

Japanese 12 and Spanish 12
Listening and Speaking Components

Frequently Asked Questions

1	Q. When does the electronic administration occur? A. The administration of the Listening and Speaking Components will take place from June 2 to June 20, 2008. Detailed administration information (log on user name, password, administration instructions, marking information, deadlines, etc.) will be provided to schools in May.
2	Q. How is the Listening Component administered? A. It is administered using a computer, an Internet connection and headphones. It is suggested that schools try the practice e-exams with their students and determine what works best in their local setting as it depends on the room set up and equipment that schools have. If schools have headphones for every computer station, it is possible to administer the Listening Component to a whole class at the same time.
3	Q. How is the Speaking Component administered? A. Each student will need a computer, an Internet connection, headphones and a microphone. Students will need to be separated enough from one another so that they do not disturb each other and their responses being recorded do not interfere with one another. Schools are in the best position to decide this based on their room arrangement and equipment at hand. It is recommended that schools try the practice e-exams with their students and determine what works best in their local setting as it depends on the computer lab set up and equipment available.
4	Q. Has the technology been tested? A. The listening and speaking technology has been thoroughly tested since 2006. In January 2007, about 240 Français langue seconde-immersion 12 students successfully completed their oral component and in June 2007, over 700 Japanese 12 students completed their listening and speaking components using this new electronic method.
5	Q. Who do I call if I experience technical problems during administration or marking? A. Toll free technical support will be provided from A. Willock Information Systems. Please call 1-866-558-5339 if you require any assistance before or during administration and marking. Email support is also available at support@awinfosys.com
6	Q. Does the classroom teacher have to administer/invigilate the Speaking and Listening Components? A. Classroom teachers do not need to be present during the exam listening and speaking components. Principals are required to make arrangements for exam invigilation.

7	<p>Q. Can students practice ahead of the administration?</p> <p>A. Yes, all three parts of the Listening and Speaking Components are available at the exam practice site (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/eassessment). Students are encouraged to practice recording responses to the general questions and the thematic response presentation at any time during the school year and prior to the examination administration. Sample speaking and listening questions and the thematic response topics are posted on the Ministry website (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/specs).</p>
8	<p>Q. Can students re-record their responses?</p> <p>A. Yes, students can re-record if they freeze or experience technical problems while recording their responses. They have the month of June to complete this component.</p>
9	<p>Q. In which situation should the Pause button be used?</p> <p>A. Students should only use the Pause button in exceptional situations. For example, students might cough; technical problems might arise while using the microphone or intercom announcements and noises in the corridor might prevent students from recording their exam properly. This functionality cannot be deactivated and teachers should discourage their students from using it during practice and administration time unless this is absolutely necessary.</p>
10	<p>Q. How and when does marking occur?</p> <p>A. Marking will be done locally by teachers and can occur any time in June 2008. Marks are entered and captured directly in the electronic system. A practice marking site is available on the Ministry website (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/eassessment). It is suggested that administration be completed and that marking occur at one time so that teachers are not disrupted and get into the “flow” of marking. Student responses will be available for teacher marking from June 2, 2008 to June 27, 2008.</p>
11	<p>Q. Will there be student speaking samples to support marking?</p> <p>A. Yes, marking rubrics and student speaking samples will be available on line at: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/eassessment</p>
12	<p>Q. Will teachers receive feedback on their marking?</p> <p>A. The Ministry is currently considering what kind of monitoring or feedback might be presented to schools on the marking of the speaking component.</p>
13	<p>Q. Because of the 3-week administration period, won't students be able to share information with other students?</p> <p>A. The Ministry is currently looking at different ways to minimize the sharing of information between students. Invigilators will be responsible to log onto all computers needed to administer the exam using the session password provided by the Ministry. Once students sit at their designated computer, they will simply need to enter their PEN in order to record their responses. This procedure will prevent students from knowing the session password and using it from home or sharing it with students and friends in other schools. The invigilator will be responsible for ensuring that the session password is kept secure at all time during the administration period.</p>

14 Q. **Why are we assessing a presentational format and not an interactive speaking approach or a dialogue?**

A. A presentational format is easier for invigilation and can be controlled in a standardized setting. This presentational format is one way to measure speaking ability and is consistent with the curriculum learning outcomes under the “Communicating” curriculum organizer of the Japanese and Spanish Integrated Resource Packages. For example, students are asked to “express plans, goals, and intentions” and “give information and reasons to support points of view on various topics”. The assessment strategies in that section refer to criteria to observe when “students present information to the class”.

15 Q. **We have a student who wishes to challenge the course; however, we don’t offer the course in our school and this student will write the exam in another school or location. Who will mark this exam?**

A. Schools or school districts must make arrangements to have the exam marked. It is suggested that schools make arrangements for local marking through the challenge process they are utilizing. Additionally, second language exams are optional and students can decide if they wish or not to take this provincial exam.