STAMP: Student Guide

AVANT ASSESSMENT
TEST WITH CONFIDENCE

Student Guide to Preparing for the STAMP Test

What is STAMP? — STAMP is…..
- An online test designed to find out what you can DO with a language (reading, writing, speaking)
- A series of test items based on real-world, every-day situations and written by native speakers.
- A **STA**ndards-based **M**easurement of **P**roficiency using levels of proficiency defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages – ACTFL)

What does STAMP assess?
- Your Reading ability: it measures how well you comprehend texts written by native speakers
- Your Writing ability: it measures how well you can write in real world situations
- Your Speaking ability: it measures how well you can speak about everyday situations

Preparing for STAMP:
- Review the topics listed below and vocabulary related to the topics.
- Practice speaking and writing every day.
- Take the STAMP Practice Test to become familiar with
    1) The types of prompts that you'll be expected to respond to and
    2) The scoring guide for Writing and Reading which describes expected levels of ability related to language use, understanding, and task-completion.
    3) Log on to www.stamptest.net and take the practice test.
- Remember, last-minute cramming will not help – proficiency means ability to **use** the language.

Topics By Level (every level assumes knowledge of all previous levels):

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Self	Clothing	Community	Health	Future Plans
Calendar/Time	Food/Beverage	Daily Routines	Holidays	Culture
Colors/Shapes	Family/Friends	Leisure/Activities	Celebrations	Contemporary Issues
Pets/Animals	Home	Shopping/Stores	Occupations	(Current Events,
School/Classroom	Places/Geography		Professions	Economics, Culture,
Weather/Seasons			Transportation	Literature, Science,
			Travel/Vacations	Social Science, etc.)

Logging in to take STAMP

- Your teacher will provide the URL for the Website log in page.
- You provide your **First** and **Last Name** — always enter it exactly the same way (no changes in spelling, capitals, spaces, etc.), so you may log in again to finish your test if necessary.
- Your teacher will provide your **Test Code** and **Password** right before you begin the test
- After you log in, you'll need to provide a Student ID number on the Student Profile Page

    Note: Avant graders review students' written and spoken responses. If your response includes any profanity or threatening language, it will receive a "0" score and Avant will alert school administrators.

Taking STAMP — Three Sections:

1. **The Reading section** is computer-adaptive which means it will give you easier or more difficult questions based upon your earlier answers. It also means each test taker may be given a different number of questions.
    a. Read the question and answers before you attempt reading the passage (this will help guide your reading and help you move through the test more quickly).
    b. Do not translate each word of the passage – translating each word is not reading for comprehension AND it will take more time that you can better use in later sections.

2. **The Writing section** consists of a sample and three test questions.
    a. Use the **SAVE** button regularly as you write. If the system "times out" due to paused input, log in again immediately to continue from the point of your last SAVE.
    b. Remember to click **SUBMIT** when you're finished with each question.

    Hint: Review the scoring guide under the question, then write as much as you can for each item — the more complete answer you write, the greater the possibility of scoring higher on the task.

3. **The Speaking section** consists of a sample and three test questions.
    a. For each item, you can review your response by clicking **PLAY** then you can record over your answer, add to your answer, or **SUBMIT** to move on to the next item.
    b. You have 10 minutes per question before the system "times out". If that happens in the midst of an answer, log in again immediately and begin that item again. *Bandwidth shortages may cause a time out sooner than 10 minutes.

    Hint: Remember the scoring guide, then speak as much as you can for each item.

Completing STAMP

- IMPORTANT: Click **SUBMIT** on your last item
- You have not completed STAMP until you see a page that reads "Congratulations! You have completed the STAMP test. Check with your instructor for results." **If you don't see this page, it means you haven't clicked submit and your test will be marked as "incomplete".**

We hope you enjoy taking STAMP and encourage you to let your teacher know how you felt about the experience. Thank you!