

WHY TAKE A NEWL LANGUAGE EXAM?

The **National Examinations in World Languages** or **NEWL®** is an online proficiency-based language assessment available in several critical languages. The exam is designed to provide a set of measures of functional proficiency in the target language for use as a predictive assessment for continued language study beyond high school and as a placement tool by American colleges and universities for entering freshmen. NEWL is intended for high school students—both traditional and heritage learners seeking credit and/or placement.



For more on NEWL, please see:
<http://www.americancouncils.org/NEWL>

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

Taking any test can be a stressful experience. We recommend that you get a good night's sleep the night before and that you eat well on the day of the exam.

READING AND LISTENING

NEWL exams measure your language proficiency and allow you to demonstrate your capacity to read and aurally comprehend authentic language content. The best way for you to prepare for this type of exam is to read and listen to authentic material (books, news reports, TV shows, podcasts, etc.)

Sample Items and Passages

You can find sample items online to give you a sense of what the passages, items and interface look like during the reading and listening portions of the exam. You should look at both the 'Low' and 'Mid' level items. Together, these represent the entire range of items that you will encounter on your NEWL exam. You can view sample items by going to:

<https://exams.actesting.org/samples/>

WRITING AND SPEAKING

Please do your best to remain on topic when submitting a response. If this becomes challenging for any topic, you should use communication strategies like circumlocution to produce your answer, i.e. describing or defining a concept instead of saying or writing the specific words.

2. Be ready to type in the language.

Be sure that you are ready to type in the language that you are to be tested on. When you arrive on the day of the exam, the computer will be setup to type in your language. Note that the computer will be using the standard Windows or Mac keyboard input. If you need a special input method (e.g., a phonetic keyboard), please let your teacher know so that he/she can ask a lab technician at your school to enable that keyboard before the exam.

TAKING THE EXAM

WHAT TO BRING ON THE DAY OF THE TEST

You may bring a pen or pencil to take notes if you need to. You will be provided with paper for taking notes. All notes will be collected at the end of the exam.

Note: If you are taking an exam at a center other than your school be sure you adhere to any additional rules and procedures that center may have.

You may **NOT** bring any of the following into the lab with you:

- Cell phones, tablets or any other hand-held or wearable devices
- Books, dictionaries, or note paper (your proctor will provide note paper, if you need it)
- Watches that beep or have an alarm
- Portable listening or recording devices (even with headphones) or photographic equipment
- Food or drinks

READING AND LISTENING

In all sections of the exam the system provides you with an on-screen timer that always shows exactly how much time is remaining. Note that the questions will get progressively more difficult as the test goes on. The tougher questions may need more time to complete, so do your best to allocate your time appropriately for each question. To receive the best possible score, answer each question as it appears during your exam. If you finish a section with some

time remaining, you may go back and review your answers. When in doubt, make an educated guess and move on to the next question. You will not be penalized for guessing.

A timer will count down the time for each section (See Figure 1). The timer only resumes when a page is completely loaded, thus, **you will not lose time if you have a slow connection to the internet**. When the time is finished, the computer will prevent you from doing any more work and you will be prompted to save any unsaved changes.

FIGURE 1 : READING INTERFACE (ARABIC EXAMPLE)

Demo Exam		Demo Examinee	
Refresh Page Logout (admin only)		Time Remaining: 48:54	
Font Size: 100% ▾	Jump to Page: Page 5 ▾	NEXT PAGE >>	
Current Section: Reading > Current Page: Page 5 of 38			
INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following passage from the local section of an online Egyptian newspaper			
الجو غير مستقر لمدة 72 ساعة			
أكد خبراء الأرصاد استمرار حالة عدم الاستقرار في الأحوال الجوية من اليوم وحتى بعد غد، حيث توالي درجات الحرارة انخفاضها، وتتكاثر السحب المنخفضة والمتوسطة شمال وشرق البلاد، مصحوبة بسقوط أمطار غزيرة أحياناً، قد تمتد إلى محافظات شمال الصعيد.			
Questions		CANCEL SAVE YOUR WORK	
2. What does the text mainly say about the weather?			
<input type="radio"/> Sunny with showers			
<input type="radio"/> Hot but cloudy			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Rainy and unstable</u>			
<input type="radio"/> Sunny but windy			
NEXT PAGE >>			
		Time Remaining: 48:54	

Navigation

Within each section, you are free to move back and forward through the pages. Every time you leave a page, you will be asked whether you want your work for that page saved or not. You may also save your answers and remain on the current page by clicking on the “Save Your Work” button (see Figure 1).

You may change your answers at any point during the allotted time, and even deselect an answer and leave that question blank. You will not be able to return to a section once the time has elapsed.

During the listening portion, you may listen to each audio prompt as many times as you like, but remember that time is limited, and, on average, you have about one minute to listen to each prompt and answer the question.

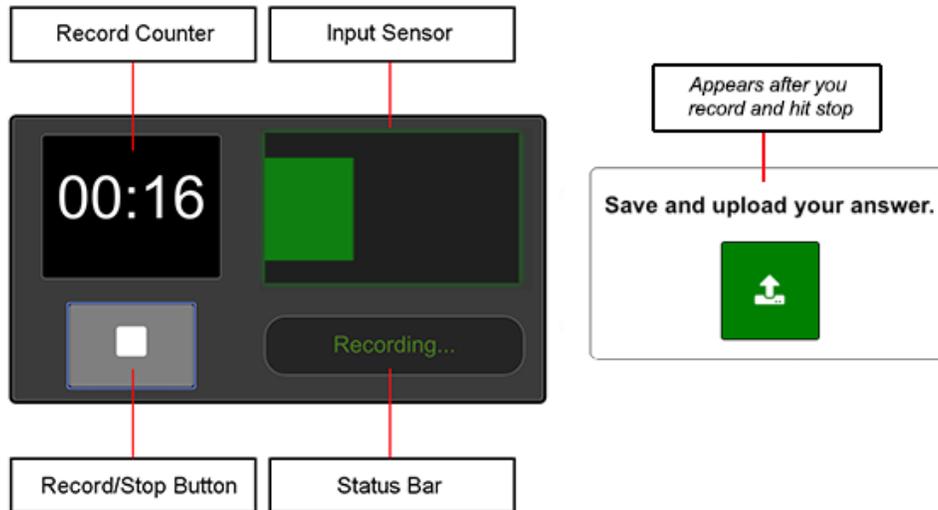
TAKING A BREAK

After the listening section, your proctor will dismiss you for a scheduled 10 minute break before you return for the speaking and writing sections.

WRITING AND SPEAKING

Before the Writing Section you will be prompted to check your Keyboard. Please click “Proceed to Keyboard Check” and follow the instructions on your screen. In the Writing Section you will submit a written response to written or oral tasks. You are expected to submit a written response for each task, so budget your time accordingly. In the Writing Section you may edit a submission in an earlier task within the section, if time allows. You may do this by clicking “Previous Page” or use the “Jump to Page” button at the top of your screen and choose the page you wish to continue working on.

FIGURE 1 : SPEAKING INTERFACE



Before the Speaking section you will be prompted to complete a microphone check. Click “Proceed to Speaking Check” and follow the instructions on your screen. Remember to allow microphone if prompted. Once you record, listen to yourself speak. What you hear is will mirror that of the exam. If you cannot hear yourself speak, please notify your proctor as soon as possible to resolve the issue before you begin the section. Once you have verified that your microphone is recording at the appropriate level click “Return to exam”

In the Speaking section of the exam you will submit spoken responses to written or oral questions. As in previous sections, the time remaining will appear in the top righthand corner of your screen. Listen to or read the prompt for each task, and then respond in the target language.

You can record and pause from the red microphone displayed above. Please note that you will not be able to submit more than 3:00 minutes of content per task. You may check how long you have been speaking by looking above the record button. After submission, you will be able to play back your audio sample but will not be able to change it.

Once you have recorded an answer click “Save and upload your answer” before moving on to the next task. **Please note that once you click the “Save and upload” button you will not be able to return to that task so make sure your response is complete before uploading.** Click next page to move on to the next task.

HONOR CODE

American Councils encourages all examinees to practice intellectual honesty and academic integrity when completing your online language exam. We remind you that this exam is designed to test the language proficiency of the specific examinee registered for each exam. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in no score being provided by American Councils in addition to any penalty deemed necessary by the program in which you are participating.

To maintain the security of the exam and the validity of your scores, test content should not be discussed with anyone at any time after the completion of the test.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

American Councils provides special accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the examinee's responsibility to provide American Councils with the appropriate documentation regarding the need for special accommodations.

Talk with your program coordinator about the need for special accommodations on your exam.