

## DLPT-V System Familiarization Guide for Constructed Response Format

**Short Description:** Excerpt describing the constructed response format (for not widely spoken languages) from familiarization guide at [www.monterey.army.mil](http://www.monterey.army.mil) website

### Overview of the DLPT5 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. The DLPT5 tests measure proficiency as defined by the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Skill Level Descriptions, levels 1 - 4 (see Appendix A). 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+ - 3, while the Upper-Range measures ILR proficiency levels 3 - 4. Examinees will normally take the lower-range DLPT5; those who receive a score of 3 on this test may be eligible to take the upper-range test, depending on the policy of their institution. The DLPT5 tests will be used to make operational readiness, incentive pay, and training decisions for civilian and military language analysts in the United States government.

### Description of the DLPT5 Lower-Range Test

#### ? Test Design

- o The Lower-Range Reading Test contains 60 questions with about 30 authentic passages. Each passage has up to 3 questions.
- o The Lower-Range Listening Test contains 60 questions with 30 authentic passages. Each passage has two questions and is played twice.
- o 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 the Listening 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 the time effectively is the examinee's responsibility, just as it is on the reading test.

#### ? Test Content

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o The passages cover a broad range of content areas, including social, cultural, political, economic, geographic, scientific, and military topics.
- o ? Test Format: The test includes instructions on how to take the test, examples on how to answer the questions, and question sets containing the following parts:
  - o 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 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.

- o Questions: They are in English and are based on the passage. They are usually of a general character. You will not be asked questions about numbers.

- o 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.

#### Upper-Range Test

##### ? Test Design

- o The Upper-Range Reading Test contains 60 questions with about 30 authentic passages. Each passage has up to 3 questions.

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

- o 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 the Listening 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 the time effectively is the examinee's responsibility, just as it is on the reading test.

##### ? Test Content

- o 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.

- o 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.

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

- ? Test Format: The test includes instructions on how to take the test, examples on how to answer the questions, and question sets containing the following parts:

- o 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 listening comprehension passage in the test is approximately 2.5 minutes. The maximum length of a reading comprehension passage is approximately 400 words. Most of the passages are much shorter than the maximum length.

- o Questions: They are in English and are based on the passage. They are usually of a general character. You will not be asked questions about numbers.

- o 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.

Because test security and confidentiality are extremely important, examinees should not discuss test content with anyone.

#### 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 A). 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 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; therefore, it is to examinees' advantage to answer all questions thoroughly, rather than skipping the easier questions to focus on the harder ones. Examinee answers will be evaluated by testing experts at the Defense Language Institute according to a detailed scoring protocol.