



NEWL

National Examinations in World Languages

**A National Examination for Korean
in the U.S. K-12 Context
December 2020**

NEWL and a National Strategy

Increase access to language study and language competencies in the US

- Who studies an L2 now?
 - **12.1 million Americans (not EL's) study a FL in school or college,**
 - *This number does not include:*
 - dual language immersion students
 - heritage and community school learners
 - post-9/11 federally funded STARTALK and NSLI-Y alums
 - Home schooling
 - Only one in five Americans has access to K-12 world language education

K-16 Enrollments by Language

Language	K-12 Enrollment	Undergraduate Enrollment	K-16 Enrollment
Arabic	26,044	32,864	58,908
ASL	130,410	106,936	237,346
Chinese	227,087	60,070	287,157
French	1,289,001	194,630	1,483,631
German	330,897	84,854	415,751
Japanese	67,908	66,239	134,147
Latin	210,304	26,258	236,562
Russian	14,875	21,353	36,228
Spanish	7,363,124	781,640	8,144,764
Greek	4,941*	12,766	17,707
Hindi	109*	1,736	1,845
Korean	4,748*	15,072	19,820
Persian	102*	86	188
Portuguese	7,387*	11,901	19,288
Swahili	32*	1,969	2,001
Turkish	4,449*	655	5,104
Other	907,644	111,966	1,019,610
Total	10,638,279	1,527,415	12,116,377

K-16 Foreign Language Enrollment

Language	K-12 Enrollment	Undergraduate Enrollment	K-16 Enrollment
Arabic	26,044	32,864	58,908
ASL	130,410	106,936	237,346
Chinese	227,087	60,070	287,157
French	1,289,001	194,630	1,483,631
German	330,897	84,854	415,751
Japanese	67,908	66,239	134,147
Latin	210,304	26,258	236,562
Russian	14,875	21,353	36,228
Spanish	7,363,124	781,640	8,144,764
Greek	4,941*	12,766	17,707
Hindi	109*	1,736	1,845
Korean	4,748*	11,572	16,320
Persian	102*	86	188
Portuguese	7,387*	11,901	19,288
Swahili	32*	1,969	2,001
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Other	907,644	111,966	1,019,610
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What Is NEWL?

NEWL is a **functional language-based** assessment for high school students wishing to demonstrate and gain recognition for their foreign language skills, whether in the form of college credit or placement (university dependent).

Languages Offered

- Arabic
- Korean
- Portuguese
- Russian

Skills Tested

- Reading
- Listening
- Writing
- Speaking

Proficiency Level Range

- Novice High to Intermediate High (Reading, Listening), Advanced Low (Speaking, Writing)

Target Student Population

- Heritage and non-heritage learners seeking college credit and/or placement.

Endorsed By The College Board

“The College Board recommends to all our member institutions that they accept NEWL exam scores for credit and/or placement in languages for their students, as they would accept a comparable score on an AP exam. We heartily support American Councils as they expand their NEWL offerings and provide more valuable opportunities for heritage speakers and language learners to earn recognition for their language studies.”

Trevor Packer
Senior Vice President, AP and Instruction
The College Board

Institutional Partnerships

The National Examinations in World Language (NEWL) is a joint project of American Councils for International Education and the College Board and carried with the support of language-specific institutions and organizations.



Four Components of NEWL

At Home (Lockdown) Administration (2020)

1. Reading (30min)
2. Listening (20 min)
3. Speaking (15 min)
4. Writing (15 min)

Lab-based Administration (2017-2019)

1. Reading (60 min)
2. Listening (45 min)
3. Speaking (45 min)
4. Writing (45 min)

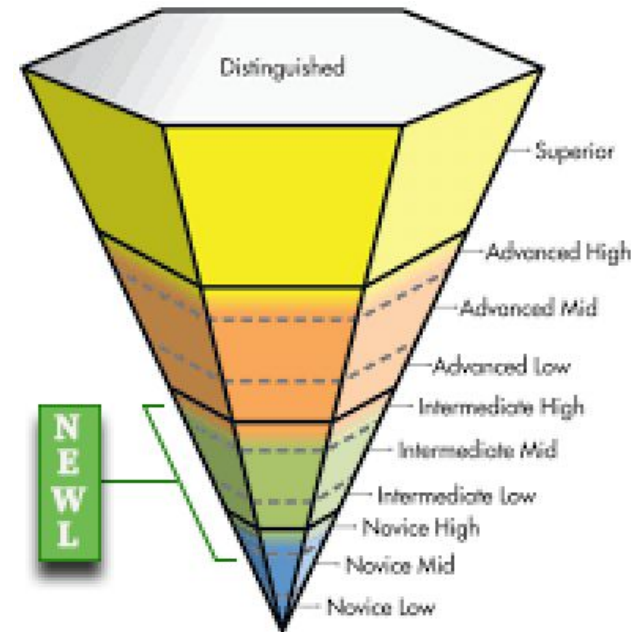
All four components contribute equally to the aggregate score.

2021 section time limits remain TBD.

Assessing Language Proficiency

NEWL targets the Intermediate-Advanced Low range of language proficiency. Score reports include numerical grades, analogous to AP[®] grades, and four skill-specific sub-scores based on the ACTFL proficiency scale.

The NEWL assessments are criterion-referenced, rather than norm-referenced. They are based on the tasks, skill domains, and performance indicators published in **World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages**. Claims, forms of evidence, and sample tasks reflect the College Board **Framework for World Languages** and the **ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines**.



Scoring Model

NEWL scores are composites of the equally-weighted sub-scores for each skill. The NEWL score reports are analogous to AP[®] scores, and include three skill-specific sub-scores based on the ACTFL proficiency scale.

Recommended Placements

NEWL Score	Suggested Semester Placement
5	5 th (first semester of third-year)
4	4 th (second semester of second-year)
3	3 rd (first semester of second-year)
2	2 nd (second semester of first-year)
1	1 st (first semester of first-year)

Each college and university determines its own policies for the use of NEWL scores.

2017-20 NEWL Korean Scores

Total number of examinees: 175

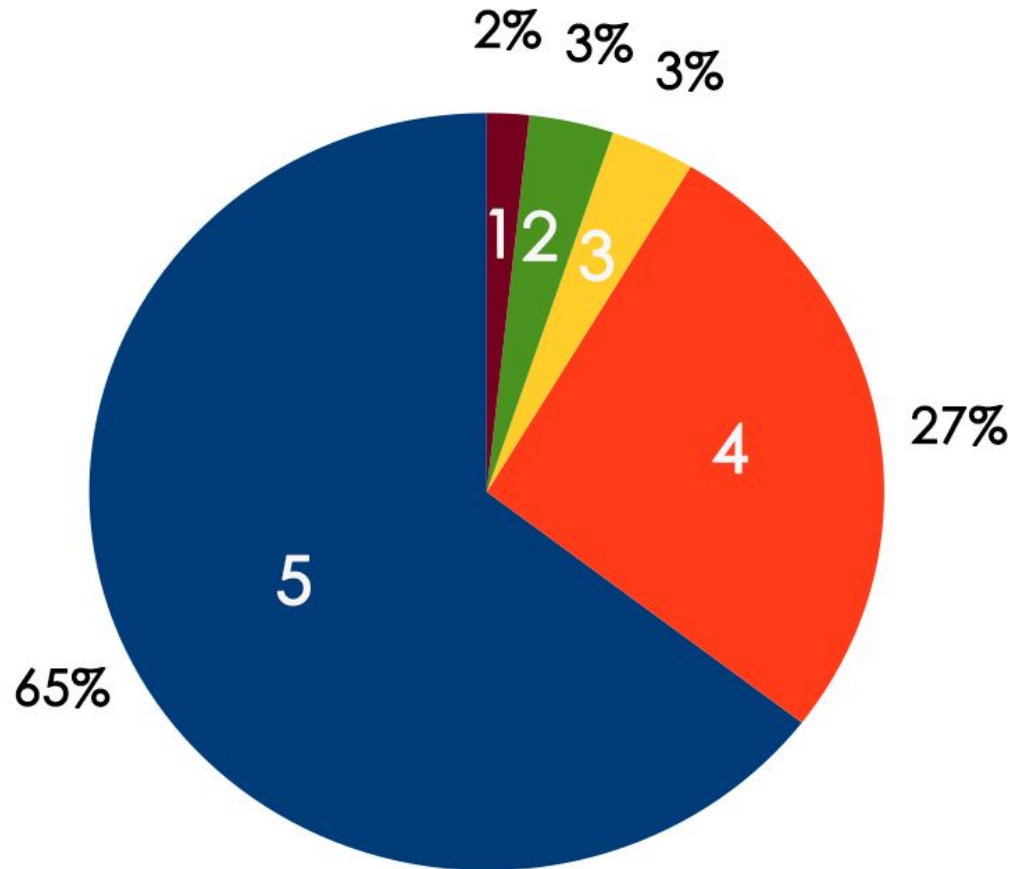
NEWL 5: 113 (65%)

NEWL 4: 47 (27%)

NEWL 3: 6 (3%)

NEWL 2: 6 (3%)

NEWL 1: 3 (2%)



NEWL EXAM SECTIONS

Test Construct Overview

- Focus on general proficiency: *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines*
- Items reflect *The College Board World Languages Framework*
- Items are based on the tasks, skill domains and performance indicators of the *World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages (2015)*
- Items and tasks are written at the proficiency level of the prompt.
- Prompts are in the target language.
- Instructions and multiple-choice questions are in English.
- Content domains: Culture, Daily Life, Government, Business, Entertainment, Science and Technology
- Variety of topics and genres
- No focus on literature, grammar mastery
- Not dependent on curriculum

Reading



- Test takers read short authentic texts (texts presenting a formatted layout such as advertisements, notices, brochures, etc., and paragraph or prose of running text).
- Topics range from personal information, basic needs, social conventions, and routine tasks, to formal announcements, pamphlets, etc., and to more advanced topics with lengthier prose text.
- Items address both the interpersonal and interpretive modes of the language learning standards.
- Test items address the purpose of the text and/or significant ideas in the text.

Reading Example



Instructions: Read the following note to a newspaper.

저는 얼마 전까지 소년조선일보를 구독하던 한 소녀입니다. 근데 정말 월 구독료 낸 게 후회스럽습니다. 주말에는 원래 안오는 것인지도 궁금하네요. 제가 학원숙제 때문에 소년조선일보를 구독한지 1년 5~6개월이 되었습니다. 그런데 1년 5~6개월 동안 주말에 온 적은 한번도 없었고요. 월요일에서 금요일 사이에도 신문이 2~3번만 오더라고요. 적어도 평일에는 신문을 매일 보내줘야 하는 것 아닌가요? 그런데 저는 일주일에 2~3번만 신문을 받다보니 한달에 오는 신문이 평균적으로 10개 안팎이더라고요.

What is the purpose of the subscriber in writing this message?

- To inquire about a monthly newspaper discount
- To cancel a subscription to a student newspaper
- To clarify delivery times for weekend newspapers
- To complain about missed newspaper deliveries

Listening



Test takers listen to brief authentic audio passages.

Examples: a short conversation, an announcement in school, a radio segment, or a voicemail.

Audio content ranges from personal information, basic needs, social conventions, and routine tasks, to formal announcements and reports over the media, to more advanced topics such as interviews, short lectures, news items, and reports dealing with factual information.

Items address interpersonal and interpretive modes of the language learning standards.

LISTENING EXAMPLE

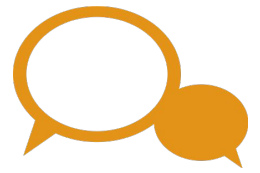


Instructions: Listen to an advertisement.

What is promoted in the ad?

- An online language program
- An American game show
- A bilingual cartoon series
- An afterschool movie club

Speaking



- Conducted online, addressing interpersonal communication.
- Examinee responds to written and spoken prompts and records responses to be uploaded and rated.
- Tasks broadly address Intermediate and Advanced Low levels
- Examples: “What kind of music do you listen to?” “What is your school day like?”
- Examinees speak into headset microphones and record and upload responses directly to the exam servers.

Writing

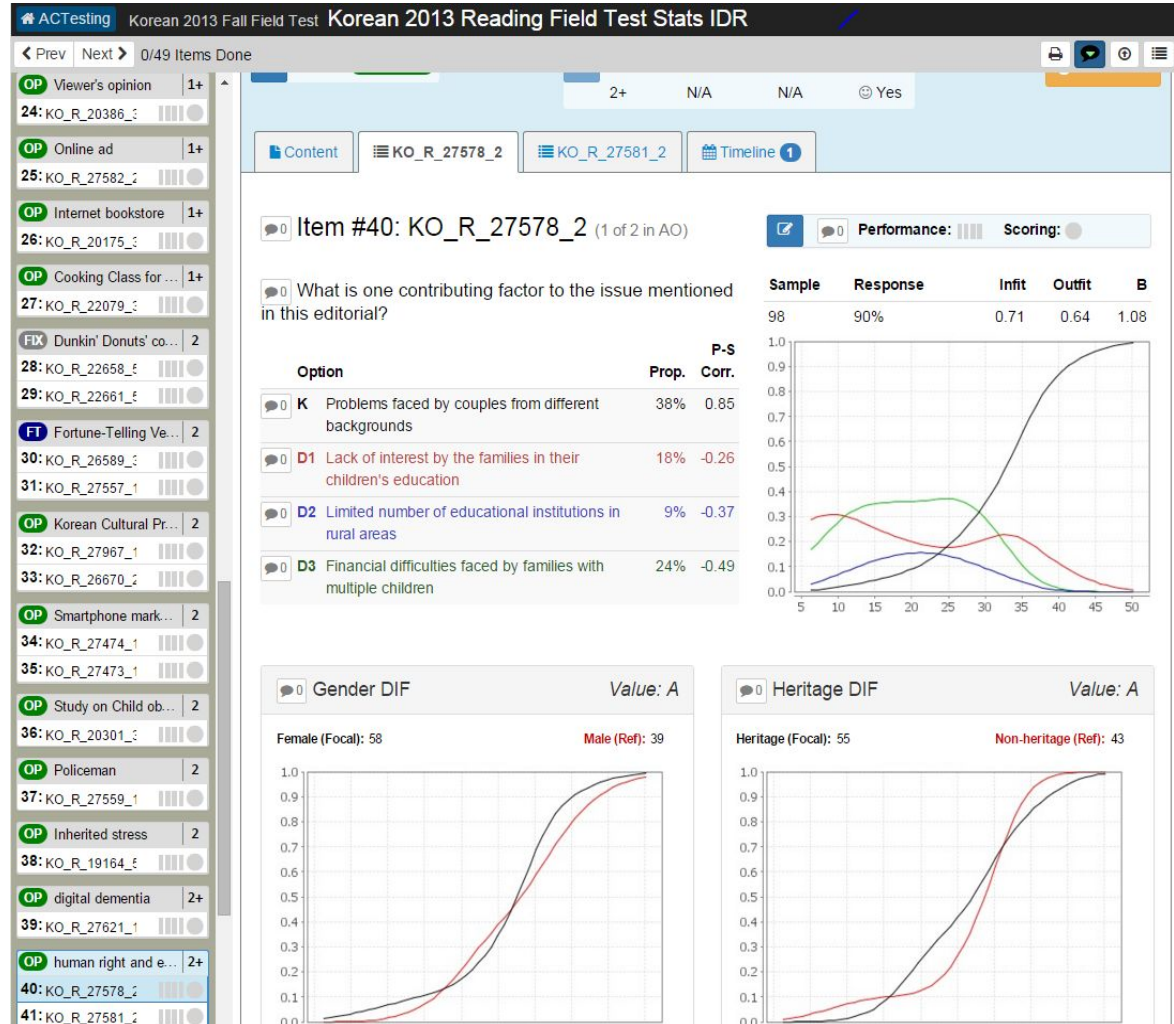


- Conducted online, addressing presentational communication.
- Examinee responds to written and spoken and types responses that are saved and rated.
- Example tasks: “Write to a foreign exchange student and describe your interests;” “Describe a service project you have been involved in.”
- Examinees are expected to be able to type in Portuguese.

Item Quality Assurance

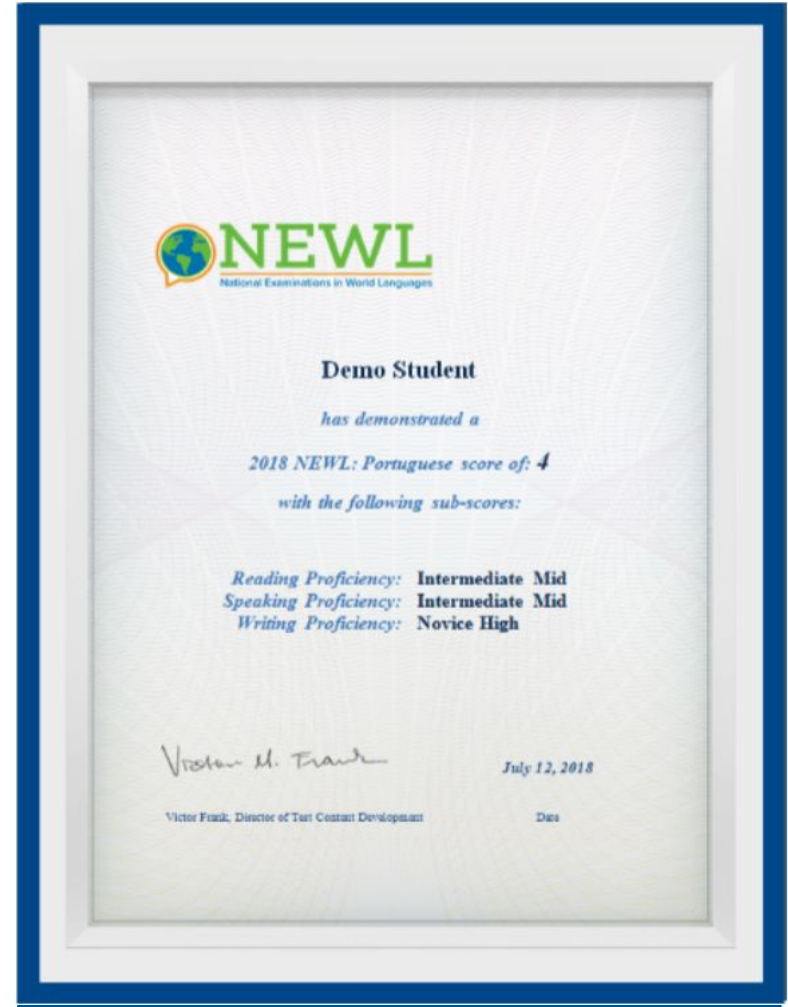
Item Data Review Statistics Dashboard

- Item difficulty
- Item discrimination
- Statistical key check
- DIF



Student Score Reports

- Score reports are distributed to individual examinees through a secure download link.
- Each score report includes:
 - A composite score
 - Sub-scores of proficiency levels for each skill
 - ACTFL descriptors & guidelines for understanding one's scores
 - Recommendations for placement
 - A certificate
- Scores reported in July following exam.



2021 Schedule

2020 Testing Schedule & Fees

- **Registration**

December 1 2020-April 1, 2021

- **Computer Setup**

April 19-26, 2021

- **Exam Administration**

April 20, 2021 (various start times)

- **Late Testing**

May 15, 2021 (various start times)

- **Fees**

Standard: \$94. Reduced: \$53. Late \$139.

TESTING FROM HOME

In order to take the NEWL exam from home, students will need the following:

- A quiet room in your home where they will be alone for the entirety of the exam.
- An Internet-connected desktop/laptop that is configured to type in the target language.
- A set of working computer speakers or headphones/earbuds.
- A working microphone.





THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

<http://americancouncils.org/NEWL>

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