Language Proficiency Assessment Using STAMP 4S (Avant Assessment)

John B. Lyon, ‘90
Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor
Carleton College
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Language Testing

**Placement**
- Brevity
- General language level for course placement
- Related to our course offerings
- Testing 2 skills is usually adequate
- Affordable
- Convenient

**Proficiency**
- Thoroughness
- More specific level, task-related proficiencies
- Related to externally-recognized measures of competence
- Test all 4 skills
- Affordable
- Convenient
Which Assessment Tool to choose?

WebCape

SAT Subject Tests

ACTFL

Owl Testing Software

STAMP

Standards-Based Measurement of Proficiency
STAMP 4S

Drawbacks

• 2 hours is longer than a standard language class session
• No comparative data with other colleges for German
• Not available in all languages
  – Languages offered at college level: Arabic, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Spanish
  – Available at pre-college levels: Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), French, Hebrew, Japanese, Spanish, Russian, Korean
STAMP 4S

Advantages

• Relatively Brief (ca. 2 hours), but comprehensive
• Tests all 4 skills
• Can be done on campus without presence of external tester
• Priced the same as the SAT II
• Results
  – Individualized results for each student and aggregate results for test group
  – correlated to ACTFL scale: task-based
  – Real-time results for reading, listening
  – Writing and speaking results within 7 days
Administering the Exam

• Staff support crucial
  – Language Center and IT services, especially during first 15 minutes

• Class hour devoted to exam
  • students then completed remainder within a 24-hour window – reserved a room in the Language Center for this

• Monitored exam progress on computer
Sample Test
# Exam Results – German 204, Fall 2015

## Date Range

Current User: 5301-4s-gr-1-t

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Date To</th>
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## Reading and Listening Level Key

- **Novice**: 1 - Novice-Low, 2 - Novice-Mid, 3 - Novice-High
- **Intermediate**: 4 - Intermediate-Low, 5 - Intermediate-Mid, 6 - Intermediate-High
- **Advanced**: 7 - Advanced-Low, 8 - Advanced-Mid, 9 - Advanced-High

## Writing and Speaking Level Key

- **Novice**: 1 - Novice-Low, 2 - Novice-Mid, 3 - Novice-High
- **Intermediate**: 4 - Intermediate-Low, 5 - Intermediate-Mid, 6 - Intermediate-High
- **Advanced**: 7 - Advanced-Low, 8 - Advanced-Mid/High, NR - Not Rateable

## Table

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User Guides (PDF)
Sample Individual Result

Reading SCORE: 7 - Advanced Low

Interpretive

- Students who are reading at Advanced proficiency are characterized by:
  - Understand and use language for straightforward informational purposes
  - Can understand the content of most factual, non-specialized materials intended for a general audience

Writing SCORE: 5 - Intermediate Mid

Presentational

- Students who are writing at Intermediate proficiency are characterized by:
  - Not limited to formulaic utterances, can express factual information by manipulating grammatical structures

Writing Sample Breakdown

- Sample 1: 5
- Sample 2: 5
- Sample 3: 5

Listening SCORE: 7 - Advanced Low

Interpretive

- Students who are listening at Advanced proficiency are characterized by:
  - Understand language used for straightforward informational purposes
  - Understand the content of most spoken factual, non-specialized language

Speaking SCORE: 4 - Intermediate Low

Presentational

- Students who are speaking at Intermediate proficiency are characterized by:
  - Not limited to formulaic utterances, can express factual information by manipulating grammatical structures
  - Intermediate to memorized words and phrases to original production, though still limited

Speaking Sample Breakdown

- Sample 1: 4
- Sample 2: 5
- Sample 3: 4
Takeaways

• Useful course assessment tool
• Students are reaching target level
• Course can improve with more focus on active skills

• Relatively Convenient
  – Modest investment of time and resources
  – Provided me and students with concrete data on proficiency levels
  – Would use it again, but only at key points in curriculum (i.e. end of intermediate sequence, end of major)
Your Questions?