

## **ACTFL OVERVIEW**

ACTFL is a two part test. First part is WPT - written test, second part is OPI oral test. The following information is compiled from comments sent in from students who took the test in the past.

Results are provided in levels. There are 3 levels, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced, and within each level there is low, mid and high proficiency. East Brunswick students will earn 5 credits for Novice level, and 10 credits for intermediate level (must earn intermediate in both written and oral to obtain 10 credits). MJCS works with the East Brunswick school administration to apply the credit to the student's high school transcript. The student must be a current student of East Brunswick High School (grades 9 - 12) in order to obtain credits.

There is a \$199 fee paid to Language Testing International (the testing firm) for the test; MJCS will collect the payments of checks made to MJCS and make a single payment to the testing firm. To encourage students, MJCS provides a reward of \$50 to students who obtain Novice level, and \$100 to students who obtain Intermediate level (on both oral and written).

### **What is ACTFL?**

ACTFL is a two part test. First part is WPT - written test, second part is OPI oral test. It is the same tests that teachers must take to become certified language teachers.

### **What is the benefit of taking this test?**

MJCS works with the East Brunswick school administration to apply the credit to the student's high school transcript. A novice-mid level rating earns 5 credits; novice-high and higher earns 10 credits. Students can also list this as an accomplishment on their college applications.

### **Who can earn high school credits?**

The student must be a current student of East Brunswick High School (grades 9 - 12) in order to obtain credits.

### **How much will it cost?**

The cost of the test is \$199 (which is paid to a third party testing agency). MJCS presents students with a \$50 award for a novice rating, and a \$100 award for an intermediate rating (must receive intermediate or higher on both oral and written test).

### **When and where is the test held?**

The tests will be scheduled for May. The written test is usually held at the EB High School and the oral test (a one on one telephone interview) will be held at my home.

### **Written Test:**

This is conducted in the East Brunswick High School, overseen by the supervisor of world languages. There are 4 questions provided in English. I believe it is about 1.5

hours. Do your best to answer as much as you can to demonstrate your ability to write in Chinese:

Sample written questions with examples of possible way to respond -

1. Write an email to a friend who lives in China.

- Talk about your new house.
- Ask them a few questions.
- Set up 2-3 dates to visit.

2. You are a journalist. Describe a recent community event.

- Describe what happened
- the reactions of the people
- The conclusion, how it ended

3. You're an undergraduate. Tell other students about technology. \*this one is the hardest

- How your technology certifications and skills have helped you in your job.
- The advantages of technology
- Give long-term advice for professional growth.

4. Some people think that technology has weakened the activities of kids, some people think it has strengthened relationships, and others think that it is really helpful.

- Choose a side
- Explain why you chose that side
- Predict how technology will affect the next generations.

### **Oral Test**

The oral test is conducted by telephone. This will be scheduled with me overseeing the test. Below are comments from students who took the test last year. They start with simple questions about yourself and your family, and they will slowly work their way up to more complex topics. One thing they ask every time, is when you give your name, they will ask which Chinese character for the name, so for example if my name is Lam Wan Fong, they will ask which "Fong" character. Every interview is different, and the interviewer will ask questions based on your responses to other questions. If you say you went on vacation somewhere, they may ask you to describe it in more detail. Note, the oral test will factor in questions about recent events (this is the higher level part of the test to see how advanced your language skills are). For example, one year it was the presidential elections, another year there was a tornado.

Sample Oral Test questions:

1. Talk about yourself: name, where you live, hobbies, vacation

- the more you talk about a topic, the more questions they will ask about it. For one student they asked a lot of questions about vacations, ie. a memorable moment)

2. The effect of technology on children

3. Roleplaying - this will be related to what you have talked about a lot (one student was asked to talk about talking to a clothing store clerk in Hong Kong)

4. Recent news: they ask you if you have listened to the news recently

- One student talked about the earthquake in Japan and the nuclear factory.

Additional Oral test questions:

1. Please introduce yourself to me.
2. Describe a typical school day.
3. Tell me what characteristics should a famous person have, what makes someone famous ?
4. Current event : You know there was an earthquake and a tsunami took place in Japan which eventually led to the radiation leak, do you know what policy did the Japanese government take in facing such a messy situation?
5. Role play : you are a student who missed a test, explain why you missed the test.
6. Talk about your community and the people in your community.
7. What kind of dish you know to cook ? I said instant noodle. Then can you teach me step by step how to cook it ?
8. I mentioned something about my vacation in Japan two years ago. Then the examiner said you said you went to Mt. Fuji , can you describe how Mt. Fuji looks so as to make me feel like I was there too.
9. For this summer, where do you plan to go and what do you plan to do ?
10. Did you learn about recently there as a big tornado and can you tell me more about that ?