Defense Language Proficiency Test 5 (DLPT5)

Multiple-Choice Format

Arabic-Sudanese Familiarization Guide



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Introduction

This Familiarization Guide is designed to provide prospective examinees with information about the Defense Language Proficiency Test 5 (DLPT5) in multiple-choice 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. Finally, there is a section of sample listening passages with questions, answer choices, and explanations for each choice.

Overview of the DLPT5 Multiple-Choice Test

Department of Defense Instruction DoDI 5160.71, 2019 identifies the Defense Language Proficiency Testing (DLPT) System—for reading, listening, and speaking modalities—as an essential component of the Defense Language Program, and critical to the Department's ability to measure and capture the language capabilities of the DoD Components and to determine readiness.

Except as otherwise provided in DoDI 5160.71, 2019¹ or as authorized by public law, the DLPT System is the only test battery authorized for assessing an individual's proficiency in a foreign language and for determining qualification for receiving a Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) for military personnel pursuant to DoD Instruction 1340.27 or Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) for civilian personnel pursuant to DoD 1400.25-M in the Department of Defense.

The fifth generation of the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT5) measures target language proficiency in two modalities, reading and listening, regardless of how the target language has been acquired. Target languages refer to the languages other than English for which the DLPT5 is developed. Like all previous generations of DLPT—since the inception of the first standardized Army Language Proficiency Tests in 1948—the DLPT5 was developed as a bilingual test requiring English language proficiency as prerequisite for foreign language proficiency testing.

The DLPT5 tests measure proficiency as defined by the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Skill Level Descriptions, levels 0+ through 4 (https://www.govtilr.org/), where available. The results of 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 Source: DoD Language Testing Program, Department of Defense Instruction 5160.71, January 26, 2009, Incorporating Change 2, Effective April 9, 2019, USD(P&R).

Description of the DLPT5 Lower-Range Test in Multiple-Choice Format

• Test Design

- Typically, the Lower-Range Listening Comprehension Test contains approximately 60 questions with about 37 passages. A listening passage can have up to 2 questions, each with 4 answer choices.
- Examinees have 3 hours to complete the Listening Comprehension Test. Approximately halfway through the test, examinees will be given a 15-minute break. The break does not count toward the test time. For the Listening Comprehension Test, although the playing of the passages is controlled by the computer, examinees may take as much or as little time as they wish to answer each question. Managing time effectively is the examinee's responsibility.

• Test Content

- o The DLPT5 is designed to measure proficiency in the target language regardless of how that language 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.
- o The majority of passages included in the test are sampled from authentic materials and real-life sources such as radio and television broadcasts, the Internet, etc.
- The passages cover a broad range of content areas, including social, cultural, political, economic, geographic, scientific and technological, and military and security topics.
- o The content of the test forms will be systematically updated.
- **Test Format**: The test includes instructions on how to take the test, examples of how to answer the questions, and question sets. Each question set contains 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.
 - O **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

specific words or phrases that are used in the passage. The number of questions asked about each passage is related to the length and complexity of that passage.

o **Answer choices**: Each question statement is followed by 4 answer choices, also written in English, only one of which is the correct answer. Each answer choice is displayed on the screen with a button next to it that examinees will click to select that choice. Examinees can change their selection by clicking on a different button.

The DLPT5 is Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and the unauthorized discussion, disclosure, or possession of any of the test content is forbidden.

For military personnel, failure to comply with this prohibition is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and will result in administrative or disciplinary actions.

For civilian personnel, failure to comply with this prohibition may be prosecuted under Title 18, Section 641 of the United States Code.

Scoring

Examinee scores are reported in terms of ILR levels, including "plus" ratings. The Arabic Sudanese DLPT5 Lower Range Test measures ILR levels 1+ through 3. Possible scores are 1+, 2, 2+, and 3.

Scores reflect current functional language proficiency in listening as defined in the ILR Skill Level Descriptions (https://www.govtilr.org/). 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., listening to a target language passage indefinitely many times with the aid of supplemental reference materials and information sources).

Scores on the test are based on the number of questions answered correctly. Since there is no penalty for incorrect answers, it is to the examinee's advantage to attempt to answer every question, even if it involves guessing.

Preparation for Taking the DLPT5

The purpose of this publication is to familiarize prospective examinees with the DLPT5 multiple-choice 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. Study aids (i.e., dictionaries, reference books, etc.) are not permitted for this test.

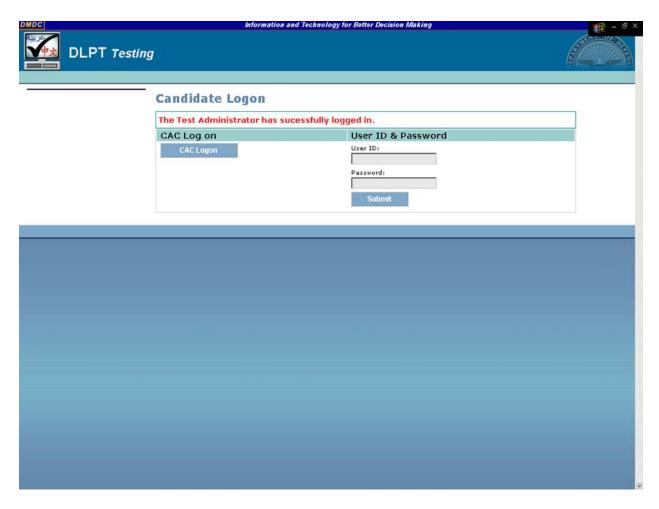
Test Procedures and Instructions for Taking the DLPT5

The purpose of this section is to familiarize prospective examinees with how to take the DLPT5 multiple-choice Listening Comprehension Test. Test procedures and instructions for the Listening Comprehension Test are provided.

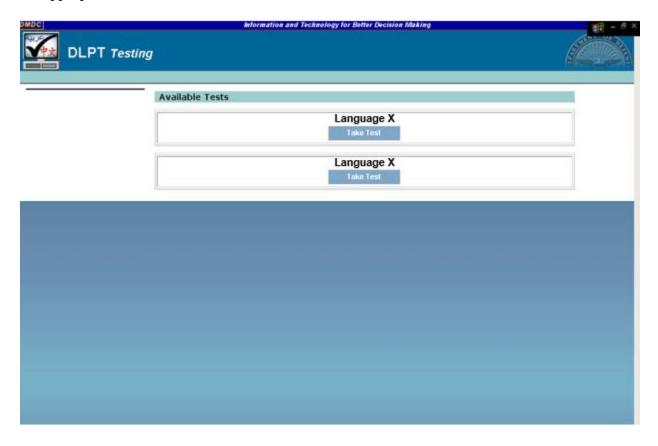
Test Procedures Overview

This section is to help prospective examinees become familiar with the test procedures of the DLPT5 multiple-choice Listening Comprehension Test. First, there will be a short description of what the examinees see before the actual test begins. Then screenshots 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). The examinee must click on the [CAC Logon] button before moving to the next screen.

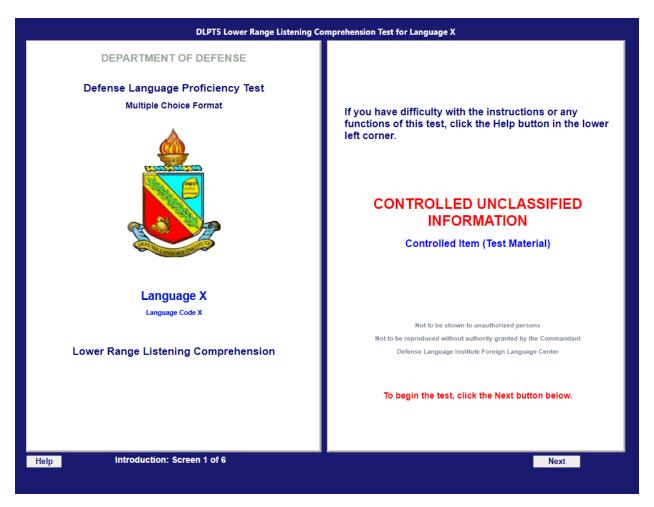


The next screen provides a list of tests for which the examinee is registered; the examinee selects the appropriate test from the list.

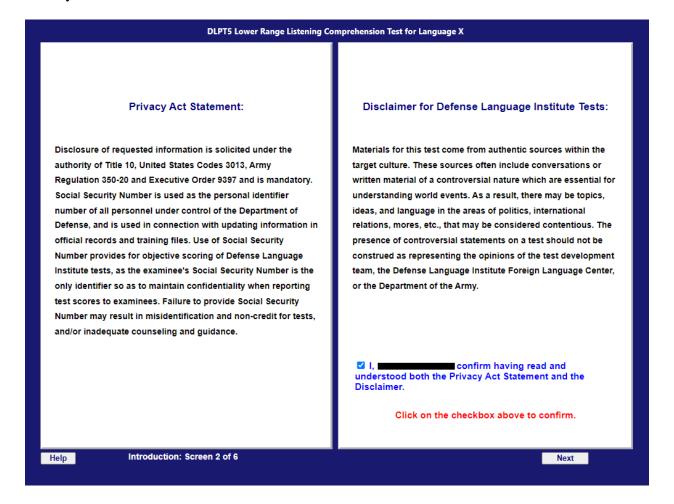


Once the test has been selected, a series of introductory screens appears. These screens contain the Privacy Act Statement, the Disclaimer for Defense Language Institute Tests, the Non-Disclosure Statement, and the Test Administration Statement (of the examinee's ability to take the test at that time).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

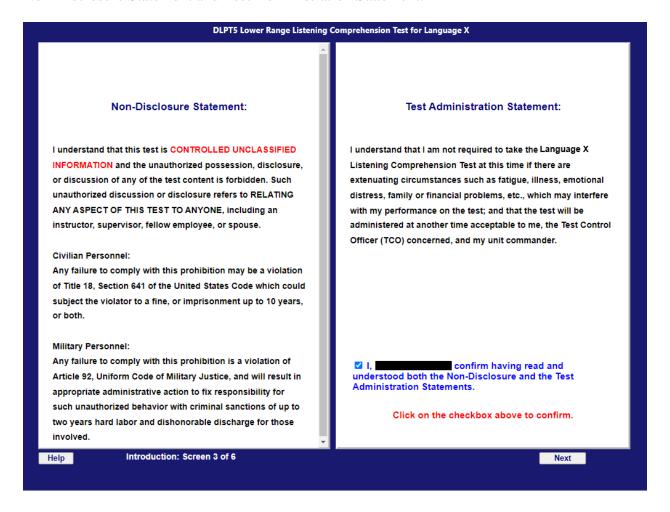
Below are introductory screens from a Listening Comprehension Test.



Privacy Act Statement and Disclaimer:



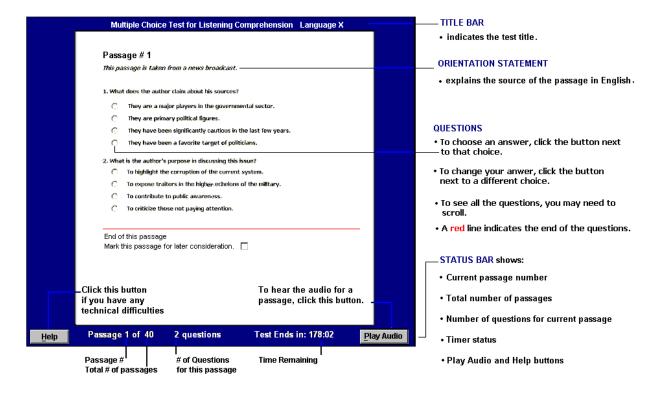
Non-Disclosure Statement and Test Administration Statement:



Listening Comprehension Test

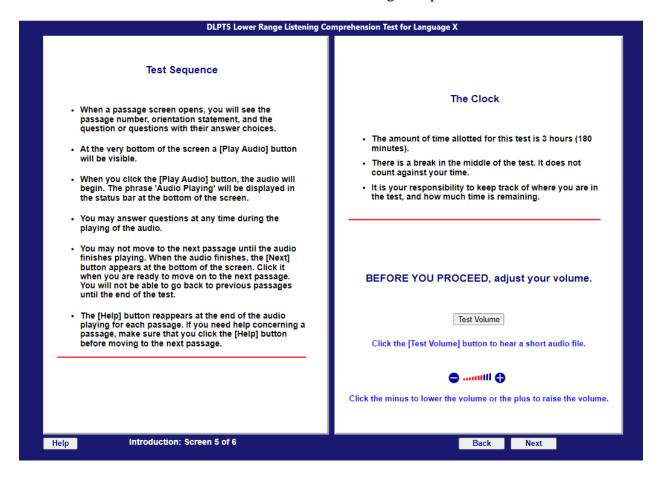
Example of screen layout for the Listening Comprehension Test:

Explanations of the parts of the screen are provided. Familiarize yourself with the features of this screen now.

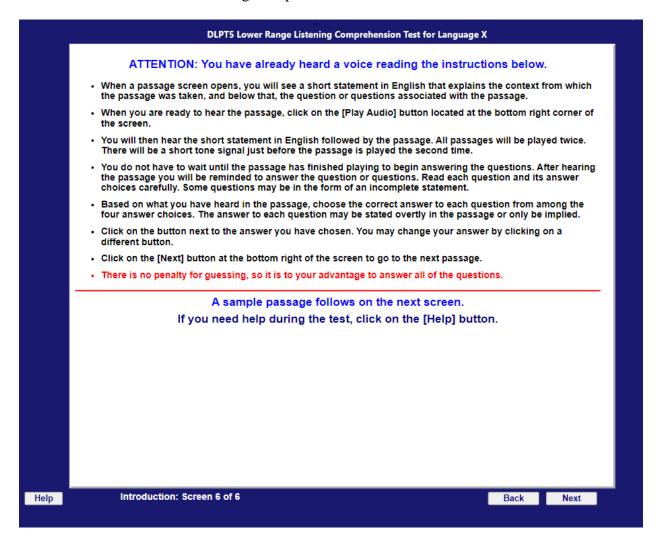


Note: Below the red line is a check box that may be selected if the examinee wants to return to these test questions later. However, be aware that the audio of the passage will NOT be played again.

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

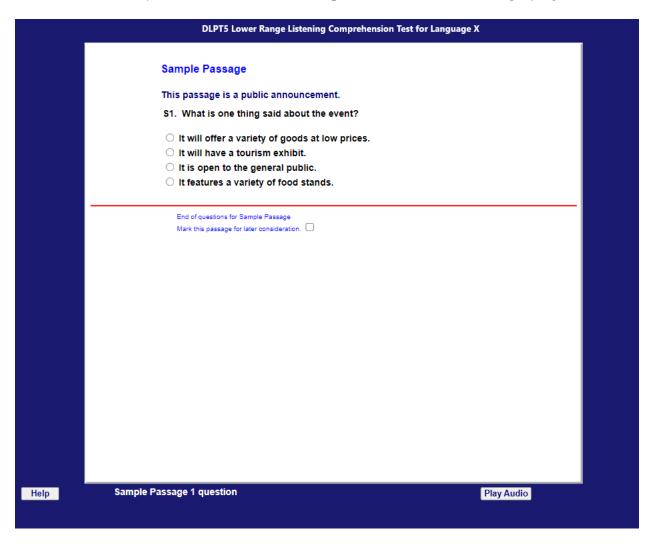


Instructions screen for the Listening Comprehension Test:



Presented here is an example of a Listening Comprehension Test sample question (the sample passage audio would be played while the screen is displayed):

Note: Examinees may select their answers to the questions while the audio is playing.



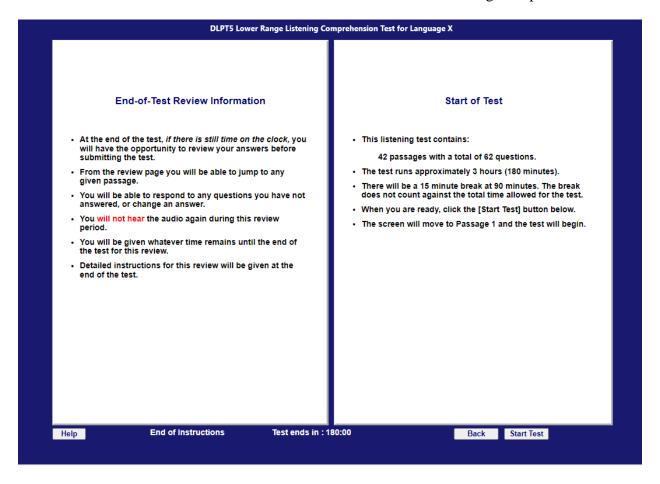
Note: After audio plays, the [Next] button will appear at the lower right of the screen.

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. 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. At the end of the test, examinees will be able to move back to previous questions, but the audio will not play again.

After the sample passage, the examinee clicks on the [Next] button and moves to the End-of-Test Review Information and Start of Test screen.

End-of-Test Review Information and Start of Test screen for the Listening Comprehension Test:



By clicking on the [Start Test] button, the examinee moves to the first passage of the test and starts the clock.

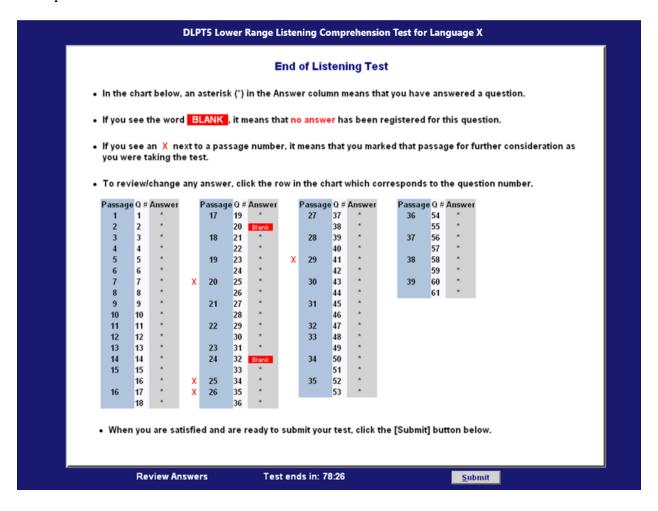
End-of-Test Review Information

At the end of the test, a review screen appears for examinees to review their responses to the questions before submitting the test.

On the review page, examinees will be able to click and 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 Comprehension Test will **NOT** be played again during this review period.

Example of the review screen:



Sample Passages

The purpose of this section is to familiarize prospective examinees on the levels and types of passages as well as their associated questions that appear in a given DLPT 5 test in multiple-choice format. Below are some sample passages from ILR levels 1+ through 2+ in listening taken from Arabic-Sudanese, and their associated questions and answer choices. Explanations of the correct answer for each question are also provided.

Listening Comprehension Sample Passages

Note: Examinees will NOT see passage transcripts in an actual DLPT5 Listening Test.

Sample Passage: ILR Level 1+

This passage is a conversation between two friends.

Transcription:

ر: كيف نوع الاكل في مطعم سفاري الجديد.

م: اكل جميل وطاعم وشهى والكميه بتاعتو كبيرة، احسن كتير من مطعم الريان. المطعمين بيقدموا اكل لبنانى. مطعم الريان اقدم وموجود فى السودان من زمن طويل، الأكل بتاعم مابطال لكن ما فى مقارنه بالأكل بتاع مطعم سفارى. فى مطعم سفارى بيستعملوا مكونات اجود وخضار طازه، و واضح انو الطباخ بتاعم احرف، الغرببه انو اسعارم ارخص.

ر: معنى كده انا لو عاوز آكل اكله شهيه امشى مطعم سفارى.

م: مؤكد ح تستمتع جدا لو مشيت مطعم سفارى.

- 1. What is this conversation mainly about?
 - (A) A new restaurant that serves Lebanese food.
 - (B) The increasing number of new restaurants.
 - (C) A restaurant to go to for special occasions.
 - (D) The high cost of eating in Lebanese restaurants.

The correct answer is (A).

Justification:

- (A) is the correct answer.
 - The conversation is mainly about the new Lebanese restaurant Safari, which opened recently.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention about the increasing number of new restaurants opening in the area.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention about a restaurant that is good to go to for special occasions.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention that eating at Lebanese restaurants is costly/expensive.

Sample Passage: ILR Level 2

This passage is from a TV talk show, featuring an interview between the host and a beautician.

Transcription:

المذيعة: في الفترة الأخيرة ظهرت ظاهرة غريبة جداً واللي قد تكون دخيلة عندنا هنا في السودان اللي هي ظاهرة تخريم الأذن وتخريم اللسان وتخريم الشفاه وتخريم أيضاً الحاجب. فياريت لو تحدثينا يا أسماء بصورة تفصيلية عن مدى الإقبال، إقبال الشباب على هذه الظاهرة.

أسماء: أتكلم عن الظاهرة دي بصورة عامة، طبعاً الظاهرة دي هي كانت في القديم كانت عند حبوباتنا زمان، فنحن بنسمع بالفدو والزمام فيالله، فإحنا في الأجيال الجديدة دى نسمع بحاجات تانية بقينا.

المذيعة: نسبة الإقبال عليها كبيرة؟

أسماء: كبيرة جداً. يعني ممكن عادي في اليوم تجي تقريباً حوالي عشرة، عشرة بنات أو نسوان، يعني بيقول لك عايزين نعمل زمام أو عايزين نعمل "بلي رنغ" برضو للنسوان وللبنات. وتاني في منها برضو باللسان وفيه فوق للحاجب... المذيعة: في رايك، الحاجة دي هل حتستمر وتتزايد وإلا حتقيف لحد هنا وما حا يجي بعد كم يوم الناس تكتشف حاجة جديدة؟

أسماء: والله ما أعتقد لأنها هي بكل يوم زايدة بكمية أكثر من اليوم اللي قبلها.

2. What phenomenon is discussed in this talk show?

- (A) The recent popularity of body piercing.
- (B) The growing interest in plastic surgery.
- (C) Extravagant accessories favored by young women.
- (D) Traditional tattoos fashionable with young people.

The correct answer is (A).

Justification:

- (A) is the correct answer.
 - According to both speakers, body piercing is increasingly popular.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. The interview is about body piercing, not plastic surgery.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. Women are asking for belly rings and piercings. There is no mention of accessories becoming extravagant.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention of traditional tattoos becoming fashionable.
- 3. What is one prediction made about the phenomenon discussed?
 - (A) It will be prohibited by the authorities.
 - (B) It will continue to grow in the country.
 - (C) It will be resisted by neighboring countries.
 - (D) It will revive a traditional custom.

The correct answer is **(B)**.

Justification:

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention of authorities in this interview.
- (B) is the correct answer.

 The interviewed states that the demand for

The interviewee states that the demand for piercings is increasing more and more.

- (C) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention of neighboring countries in this interview.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. The interviewee states that the tradition of piercing is not new. Older generations of women had nose rings, but now younger women are asking for other types of piercings.

Sample Passage: ILR Level 2+

This passage is from a conversation in the US between two Sudanese teachers of Arabic.

Transcription:

م: الليلة جاني، شفت طالب من طلابنا الامريكان ديل وقال عايز يمشي منطقة في غرب السودان. وانا قمت قلتليه والله يا اخي انا من الخرطوم يعني ما بعرف كتير عن المنطقة. لكن بسأليك ويعني في عندي زميلي معاي في المكتب من المنطقة وبورينا يعني معلومات كويسة. فهو بيسأل عن امكانية انه يكون في يعنى زي فنادق كدا ممكن ينزل فيها.

ر: الانسان الضيف للي بيجي المنطقة سوا كان سوداني او اجنبي بيستقبلو اي شخص من الحلّة بيستقبل هذا الرجل ويكرمو ويستضيفو معاه . في لحظة ان الرجل دا خلاص احتار ما لاقي انسان يستضيفه يمشي بيت الشيخ. بيت الشيخ دا ملزم يستقبلو طيلة الفترة للي هو داير يقضيها في القرية. فلذلك الفكرة بتاع الفنادق او بيوت للاجار او شقق للاجار ما دخلت عندنا ولا حتدخل لان ما جزء من الثقافة بتاعة الريف ابداً .

م: لكن طبعاً يعني دا كلام صح يعني. لكن انا غاية عموماً قلتليه انت يعني امش السودان. السودان دا عموماً يعني ناسه وشعبه شعب كريم واكيد يعني حتلقي الزول اللي حيستضيفك لانه دا جزء من عاداتنا وجزء يعني من حاجاتنا الاصيلة فينا يعني .

4. What does the woman want to find out about western Sudan?

- (A) Whether it is possible to find lodging there.
- (B) Whether it is safe for foreigners visiting there.
- (C) Whether Americans are welcome there.
- (D) Whether urbanization has affected people there.

The correct answer is (A).

Justification:

- (A) is the correct answer.
 - The woman asks the man whether there are hotels or other places a person visiting western Sudan might be able to stay.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention in the conversation of whether it is safe or not for foreigners to visit western Sudan.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. The woman mentions that an American student of hers wants to visit western Sudan. However, she does not ask her male colleague whether Americans are welcome there or not.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention of urbanization in the conversation.
- 5. What is one thing the woman learns from the man?
 - (A) Foreigners must report to the tribal sheikh upon arrival.
 - (B) Rooms for rent in Sudan are available year-round.
 - (C) People in the countryside maintain Sudanese traditions.
 - (D) Locals in rural areas rely on money from Western tourists.

The correct answer is (C).

Justification:

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. The man tells the woman that in case the foreigner does not find someone to stay with, then he should go the sheik who is obligated to welcome him.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention of rooms for rent in the conversation.
- (C) is the correct answer.
 - The man tells the woman that people in the countryside will welcome any visitor into their home, as has been the tradition in the area.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. Although the passage mentions Westerners visiting western Sudan, there is no mention of locals relying on Western tourism for money.