech, delivered with normal clarity and speed in a standard dialect on general topics and areas of special interest; understands hypothesizing and supported opinions. Has broad enough vocabulary that rarely has to ask for paraphrasing or explanation. Can follow accurately the essentials of conversations between educated native speakers, reasonably clear telephone calls, radio broadcasts, news stories similar to wire service reports, oral reports, some oral technical reports and public addresses on non-technical subjects; can understand without difficulty all forms of standard speech concerning a special professional field. Does not understand native speakers if they speak very quickly or use some slang or dialect. Can often detect emotional overtones. Can understand implications. (Has been coded L-3 in some nonautomated applications.)

### **Listening 3+ (General Professional Proficiency, Plus)**

Comprehends most of the content and intent of a variety of forms and styles of speech pertinent to professional needs, as well as general topics and social conversation. Ability to comprehend many sociolinguistic and cultural references. However, may miss some subtleties and nuances. Increased ability to comprehend unusually complex structures in lengthy utterances and to comprehend many distinctions in language tailored for different audiences. Increased ability to understand native speakers talking quickly, using nonstandard dialect or slang; however, comprehension is not complete. Can discern some relationships among sophisticated listening materials in the context of broad experience. Can follow some unpredictable turns of thought readily, for example, in informal and formal speeches covering editorial, conjectural and literary material in subject matter areas directed to the general listener. (Has been coded L-3+ in some nonautomated applications.)

#### **Listening 4 (Advanced Professional Proficiency)**

Able to understand all forms and styles of speech pertinent to professional needs. Able to understand fully all speech with extensive and precise vocabulary, subtleties and nuances in all standard dialects on any subject relevant to professional needs within the range of his/her experience, including social conversations; all intelligible broadcasts and telephone calls; and many kinds of technical discussions and discourse. Understands language specifically tailored (including persuasion, representation, counseling and negotiating) to different audiences. Able to understand the essentials of speech in some non-standard dialects. Has difficulty in understanding extreme dialect and slang, also in understanding speech in unfavorable conditions, for example through bad loudspeakers outdoors. Can discern relationships among sophisticated listening materials in the context of broad experience. Can follow unpredictable turns of thought readily, for example, in informal and formal speeches covering editorial, conjectural and literary material in any subject matter directed to the general listener. (Has been coded L-4 in some nonautomated applications.)

#### **Listening 4+ (Advanced Professional Proficiency, Plus)**

Increased ability to understand extremely difficult and abstract speech as well as ability to understand all forms and styles of speech pertinent to professional needs, including social conversations. Increased ability to comprehend native speakers using extreme nonstandard dialects and slang, as well as to understand speech in unfavorable conditions. Strong sensitivity to sociolinguistic and cultural references. Accuracy is close to that of the well-educated native listener but still not equivalent. (Has been coded L-4+ in some nonautomated applications.)

#### **Listening 5 (Functionally Native Proficiency)**

Comprehension equivalent to that of the well-educated native listener. Able to understand fully all forms and styles of speech intelligible to the well-educated native listener, including a number of regional and illiterate dialects, highly colloquial speech and conversations and discourse distorted by marked interference from other noise. Able to understand how natives think as they create discourse. Able to understand extremely difficult and abstract speech. (Has been coded L-5 in some nonautomated applications.)

## **Interagency Language Roundtable Language Skill Level Descriptions: Reading**

### **R-0: Reading 0 (No Proficiency)**

No practical ability to read the language. Consistently misunderstands or cannot comprehend at all.

### **R-0+: Reading 0+ (Memorized Proficiency)**

Can recognize all the letters in the printed version of an alphabetic system and high-frequency elements of a syllabary or a character system. Able to read some or all of the following: numbers, isolated words and phrases, personal and place names, street signs, office and shop designations. The above often interpreted inaccurately. Unable to read connected prose

### **R-1: Reading 1 (Elementary Proficiency)**

Sufficient comprehension to read very simple connected written material in a form equivalent to usual printing or typescript. Can read either representations of familiar formulaic verbal exchanges or simple language containing only the highest frequency structural patterns and vocabulary, including shared international vocabulary items and cognates (when appropriate). Able to read and understand known language elements that have been recombined in new ways to achieve different meanings at a similar level of simplicity. Texts may include descriptions of persons, places or things; and explanations of geography and government such as those simplified for tourists. Some misunderstandings possible on simple texts. Can get some main ideas and locate prominent items of professional significance in more complex texts. Can identify general subject matter in some authentic texts.

### **R-1+: Reading 1+ (Elementary Proficiency, Plus)**

Sufficient comprehension to understand simple discourse in printed form for informative social purposes. Can read material such as announcements of public events, simple prose containing biographical information or narration of events, and straightforward newspaper headlines. Can guess at unfamiliar vocabulary if highly contextualized, but with difficulty in unfamiliar contexts. Can get some main ideas and locate routine information of professional significance in more complex texts. Can follow essential points of written discussion at an elementary level on topics in his/her special professional field.

In commonly taught languages, the individual may not control the structure well. For example, basic grammatical relations are often misinterpreted, and temporal reference may rely primarily on lexical items as time indicators. Has some difficulty with the cohesive factors in discourse, such as matching pronouns with referents. May have to read materials several times for understanding.

### **R-2: Reading 2 (Limited Working Proficiency)**

Sufficient comprehension to read simple, authentic written material in a form equivalent to usual printing or typescript on subjects within a familiar context. Able to read with some misunderstandings straightforward, familiar, factual material, but in general insufficiently experienced with the language to draw inferences directly from the linguistic aspects of the

text. Can locate and understand the main ideas and details in material written for the general reader. However, persons who have professional knowledge of a subject may be able to summarize or perform sorting and locating tasks with written texts that are well beyond their general proficiency level. The individual can read uncomplicated, but authentic prose on familiar subjects that are normally presented in a predictable sequence which aids the reader in understanding. Texts may include descriptions and narrations in contexts such as news items describing frequently occurring events, simple biographical information, social notices, formulaic business letters, and simple technical material written for the general reader. Generally the prose that can be read by the individual is predominantly in straightforward/high-frequency sentence patterns. The individual does not have a broad active vocabulary (that is, which he/she recognizes immediately on sight), but is able to use contextual and real-world cues to understand the text. Characteristically, however, the individual is quite slow in performing such a process. Is typically able to answer factual questions about authentic texts of the types described above. [

#### **R-2+: Reading 2+ (Limited Working Proficiency, Plus)**

Sufficient comprehension to understand most factual material in non-technical prose as well as some discussions on concrete topics related to special professional interests. Is markedly more proficient at reading materials on a familiar topic. Is able to separate the main ideas and details from lesser ones and uses that distinction to advance understanding. The individual is able to use linguistic context and real-world knowledge to make sensible guesses about unfamiliar material. Has a broad active reading vocabulary. The individual is able to get the gist of main and subsidiary ideas in texts which could only be read thoroughly by persons with much higher proficiencies. Weaknesses include slowness, uncertainty, inability to discern nuance and/or intentionally disguised meaning.

#### **R-3: Reading 3 (General Professional Proficiency)**

Able to read within a normal range of speed and with almost complete comprehension a variety of authentic prose material on unfamiliar subjects. Reading ability is not dependent on subject matter knowledge, although it is not expected that the individual can comprehend thoroughly subject matter which is highly dependent on cultural knowledge or which is outside his/her general experience and not accompanied by explanation. Text-types include news stories similar to wire service reports or international news items in major periodicals, routine correspondence, general reports, and technical material in his/her professional field; all of these may include hypothesis, argumentation and supported opinions. Misreading rare. Almost always able to interpret material correctly, relate ideas and "read between the lines," (that is, understand the writers' implicit intents in text of the above types). Can get the gist of more sophisticated texts, but may be unable to detect or understand subtlety and nuance. Rarely has to pause over or reread general vocabulary. However, may experience some difficulty with unusually complex structure and low frequency idioms.

#### **R-3+: Reading 3+ (General Professional Proficiency, Plus)**

Can comprehend a variety of styles and forms pertinent to professional needs. Rarely misinterprets such texts or rarely experiences difficulty relating ideas or making inferences. Able to comprehend many sociolinguistic and cultural references. However, may miss

some nuances and subtleties. Able to comprehend a considerable range of intentionally complex structures, low frequency idioms, and uncommon connotative intentions, however, accuracy is not complete. The individual is typically able to read with facility, understand, and appreciate contemporary expository, technical or literary texts which do not rely heavily on slang and unusual items.

#### **R-4: Reading 4 (Advanced Professional Proficiency)**

Able to read fluently and accurately all styles and forms of the language pertinent to professional needs. The individual's experience with the written language is extensive enough that he/she is able to relate inferences in the text to real-world knowledge and understand almost all sociolinguistic and cultural references. Able to "read beyond the lines" (that is, to understand the full ramifications of texts as they are situated in the wider cultural, political, or social environment). Able to read and understand the intent of writers' use of nuance and subtlety. The individual can discern relationships among sophisticated written materials in the context of broad experience. Can follow unpredictable turns of thought readily in, for example, editorial, conjectural, and literary texts in any subject matter area directed to the general reader. Can read essentially all materials in his/her special field, including official and professional documents and correspondence. Recognizes all professionally relevant vocabulary known to the educated non-professional native, although may have some difficulty with slang. Can read reasonably legible handwriting without difficulty. Accuracy is often nearly that of a well-educated native reader.

#### **R-4+: Reading 4+ (Advanced Professional Proficiency, Plus)**

Nearly native ability to read and understand extremely difficult or abstract prose, a very wide variety of vocabulary, idioms, colloquialisms and slang. Strong sensitivity to and understanding of sociolinguistic and cultural references. Little difficulty in reading less than fully legible handwriting. Broad ability to "read beyond the lines" (that is, to understand the full ramifications of texts as they are situated in the wider cultural, political, or social environment) is nearly that of a well-read or well-educated native reader. Accuracy is close to that of the well-educated native reader, but not equivalent.

#### **R-5: Reading 5 (Functionally Native Proficiency)**

Reading proficiency is functionally equivalent to that of the well-educated native reader. Can read extremely difficult and abstract prose; for example, general legal and technical as well as highly colloquial writings. Able to read literary texts, typically including contemporary avant-garde prose, poetry and theatrical writing. Can read classical/archaic forms of literature with the same degree of facility as the well-educated, but non-specialist native. Reads and understands a wide variety of vocabulary and idioms, colloquialisms, slang, and pertinent cultural references. With varying degrees of difficulty, can read all kinds of handwritten documents. Accuracy of comprehension is equivalent to that of a well-educated native reader.