

## STUDENT GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR THE STAMP TEST

### What is STAMP? — STAMP is.....

- An online test designed to find out what you can DO with a language (reading, writing, speaking)
- A series of test items based on real-world, every-day situations and written by native speakers.
- A **ST**Andards-based **M**easurement of **P**roficiency using levels of proficiency defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages – ACTFL)

### What does STAMP assess?

- Your Reading ability: it measures how well you comprehend texts written by native speakers
- Your Writing ability: it measures how well you can write in real world situations
- Your Speaking ability: it measures how well you can speak about everyday situations

### Preparing for STAMP:

- Review the topics listed below and your vocabulary related to the topics.
- Practice speaking and writing every day.
- Take the STAMP Test Demo to become familiar with
  - 1) The types of prompts that you'll be expected to respond to and
  - 2) The scoring guide for Writing and Reading which describes expected levels of ability related to language use, understanding, and task-completion.
  - 3) Log on to [www.stamptest.net](http://www.stamptest.net) to take the practice test.
- Remember, last-minute cramming will not help – proficiency means ability to use the language.

### Topics By Level (every level assumes knowledge of all previous levels):

Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four	Level Five
Calendar/Time	Clothing	Community	Health	Future Plans
Colors/Shapes	Food/Beverage	Daily Routines	Holidays	Culture
Family/Self	Friends	Shopping/Stores	& Celebrations	Contemporary
Pets/Animals	Home		Occupations	Issues (Current
School/Classroom	Leisure/Activities		Professions	Events,
Weather/Seasons	Places/Geography		Transportation	Economics,
			Travel/Vacations	Culture,
				Literature,
				Science, Social
				Science, etc.)

### Logging in to take STAMP:

- Your teacher will provide the URL for the Website log in page.
- You provide your **First** and **Last Name** — always enter it exactly the same way (no changes in spelling, capitals, spaces, etc.), so you may log in again to finish your test if necessary.
- Your teacher will provide your **Test Code** and **Password** right before you begin the test
- After you log in, you'll need to provide a Student ID number on the Student Profile Page

## Taking STAMP — three sections:

1. **The Reading section** is computer-adaptive which means it will give you easier or more difficult questions based upon your earlier answers. It also means each test taker may be given a different number of questions.
  - a. Read the question and answers before you attempt reading the passage (this will help guide your reading and help you move through the test more quickly).
2. **The Writing section** consists of a sample and three test questions.
  - a. Use the **SAVE** button regularly as you write. If the system “times out” due to paused input, log in again immediately to continue from the point of your last SAVE.
  - b. Remember to click **SUBMIT** when you’re finished with each question.

*Hint: Review the scoring guide under the question, then write as much as you can for each item — the more complete answer you write, the greater the possibility of scoring higher on the task.*

3. **The Speaking section** consists of a sample and three test questions.
  - a. For each item, you can review your response by clicking **PLAY** then you can record over your answer, add to your answer, or **SUBMIT** to move on to the next item.
  - b. You have 10 minutes per question before the system “times out”. If that happens in the midst of an answer, log in again immediately and begin that item again. \*Bandwidth shortages may cause a time out sooner than 10 minutes.

*Hint: Remember the scoring guide, then speak as much as you can for each item.*

## Completing STAMP:

- **IMPORTANT:** Click **SUBMIT** on your last item
- You have not completed STAMP until you see a page that reads “Congratulations! You have completed the STAMP test. Check with your instructor for results.” \*\*If you don’t see this page, it means you haven’t clicked submit and your work will be marked as “incomplete”.

*We hope you enjoy taking STAMP and encourage you to let your teacher know how you felt about the experience. Thank you!*