Foreign language learning in high school

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Importance of learning foreign languages

- Understand culture
- Help communication
- Advance career
- Gain linguistic intuition
- Exercise the brain



Foreign languages in high school

Most common

- Spanish
- French
- German

Also usually offered

- Chinese
- Japanese

Mainly on east coast

- Latin
- Russian

Popularity: Spanish > French > German > Latin > Chinese > Japanese > Russian



AP French (1)

• Example:

"Hello, everyone! Thank you for coming to listen to my talk. Right now I'm speaking in French."

"Bonjour, tout le monde! Je vous remercie de venir entendre mon discours. Maintenant je parle en français."

AP French (2)

- AP study book (<u>AP French Language and Culture by Barron's</u>)
- Grammar review (<u>Une Fois Pour Toutes by Prentice Hall</u>)
- Themed passages on current events (<u>Thèmes</u> by VHL)



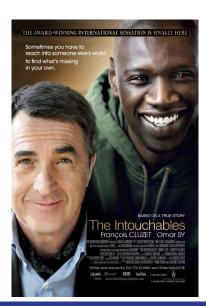
AP French (3)

- Short news video clips in French (<u>7 Jours Sur La Planète by TV5Monde.com</u>)
- News articles (<u>LeMonde.fr</u>)
 - Look up unknown words on Wiktionary
 - Make lists of vocab words



AP French (4)

- Abridged stories (Les Misérables, L'Étranger)
- Movies (<u>Les Intouchables</u>, <u>La Famille Bélier</u>, <u>Sur Le Chemin de l'École</u>, <u>Timbuktu</u>)



AP French (5)

- French comedians on YouTube (Cyprien)
- French music (<u>Stromae</u>, <u>Louane</u>, <u>Indila</u>, <u>Fréro Delavega</u>, <u>Black M</u>, <u>Zaz</u>, <u>Maître Gims</u>)



← French comedy video (view on Youtube for English subtitles)

AP French (6)

- Gender hints
 - E.g., feminine: -e, -ion, -sé, -té
 - Masculine: -age, -ble, -eau, -isme, -ment
- Toolbox of go-to adverbs and phrases
 - Transition words, filler words, phrases to introduce ideas
- Prefixes and suffixes

Practicing with my brother



AP German (1)

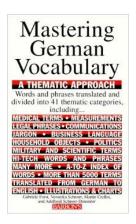
• Example:

"Hello, everyone! Thank you for coming to listen to my talk. Right now I'm speaking in German."

"Guten Tag, zusammen! Danke dafür, dass ihr herkommt, meiner Rede zuzuhören. Jetzt spreche ich auf Deutsch."

AP German (2)

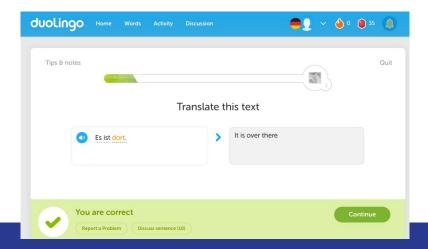
- Textbook (<u>Komm Mit! by Holt</u>)
- Grammatical guide (<u>Hammer's German Grammar and Usage by Routledge</u>)
- Vocab handbook (<u>Mastering German Vocabulary: A Thematic Approach by Barron's</u>)
- AP study book (<u>Prüfungstraining</u>: <u>AP German Language and Culture by Cornelsen</u>)





AP German (3)

- Best dictionaries: <u>Dict.cc</u>, <u>Linguee</u>
- News articles (<u>Spiegel</u>, <u>Zeit</u>, <u>Sueddeutsche</u>)
- German language blog (<u>YourDailyGerman</u>)
- <u>Duolingo</u> → for any language





AP German (4)

- YouTube videos in German (<u>Slow German</u>)
- German music (<u>Clueso</u>, <u>Wolfsheim</u>, <u>Luxuslärm</u>, <u>Glasperlenspiel</u>)



← German music video (no subtitles)

AP German (5)

- Gender hints
- Prefixes, suffixes
- Toolbox of go-to adverbs and phrases

AP Chinese (1)

• Example:

"Hello, everyone! Thank you for coming to listen to my talk. Right now I'm speaking in Chinese (Mandarin)."

"大家好!谢谢你们来听我的讲座。现在我在讲中文(普通话)。"

AP Chinese (2)

- AP study book (<u>AP Chinese by Barron's</u>) covers most of what you need
- Chinese novels or online articles
- Talking with Chinese people



AP Chinese Test (1)

Completely computer-based

- Competencies tested:
 - Reading
 - Listening
 - Speaking
 - Typing (NOT writing)

Format:

- Multiple choice (50% of grade)
 - Rejoinders
 - Listening
 - Reading
- Free response (50%)
 - Story narration
 - Email response
 - Conversation
 - Cultural presentation

AP Chinese Test (2): Rejoinders (10% of grade)

- Listen to an incomplete conversation
- Which is immediately followed by 4 replies
- You have 5 seconds to choose the best one

Listening Part Directions: Rejoinders

You will hear several short conversations or parts of conversations followed by four choices, designated A, B, C, and D. Choose the one that continues or completes the conversation in a logical culturally appropriate manner. After you have decided which of the suggested answers is best, COMPETELY fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question. You will have 5 seconds to answer each question. YOU WILL NOW BEGIN THIS PART.

- 1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 2. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 4. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 5. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 6. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 7. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 8. (A) (B) (C) (D)

- 9. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 10. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 11. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 12. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 13. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 14. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 15. (A) (B) (C) (D)

AP Chinese Test (3): Listening (15%)

Public announcement (Selection plays two times.)

- 16. Where would the announcement be heard?
 - A On an airplane
 - B On a subway train
 - C On a long-distance train
 - D On a tour bus
- 17. This announcement asks passengers to
 - A yield seats to passengers who need them
 - B take all personal belongings when exiting
 - avoid blocking the exits
 - D return to their seats

Voice message (Selection plays two times.)

- 18. What was originally planned for tomorrow morning?
 - A Going to the library
 - B Going to work
 - C Playing tennis
 - (D) Volunteering at the hospital

AP Chinese Test (4): Reading (25%)

Read this note.

(Simplified characters)

999999999999999999999999

李玲:

我下午来找你,可是你不在家。我想邀请你明 天跟我去参加我校举办的一年一度的郊游野餐。每 位参加者要带一份十元以内的小礼物。餐后有抽奖 活动。我想一定很好玩。你回来后尽快给我打个电 话。

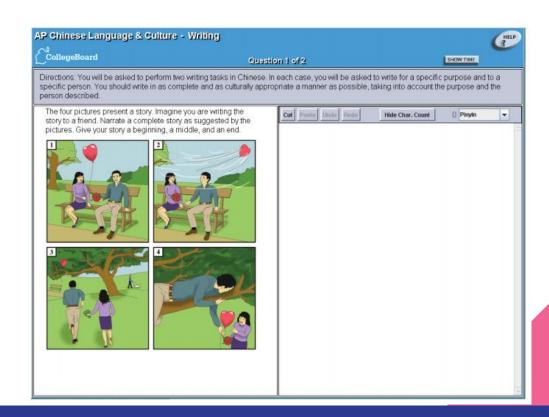
> 张华 九月八日

Read this announcement on a poster.

(Simplified characters)



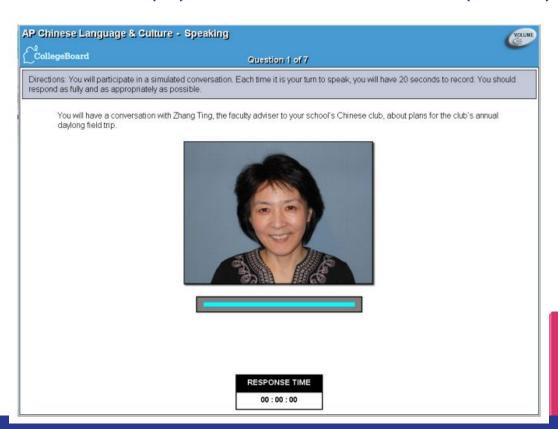
AP Chinese Test (5): Story Narration (15%)



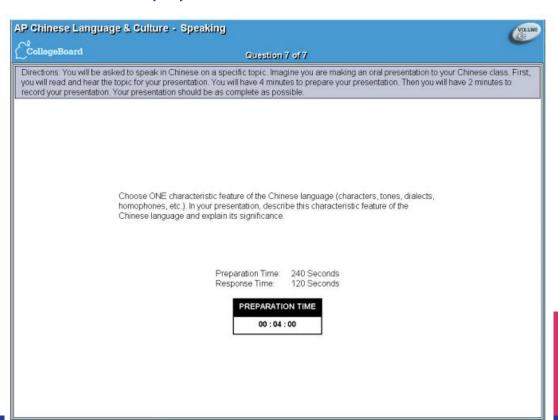
AP Chinese Test (6): Email (10%)



AP Chinese Test (7): Conversation (10%)



AP Chinese Test (8): Cultural Presentation (15%)



Which language to try? (1)

- Most difficult parts of each language:
 - French: pronounciation
 - o German: grammar
 - Chinese: tones and idioms (成语)
 - Generally for English speakers, difficulty is: Japanese > Chinese > Russian > Latin > German >
 French > Spanish

Which language to try? (2)

- Chinese-American high schoolers should take a language that's not Chinese
- Consider
 - Your current language(s)
 - Culture of interest
 - Number of native speakers
 - Number of native speakers who also speak your current language(s)
 - Geographical distribution
 - Practical uses (e.g., for business or travel)
 - Ease of being certified as fluent (esp. for high schoolers and for certain jobs)
 - AP, SAT Subject, National _____ Exam, summer program abroad

Which language to try? (3)

• E.g., geographic distribution

French-speaking countries (*La Francophonie*):



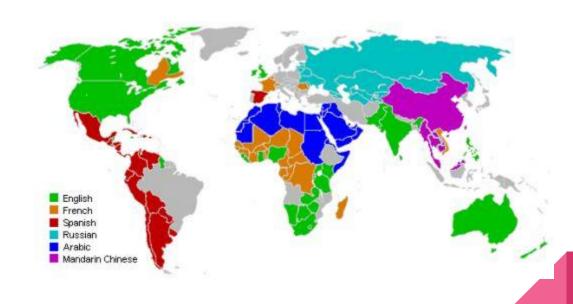
France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, half of Africa

German-speaking countries (Deutscher Sprachraum):



Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium

Which language to try? (4)



Which language to try? (5)

- Learning languages only gets easier!
- After learning a language, you naturally "inherit" similar languages
 - \circ French \rightarrow inherits Spanish
 - Spanish → inherits Portuguese
 - \circ Latin \rightarrow inherits the Romantic languages (French, Spanish, Italian, etc.)
 - \circ German \rightarrow inherits the Germanic languages (Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian, etc.)



← Video of a polyglot speaking 20 languages

Preparing for a spelling bee (1)

- Focus on the spelling rules for these languages (optimally in this order):
 - German: for "everyday" words
 - French: for "fancy" words
 - Latin: for medical terms, prefixes, suffixes, roots
 - Greek: for "old" words, medical terms, prefixes, suffixes, roots
 - Spanish: for Spanish-derived terms
 - o Russian, Japanese, Arabic, Swahili, Afrikaans: for "exotic" and "difficult" words

Preparing for a spelling bee (2)

- Search Google for the spelling rules
- Vocab lists for different languages
 - Myspellit.com
- Review commonly misspelled words
 - Very easy to find lists, such as: <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>
- Memorize vocabulary flash cards if you have the time (e.g., if you're young)
- Preparing for spelling bee helps with SAT and writing

Pre-submitted questions

- 1. Q: If self-studying, how to practice pronunciation?
- 2. Q: Learning Latin?
- 3. Q: How long it takes to learn a language? When to start?
- 4. Q: Worth it to change languages after studying one for a while?
- 5. Q: If just considering easiness, which language to learn?
- 6. Q: Spanish vs French easiness?
- 7. Q: General tips for staying motivated?
- 8. Q: Best language apps?
 - <u>Duolingo</u>
 - Otherwise, depends on language

Silicon Valley Youth

- Youth-run nonprofit founded by my twin brother and me
- Currently 15 classes, at 4 locations
- Website: SiliconValleyYouth.com/
- All profits are donated to the Ravenswood City School District, which serves economically disadvantaged students in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park
- Please join us! Please donate!

For Spanish: Joseph Ng

Junior at Gunn High School

- Skilled in Spanish
- Top 2% in nation for past 2 years on National Spanish Exam
- Currently taking AP Spanish Lang