Placement Test Taker Guide

AVANT ASSESSMENT
TEST WITH CONFIDENCE

Placement Test Overview
- Avant's Placement test is a web-based test that provides schools with the data to place students into appropriate classes
- The Placement test can be taken anywhere, anytime
- Test items are based on real-world, every-day situations
- The Placement test measures a test taker's language ability according to Benchmark Levels that are based on national standards

Technology Preparation
- You are responsible for ensuring the readiness of the computer you will be using for the test
- Read the Avant Technology Guide and complete all preparation steps
- Go to **https://placement.avantassessment.com/placement/do/studentlogin** and click **Technology Check**
- Take the Avant Practice Test to become familiar with the online testing format: **http://www.avantassessment.com/support**

Logging into the Placement test
- Go to **https://placement.avantassessment.com/placement/do/studentlogin**
- Enter the **Username** and **Password** provided by the organization that is sponsoring your test
- Unless directed otherwise, for **Full Name**, enter your **First Name** followed by one space, then your **Middle Name** followed by one space, then your **Last Name**
- Be sure you remember how you entered your name – if you lose connection or stop the test and need to resume, you will have to re-enter your name **exactly** as you did the first time

Taking the Placement Test
Plan to spend 35-50 minutes taking the test. However, this is an untimed test. Take all the time you need, but be aware that, after 5 minutes on the same test item, the system will display the following message:
"The system will log you out in 5 minutes. If you need additional time, please click here."
Clicking the button will give you an additional five minutes before the message appears again.

Do not use outside resources during the test – no pen, paper, other software applications or support materials. Otherwise the results will not accurately represent your abilities and you may find yourself placed in a class level that does not suit you.

The test starts with a self-evaluation. The first screen has a questionnaire and subsequent screens ask you to evaluate your language ability in five areas.

Your test will include two, three or four skills – depending on the language selected, as follows:
- **French, German, Spanish** – Four skills: Reading, Contextualized Grammar, Writing and Speaking
- **Italian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese** – Three skills: Reading, Writing and Speaking
- **Arabic** – Two skills: Writing and Speaking

For tests that include a Grammar component, the Grammar items are included in the multiple-choice Reading/Grammar section of the test.

The test will flow in the following order: reading/grammar section, writing section, and speaking section (minus any sections not included for a specific language).

Reading/grammar section
- 20 – 30 questions that are computer-scored
- Typically takes 25 – 30 minutes to complete
- Read the question and answers before you attempt to read the passage (this will help guide your reading and help you move through the test more quickly)

Writing section
- One question that is human-scored
- Typically takes 5 – 10 minutes to complete
- Provide your response using the target language – do not use English!
- Provide all of the information requested in the prompt and stay on-topic
- For some languages, a "floating keyboard" appears for use in selecting special characters associated with the language
- For writing in character-based languages (Chinese, Japanese or Arabic), select the correct language for input from your computer's task bar or desktop
- Click **NEXT** when you are finished with the Writing section response

Speaking section
- One question that is human-scored
- Typically takes 5 – 10 minutes to complete
- To record a response, click **RECORD.** Click **STOP** when done recording
- After recording, click **PLAY** to listen to your recording then do one of the following:
    - If you want to add to the recording, click **Record/Add to Recording**
    - If you want to delete the recording and start over, click **START OVER**
    - When the recording is complete, click **NEXT**

> **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT:**
> For the speaking section, click **PLAY** after recording to verify that the response was recorded properly.
> - If the response is inaudible or of poor quality, do **NOT** click **NEXT**.
> - You can try recording again, but do not click **NEXT** to bypass the test item.
> - If you are unable to resolve the problem immediately, click **STOP TEST** (and resume the test after the problem is resolved).
>
> Following these procedures will prevent having a speaking response that cannot be graded. Keep in mind that Avant graders hear exactly what you are able to hear.

You are done with the test when you see the message that says "**Test Complete. Please click the Stop Test link to logout.**"

Additional Help
For help, contact the organization that is sponsoring your test. Typical issues they can help with include:
- Computer setup
- Login problems
- Basic test-taking questions