Defense Language Proficiency Test 5 (DLPT5)

Multiple-Choice Format

Persian-Farsi 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.

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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 Reading Comprehension Test contains approximately 60 questions with about 36 passages. A reading passage can have up to 4 questions, each with 4 answer choices.
- O 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.
- o Examinees have 3 hours to complete the Reading Comprehension Test and 3 hours to complete the Listening Comprehension Test. Approximately halfway through each test, examinees will be given a 15-minute break. The break does not count toward the test time. For the Reading Comprehension Test, examinees may take as much or as little time as they wish to answer the questions. 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 the questions. Managing time effectively is the examinee's responsibility.

• Test Content

- 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.
- The majority of 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 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.

- O Passage: This is the only element of the test that is in the target language being tested. The maximum length of a Reading Comprehension passage in the test is approximately 400 words. 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.
- 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 Persian-Farsi DLPT5 Lower Range Tests measure ILR levels 1 through 3. Possible scores are 1+, 2, 2+, and 3.

Scores reflect current functional language proficiency in reading and 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., reading or 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.

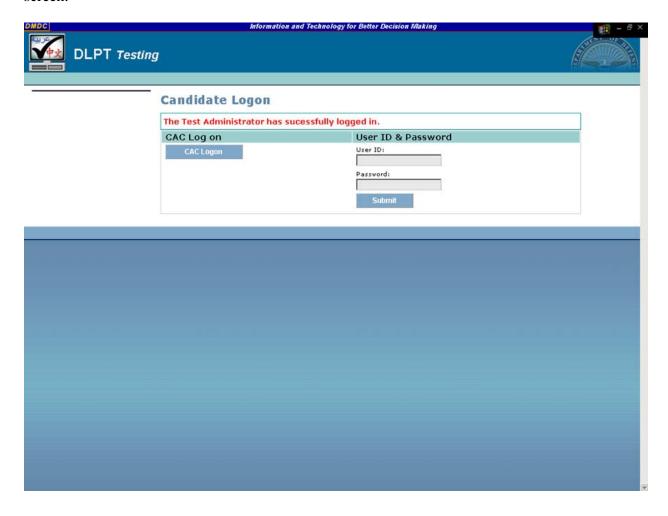
Test Procedures and Instructions for Taking the DLPT5

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

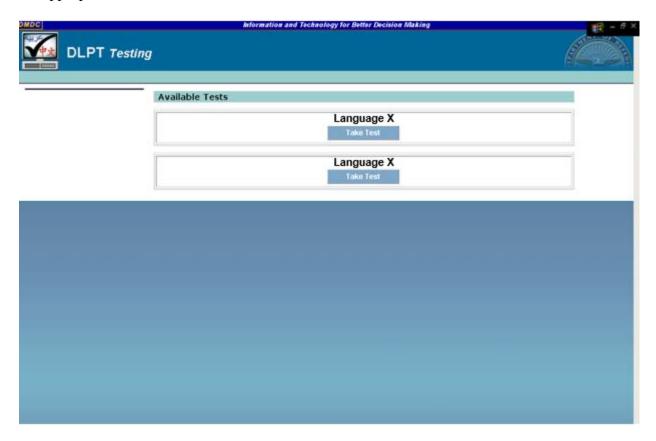
Test Procedures Overview

This section is to help prospective examinees become familiar with the test procedures of the DLPT5 multiple-choice Reading and Listening Comprehension Tests. 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.

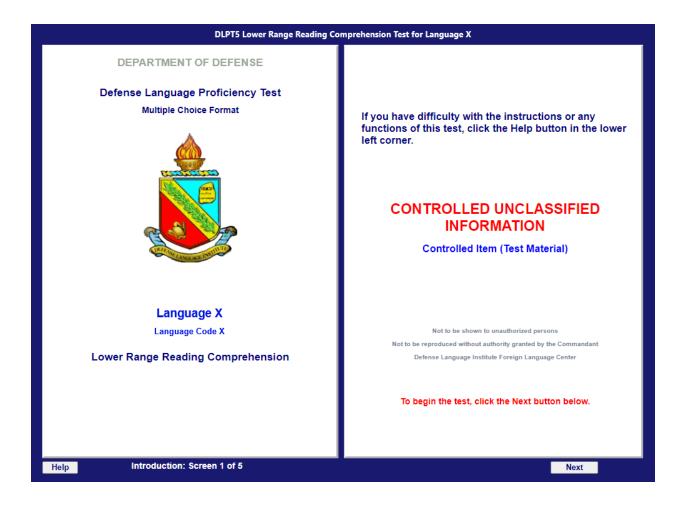


The next screen provides a list of tests for which the examinee is registered; the examinee selects the appropriate test from the list.

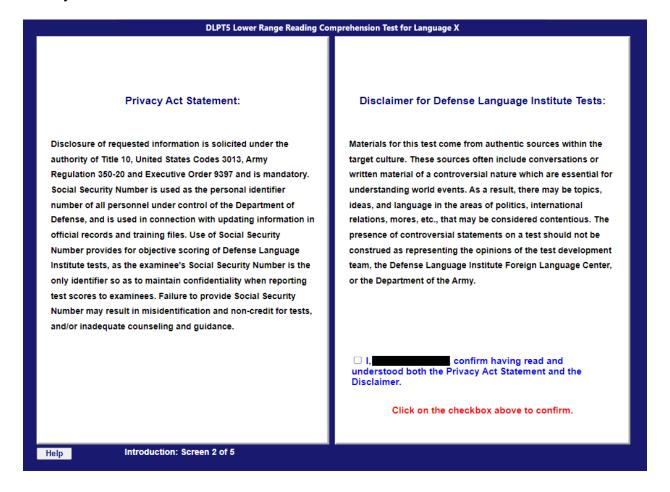


Once the test has been selected, a series of introductory screens appears. These screens contain the Privacy Act Statement, the Disclaimer for Defense Language Institute Tests, the Non-Disclosure Statement, and the Test Administration Statement (of the examinee's ability to take the test at that time).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

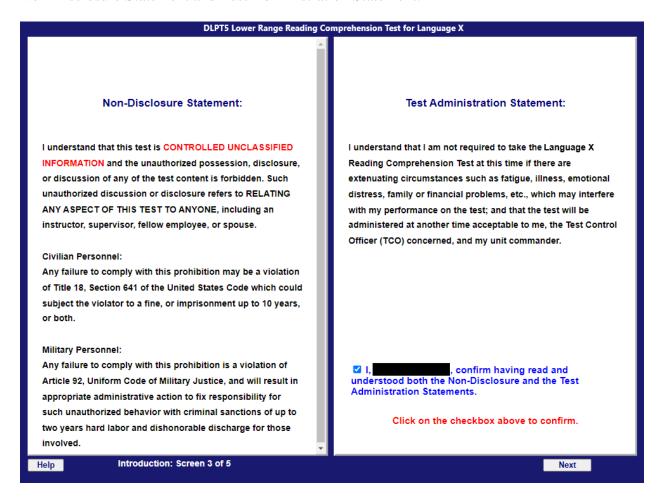
Below are introductory screens from the Reading Comprehension Test. The Listening Comprehension Test, not depicted, has similar introductory screens.



Privacy Act Statement and Disclaimer:



Non-Disclosure Statement and Test Administration Statement:

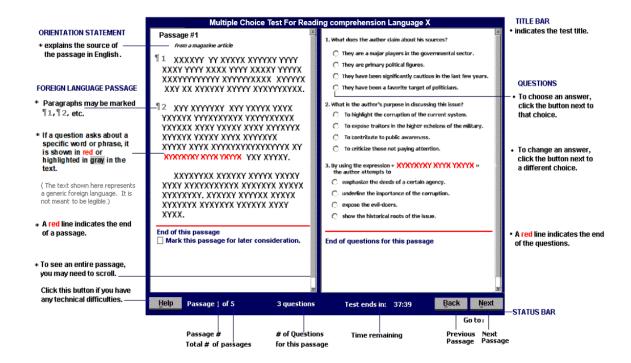


The next several screens contain examples of the screen layout for examinees to familiarize themselves with the features of the test, instructions for taking the test, and a sample test passage.

Reading Comprehension Test

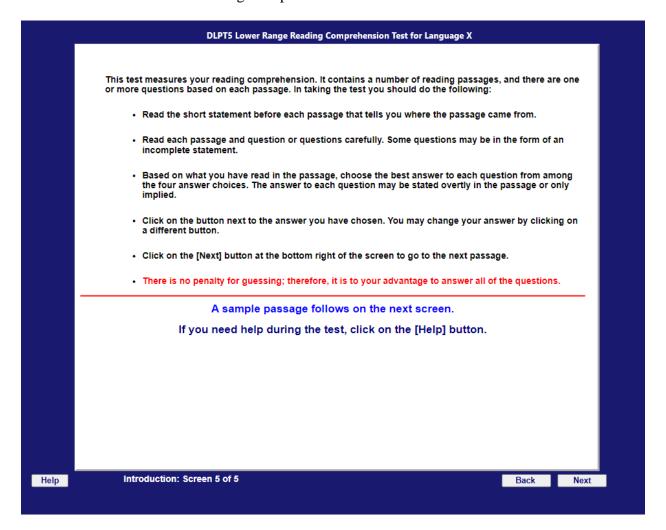
Example of screen layout for the Reading Comprehension Test:

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



Note: The example text represents a generic foreign language; it is not meant to be intelligible. Below the red line is a check box that may be selected if the examinee wants to return to these test questions later.

Instructions screen for the Reading Comprehension Test:



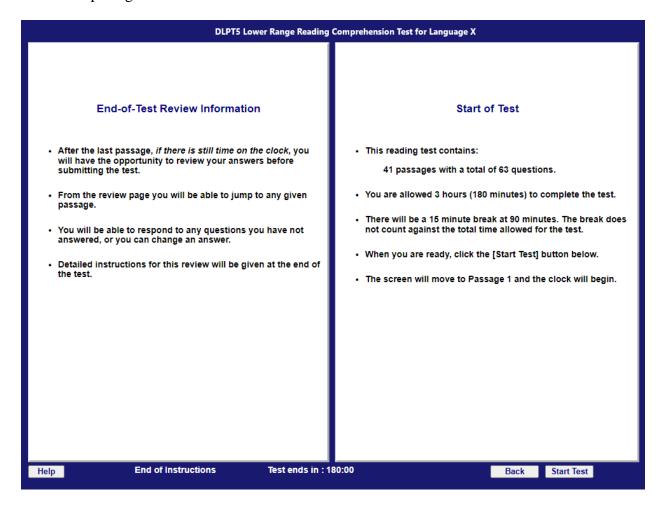
Presented here is an example of a Reading sample passage with its associated question:



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

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

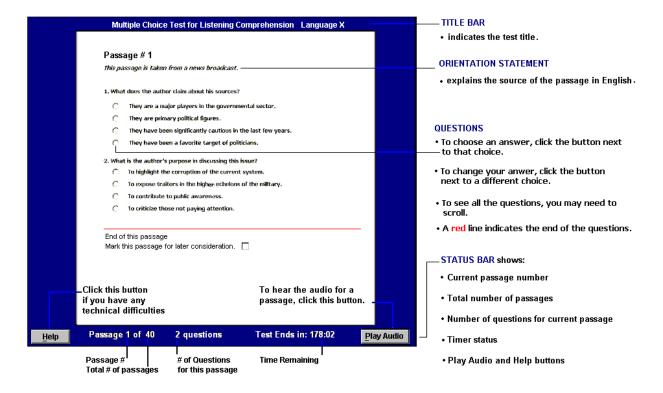
This screen contains instructions on how to go back to review answers at the end of the test and information on the length of the test. By clicking on the [Start Test] button, the examinee moves to the first passage of the test and starts the clock.



Listening Comprehension Test

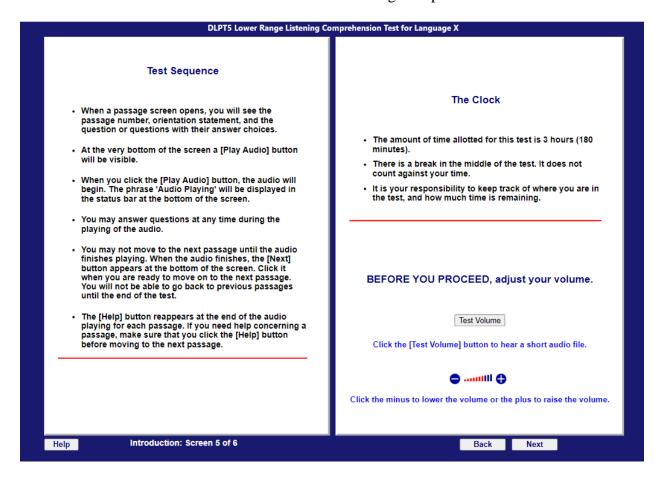
Example of screen layout for the Listening Comprehension Test:

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

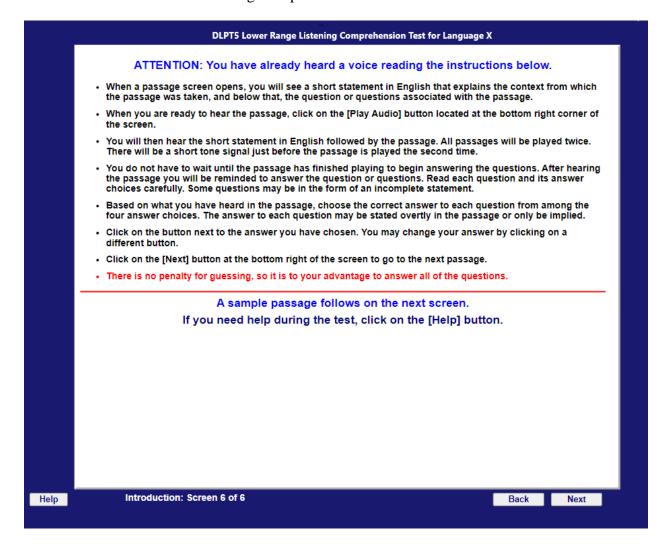


Note: Below the red line is a check box that may be selected if the examinee wants to return to these test questions later. However, be aware that the audio of the passage will NOT be played again.

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

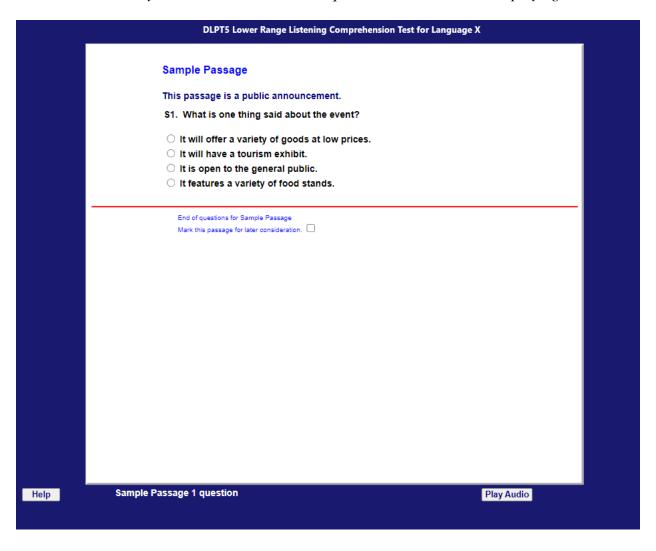


Instructions screen for the Listening Comprehension Test:



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.



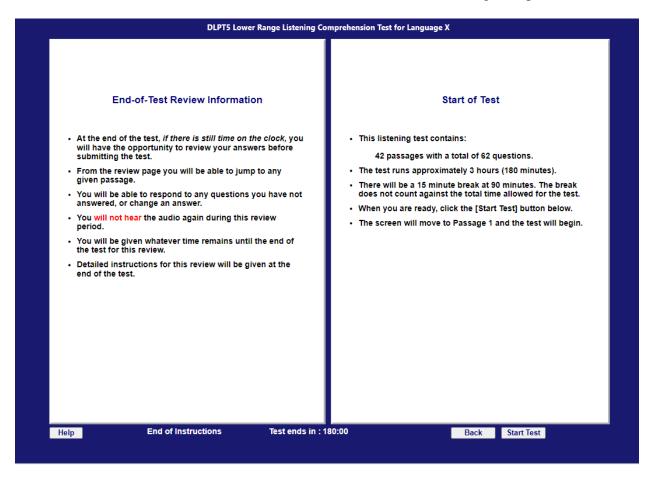
Note: After audio plays, the [Next] button will appear at the lower right of the screen.

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.

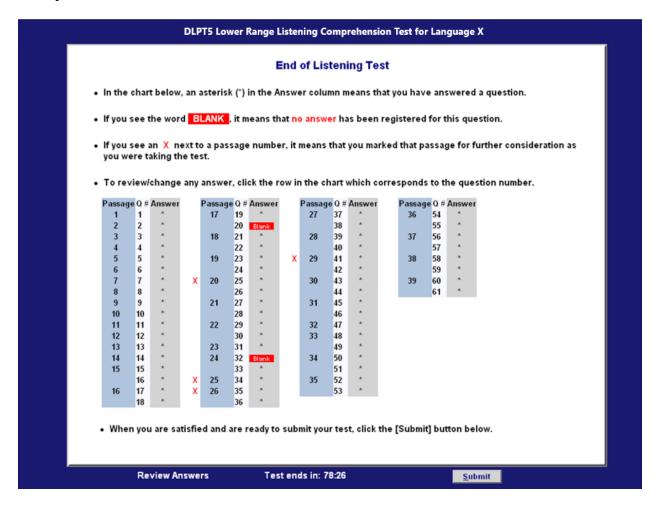
End-of-Test Review Information

At the end of each 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 3 in reading and listening taken from Persian-Farsi, and their associated questions and answer choices. Explanations of the correct answer for each question are also provided.

Reading Comprehension Sample Passages

Sample Passage: ILR Level 1

A yellow pages ad

حمل و نقل بین المللی آسان به مدیریت رضا ابدی حمل و نقل کلیه وسایل منزل و اتوموبیل به کشورهای مختلف زمینی و هوایی با بیمه کامل برای بر آورد رایگان تلفنی با ما تماس بگیرید.

- 1. Who is most likely to be interested in this ad?
 - (A) Someone who needs to rent a car.
 - (B) Someone who will sell home furniture.
 - (C) Someone who wants to buy a plane ticket.
 - (D) Someone who will be moving.

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

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. Although cars are mentioned, the ad does not offer car rentals.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. Although furniture is mentioned, the ad contains no reference to selling furniture.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. While the ad mentions "different countries," there is no reference to plane ticket purchase.
- (D) is the correct answer.

 The shipping company placed the ad to attract those who are in need of transporting

| furniture and cars to other countries. | Thus, someone | who will be moving | is most likely to be |
|--|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| interested in the ad. | | | |

Sample Passage: ILR Level 2

From a local news report

انفجار کپسول گاز اجاق خور اک پزی در یک اتوبوس مسافربری در جاده زنجان، موجب کشته شدن چهار ده نفر و زخمی گردیدن حداقل پانزده تن از مسافر ان شد.

به گزارش رادیو تلویزیون دولتی، ماجرا از این قرار بود که راننده برای گرم کردن فضای اتوبوس (احتمالاً به دلیل اینکه بخاری اتوبوس نقص فنی داشته) یک دستگاه اجاق خوراک پزی متصل به کپسول گاز را روشن کرده بود که مسافران احساس سرما نکنند. ولی در طول راه بر اثر یک ترمز شدید، کپسول گاز واژگون و به علت پاره شدن لوله گاز، آتش در اتوبوس شعله کشید و دست کم چهارده نفر از مسافران را به کام مرگ برد.

مناطق شمالی و غربی ایران در روزهای اخیر، سردترین و پربرف ترین روزهای خود را طی چند دهه اخیر سپری کرده اند تا آنجا که بسیاری از جاده های کوهستانی که برخی از آنها از جاده های مهم و پررفت و آمد کشورند بسته شده است.

ایران نسبت به جمعیت خود بالاترین میزان تصادفات جاده ای را داراست و از راههای آن به عنوان ناامن ترین جاده های جهان یاد میشود.

2. What is the reason that the cooker was turned on?

- (A) To melt snow for drinking water.
- (B) To prepare a meal for travelers.
- (C) To keep passengers warm.
- (D) To attract the attention of rescuers.

The correct answer is (C).

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. Snow is mentioned only in the context of the general weather conditions; the gas cooker was not used to melt it.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. While a gas cooker would normally be used to prepare meals, the report does not mention it being used for this purpose.
- (C) is the correct answer.

 According to the report, the bus driver turned on the gas cooker to heat the interior of the bus in order to keep the passengers warm.

(D) is **not** the correct answer. Although the adverse weather caused some road closures, no rescue efforts were mentioned in the report.

3. What initiated the incident mentioned in the report?

- (A) The driver's abrupt attempt at braking.
- (B) The accidental stumbling of a passenger.
- (C) The unexpected burning of some cooking oil.
- (D) The bus's sudden turn on an icy road.

The correct answer is (A).

- (A) is the correct answer.

 During the trip the driver abruptly applied the brakes, which made the cooker's gas canister overturn, rupturing the connecting hose and causing an explosion.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. While the accident happened inside the bus, the report does not mention the stumbling of a passenger.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. The fire was not caused by, nor did it involve, any cooking oil.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. A sudden turn of the bus is not mentioned to be the cause of the incident.

Sample Passage: ILR Level 3

From a Tehran newspaper

یکی از شگردهای کلاهبرداران و مفسدان مالی و اختلاس کنندگان از بیت المال این است که در کنار ده ها و صدها عمل مجرمانه و خلاف قانون، با ظاهر سازی و ریاکاری یکی دو چشمه کار خوب هم از خود نشان می دهند. به عنوان مثال با کمک مالی به فلان خیریه یا صندوق قرض الحسنه و یا فلان آقایی که دستی در کمک به بی بضاعت ها و محرومان دارد، یک چهره به ظاهر موجه از خود می سازند تا چنانچه اگر روزی گرفتار شدند و اعمال مجرمانه آنان آشکار گردید، بواسطه همین ریاکاری ها و با توصیه افراد موجه از چنگ قانون رهایی یابند.

یکی از موارد دیگری که شایسته است دستگاه قضایی به آن توجه نماید، تغییر یکباره و جهشی زندگی و وضعیت مالی برخی از مسئولان یا وابستگان آنان و رشد اقتصادی و محیر العقول برخی از آقازاده هاست! در میان اینان حتی هستند کسانی که نه ارث و میراث پدری داشته اند که بگوییم زمینه پولدارشدن آنان بوده است و نه سرمایه ای داشته اند که به پشتوانه آن یک فعالیت تجاری و یا تولیدی را سازماندهی نمایند، ولی می بینیم که در کمتر از چند سال ره صد ساله را پیموده و در ویلاهای کاخ مانند خود به عیش و نوش مشغولند.

امروز دستگاه قضایی در معرض امتحانی بزرگ و سرنوشت ساز قرار دارد و چنانچه از این امتحان سرباند بیرون آید و مفسدان مالی و اقتصادی را به سزای اعمال ننگینشان برساند، گامی بزرگ در جهت سلامت نظام اسلامی و حفظ و بقای آن برداشته و مردم را بیش از پیش به اجرای عدالت و آینده ای روشن امیدوار می سازد.

4. According to the author, what is the real purpose of the benevolent acts mentioned?

- (A) To benefit from the political immunity of a charity group.
- (B) To assure legal protection in case of prosecution.
- (C) To gain public support from corrupt officials.
- (D) To help in the rehabilitation of ex-convicts.

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

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. The benevolent acts cannot provide political immunity for the corrupt individuals.
- (B) is the correct answer.
 The passage describes various tricks some corrupt individuals use to protect themselves.
 One of the tricks is to perform a few "benevolent acts" to establish legal protection so that if there is prosecution, people would intervene or testify on their behalf.

- (C) is **not** the correct answer. The passage mentions benevolent acts performed by individuals in attempting to avoid prosecution, not to gain public support from corrupt officials.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. The benevolent acts are meant to prevent a criminal conviction, not to rehabilitate anyone after release from prison.

Listening Comprehension Sample Passages

Sample Passage: ILR Level 1

This passage is from a conversation at a travel agency.

Transcription:

مرد: سلام خانم زن: سلام آقا، چه فرمایشی دارین؟ مرد: ببخشید خانم! بلیط هواپیما برای شیراز دارین؟ زن: برای کی؟ مرد: برای امروز عصر. زن: بلیط یکسره می خواین یا رفت و برگشت؟ مرد: رفت و برگشت

1. What does the man want to do?

- (A) Change hotels.
- (B) Book a flight.
- (C) Arrange a tour.
- (D) Go to the airport.

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

Justification:

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. While a travel agency can probably arrange for any of the services mentioned in these options, the man did not mention changing hotels.
- (B) is the correct answer.

The man asked to buy a round-trip airplane ticket for Shiraz.

- (C) is **not** the correct answer. The man did not ask to arrange a tour.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. The man did not mention that he wanted to go to the airport.

Sample Passage: ILR Level 2

This passage is from the national news on the radio.

Transcription:

بیست و نه مرد تانزانیائی که بطور غیر قانونی در ایران اقامت داشتند در هتل اسفند تهران به دلیل مظنون بودن به انتقال کوکائین به ایران دستگیر شدند.

این اقدام در حالی صورت گرفت که چندی پیش دو جوان تانزانیائی بعلت پاره شدن بسته های کوکائین در داخل معده اونها کشته شدند که این امر موجب پی گیری تحقیقات پلیس در این زمینه شده بود.

در این هتل پنجاه تانزانیائی اقامت داشتند که اقامت بیست و نه نفر از اونها که دستگیرشدند غیر قانونی بوده.

2. What is one detail the news mentions?

- (A) Some hotel guests were guarantined for health reasons.
- (B) Some workers were detained for working without a permit.
- (C) Some illegal residents were arrested for suspected activities.
- (D) Some foreigners were expelled for having visas that expired.

The correct answer is (C).

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. Some hotel guests were arrested, but none were quarantined for health reasons.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. Twenty-nine Tanzanians were detained for not having legal resident permits.
- (C) is the correct answer. According to the news, twenty-nine Tanzanian men who resided illegally in Iran were arrested on suspicion of cocaine trafficking to Iran.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. The passage does not refer to foreigners who were expelled for expired visas.

Sample Passage: Level 3

This passage is from a political talk show on the radio.

Transcription:

به نظر شما چرا جمهوری خواهی در این مرحله به یکی از محوری ترین بحثهای اپوزیسیون تبدیل شده؟

به نظر من کاملاً طبیعی یه. برای اینکه خواست اساسی مردم در برحه ی زمانی حال اینه که نه خواهان سلطنت هستند برای این که بیست و چند سال پیش در حقیقت سلطنت به عنوان یک نهاد در ایران در هم نور دیده شد و به نظر من قابل برگشت نیست و از طرف دیگه مردم جمهوری اسلامی رو هم در بیست و پنج سال گذشته تجربه کردند. بنابراین الان خواهان جمهوری هستند نه کم نه زیاد به قول معروف. البته جنبه ی دیگه ی قضیه اینه که چون انقلاب ایران در حال حاضر مرحله ی دموکراتیک خودش رو پشت سر میگذاره با جمهوریت تطابق داره. و البته از اول انقلاب هم موقعی که سلطنت رو مردم برانداختند خواهان جمهوری بودند منتهی آخوندها اومدند سوار این موج شدند و این رو تبدیل به جمهوری اسلامی کردند و قوانین خودشون رو که همین و لایت فقیه در حقیقت بخش محوریشه به مردم تحمیل کردند. و همین طوری که گفتم چون مرحله ی انقلاب در حال حاضر چیزی مرحله فرضاً جامعه ی ایران در حال حاضر آماده ی سوسیالیزم باشه بنابراین جمهوری یک مرحله ایست که فرضاً جامعه ی ایران در حال حاضر آماده ی سوسیالیزم باشه بنابراین جمهوری یک مرحله ایست که قرادی و دموکراسی و شرایطی رو فراهم خواهد کرد که اگر نیروهای ترقی خواه واقعاً بتونن ازش استفاده بکنن می تونه به طرف سوسیالیزم حرکت بکنه.

3. What is one thing the speaker implies about the Islamic Republic?

- (A) It is a natural result of the revolution.
- (B) It is an irreversible form of government.
- (C) It lacks the support of the people.
- (D) It stands in the way of social reform.

The correct answer is (C).

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. While the Islamic Republic is indeed the result of the revolution, the speaker argues that this result was forced upon the people, who had not wanted a religious government.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. The idea of irreversibility was mentioned by the speaker, but it was in connection with abolishing the monarchy in Iran (i.e., the abolishment of the monarchy is irreversible).

- (C) is the correct answer.
 - The speaker argues that (1) the Iranian revolution was started because of the people's demand for a democratic republic (i.e., a government ruled by a head of state who is not a monarch), and that (2) the clerics "hijacked" the revolution and imposed the rule of jurisconsult (i.e., a government ruled by religious leaders) under the name of "Islamic Republic," and after 25 years of living under this rule, the people just want "a republic, no more, no less" (thus implying that they do not want the "Islamic Republic").
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. The speaker does argue that republicanism could be a stepping stone to full socialism, implying that socialism is the preferred form of government; but he does not suggest that the Islamic Republic blocks any social reform.

4. What does the speaker suggest about republicanism?

- (A) It is considered to be incompatible with Islamic principles.
- (B) It must be consolidated with democracy for success.
- (C) It is an unacceptable form of government for Iran.
- (D) It might be a forerunner to a new form of government.

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

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. While the speaker mentions that the clerics steered the country away from republicanism, he does not say that this form of government is considered to be incompatible with Islamic principles.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. The speaker does not say that republicanism would fail unless it is consolidated with democracy.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. While the speaker does seem to think socialism is the ideal form of government, he also implies that republicanism would be acceptable as a "stepping stone" since it can provide freedom and democracy.
- (D) is the correct answer.
 - Even though the speaker states that republicanism can provide freedom and democracy (implying that the Islamic Republic cannot do so) he also suggests that it is merely a transitional phase, and if progressive people are skillful enough, they can still steer the country toward socialism.