

# NYCDOE LOTE Comprehensive Exams



Office of Assessment  
October 2016

# Modern Languages

## LOTE Comprehensive Exams

Exams assess world language proficiency in the following four areas:

**Speaking**



**Listening**



**Reading**



**Writing**



# Comprehensive Exams (Modern Languages)

## Changes to Parts 2-4 from 2016 to 2017

2 fewer listening items:

Part 2a: 8 instead of 9

Part 2b: 5 instead of 6

Optional picture-based writing prompt will be replaced by a required prompt that asks students to read, use, and respond about a document written in the target language.

No anticipated changes to Speaking

# Comprehensive Exam (Modern Languages)

Changes to Point Distribution  
from 2016 to 2017

Current	2017
24 Speaking	24 Speaking
30 Listening	26 Listening
30 Reading	30 Reading
16 Writing	20 Writing

# New Writing Prompt: Part 4a

- The prompt itself will look just like the others in terms of formatting: scenario written in English, guidelines, bullets with potential details students may include.
- It is required; all students must write a response for Part 4a.
- Students will choose between the other two prompts for the second response. These two prompts will be similar to the narrative/descriptive prompts used on previous years' exams.
- Students should be familiar with the expectations of an “evidence-based” response, since the state standards require it in other content areas.

# Comprehensive Exams: Sample Directions for Part 4a

Write your answer to Part 4A according to the directions below. Your answer must be written in **language** and must be in your own words; no credit will be given for a response that is copied or substantially the same as material from other parts of this examination. [10]

**Part 4a – Read to Write Task – this task is mandatory – all students must complete part 4a**

*Directions:* This is the Read to Write task. Read both of the documents provided on the following pages carefully, and write a response to the task provided below. Your answer should be written entirely in **language** and should contain a minimum of 100 words. Your answer must be written in your own words; no credit will be given for a response that is copied substantially from the document or from the material found in other parts of this examination.

**You must satisfy the purpose of the task.** Be sure to organize your response and to include a beginning, middle, and ending. The sentence structure and/or expression used should be connected logically and should demonstrate a wide range of vocabulary with minimal repetition.

# Comprehensive Exams: Sample Prompt

Your family and your cousin's family are planning a trip for the summer where you will have the opportunity to see and experience many aspects of nature. You have narrowed down your choices to Vieques, Puerto Rico or Costa Rica. Write an email to your cousin explaining which of the two locations you would like to visit and why. **You must reference the documents, but you may not copy sections completely.** You may wish to include:

- several reasons why you want to visit that destination
- when you are able to visit and for how long
- the kinds of activities you would like to do there
- questions about where you will be staying and dining options
- what you plan to bring

The documents will include approximately 400 words in total between the two of them.

Students do not have to write a comparison.

# Comprehensive Exams: Changes to Writing Rubric

- The Purpose/Task criteria will include an additional bullet that requires referencing the related documents in response to Part 4a's writing prompt.
- The Vocabulary criteria will include an additional bullet stipulating that substantial copying of the documents in response to Part 4a's writing prompt is not allowed.
- The Word Count criteria will be eliminated for both written responses. It will still be suggested in the directions that students write at least 100 words, but their score will rely solely on quality, rather than quantity, of content.



