



Excellence in Education

PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

106 Washington Avenue, Plainview, New York 11803
Office: (516) 434-3179 e-mail: rdennis@pobschools.org

WORLD LANGUAGES & ESL DEPARTMENT

Robert Dennis
District Chairperson, K-12

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Greetings! The purpose of this letter is to inform you about a change in assessment for the World Languages Department midterms and final examinations. Authentic listening comprehension activities are regularly incorporated in lessons and assessments. In addition to hearing their teachers' and peers' voices during listening and speaking activities, students are exposed to other native and near-native voices via CD recordings, websites, and other multimedia platforms. This practice prepares students for real-world and situational applications of the language.

The FLACS Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B exams, administered in June, include a listening comprehension assessment. Students enrolled in a 1R language course will challenge the FLACS Checkpoint A exam and students enrolled in a 3R or 3H language course will challenge the FLACS Checkpoint B exam. This year our students will hear voices other than their teachers' for this portion of the exam. The consortium of school districts that participate in the administration of the FLACS exams will pre-record the listening comprehension passages and the file will be uploaded to a secure website.

This shift in assessment practice necessitates ongoing practice for students so that they become familiar with hearing unfamiliar voices and accents in the target language. Teachers do a fantastic job at preparing students for these exams and providing them with ample practice, feedback, and remediation. Rest assured that your child will be prepared to succeed on this portion of the exam. For your information, a breakdown of the Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B FLACS exams is below.

Component	Checkpoint A	Checkpoint B
Speaking	30 points	24 points
Listening Comprehension	30 points	26 points
Reading Comprehension	20 points	30 points
Narrative Writing	10 points	10 points
Presentational Writing	10 points	10 points

The listening comprehension portion on the midterm exam for all students in grades eight through ten will be a pre-recorded unfamiliar voice. Resources for practicing listening comprehension are provided on the World Languages Department webpage, located at www.pobschools.org, click on *Our District*, then select *Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy H.S.*, and finally click on *World Languages* under the *Departments* tab.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue.

Respectfully,

Robert Dennis

