

FRENCH PLACEMENT TEST

I- PROFICIENCY TEST: MANDATORY REQUIREMENT

- Prior to any registration in the first cycle for programs offered in French, the candidate must have been placed in category “A” at the French Placement Test (TALF). However, a candidate placed in category “B” on this test is allowed to provisionally register in certain institutions (except for the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Dental Medicine, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Law and Political Science and the School of Translators and Interpreters of Beirut). As soon as they register and during the first year of their studies, they take compulsory remedial French language courses which replace a 4-credit open elective course. These courses are offered by the USJ Faculty of Languages and Translation in three successive sessions during the first and second semesters, and during the summer term. An “A” level test is administered at the end of every session. Students who pass the test validate the four credits; their registration becomes final and they can pursue their studies. Students who do not pass the first session may register for the second session; if they fail the second session, they may register for the summer session. Students who do not pass the test after the three sessions will not be able to renew their registration. Institutions may, in their “Specific Provisions” of the Internal Regulations of Study, extend the “A” level requirement to all first-time registrations for graduate programs.
- Candidates placed in levels B2, C1, or C2 on the DELF or DALF, or those who score at least 10/20 on the French exam (written and oral) of the French Baccalaureate, will be admitted and exempted from the TALF.
- In such cases, applicants must submit a copy of their DELF, DALF, or French Baccalaureate results to the Admissions Office.
- Number of Attempts: Applicants may take the TALF multiple times, but a minimum interval of 28 days is required between attempts. In such cases, the highest score is retained.

II- TAKING THE TALF

The test consists of 3 sections:

Section 1: Listening Comprehension /25 points

Section 2: Reading Comprehension /25 points

Section 3: Writing /50 points

In the first section, Listening Comprehension, you must carefully follow the instructions while listening to audio materials (such as dialogues, interviews, or reports) and answer 25 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) by marking the correct answer on your test booklet.

In the second section, Reading Comprehension, you must carefully read various texts (e.g., news articles, argumentative texts) and answer 25 questions, including MCQs, True or False statements, and matching exercises.

In the third section, Writing, you are required to write a 250-word response (letter, email, article, etc.) to a given prompt. This section is evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Layout: 2 points
- Vocabulary: 4 points (half a point deducted/error)
- Outline: 4 points
- Transitions: 4 points
- Spelling: 10 points (1 point deducted/error)
- Grammar: 10 points (1 point deducted/error)
- Ideas: 6 points (overall score)
- Syntax: 10 points (overall score)

A detailed description and one sample test are available online at: www.usj.edu.lb/testdaptitude/ modele.html.

Where to Take the Test?

Tests are scheduled throughout the year in Beirut and at regional campuses in North Lebanon, South Lebanon, and the Beqaa.

When to Take the Test?

It is highly recommended that applicants take this test in Grade 11. This gives them time, should they fail, to improve their language skills (throughout the school year or over the summer) and to retake the test before University enrollment deadlines.

How to Register for the Test?

Applicants can collectively register for the test through their high school administration or individually.

For collective registrations, the school coordinates with the Director of the Language Testing Office at the Faculty of Languages and Translation (FdLT) or the regional campus secretariat to set a test date. The school fills out registration forms, pays the fees, and assigns a staff member to accompany students and verify their identities. The school receives the results.

For individual registrations, applicants must contact the University's Language Testing Office or the regional campus secretariat. Registration is valid for a single test session on the specified date.

Important Note!

Because the test includes listening to recorded texts, it is essential that candidates arrive on time. Latecomers will not be admitted to the testing room. Any attempt at cheating or impersonating before, during, or after the test will result in a permanent ban from the Saint Joseph University of Beirut. Anyone assisting in cheating will also be banned from enrolling at the University.

III- TALF RESULTS

Based on their results, candidates are placed into four levels: A (50/100 or above), B (40-49/100), C (30-39/100), and D (below 30/100).

Passing requires being placed in level "A".

Individual results are available on the Saint Joseph University of Beirut website: www.usj.edu.lb/testdaptitude
Results are not provided as certificates or pass certificates and have varying validity:

- Level A remains valid for 10 years.
- Levels B, C, and D remain valid for 3 years.

IV- REMEDIAL COURSES

According to FdLT standards, candidates placed in levels B, C, and D must complete 60 hours of coursework per level. Remedial courses at FdLT are offered as:

- Extensive sessions: 3 hours a day, twice a week, from September to December and January to May.
- Intensive sessions: 5 hours a day, five days a week in June, July, and August, or Saturdays during the semester.

These remedial courses emphasize communicative approaches and encourage continuous interaction between instructors and students. Course materials are designed by a team of FdLT researchers, enabling candidates to improve their language skills in an engaging environment.