Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute

Proficiency Scale for Level Advancement

A 90-100 $\,$ B 80-89 $\,$ C 70-79 D 60-69 F 59 and below

At the end of the course students will be able to:

Proficiency Scale for Level Advancement

Written of the Proficiency Scale

Students must meet the outcomes at a 70% proficiency in order to earn grade of C or above and advance to the next level. Grades are averaged for Grammar, Listening and Speaking and for Reading and Writing.

For a more detailed description of student learning outcomes, consult the VTLCI Curriculum Guide available from Pamela Smart-Smith (smart1@vt.edu).

	100	150	200	250	300	350
Grammar	 identify and distinguish parts of speech pronouns, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions produce questions and answers utilize can and can't in order to express ability identify subjects, verbs, and objects in sentences identify and utilize simple present tense identify and utilize present continuous tense 	 identify and utilize correct word order use <i>a/an</i> in order to correctly form noun phrases form and produce the comparative and superlative adjective forms utilize and identify selected gerunds and infinitives as objects distinguish among can, could, and be able to in order to express past and present ability and may and can in order to make requests correctly form and utilize simple past with regular and common irregular verbs correctly form and utilize the future with "going to 	 distinguish between present continuous and simple present use appropriate modals of advice, suggestions and necessity/obligation use common irregular verbs for the past tense distinguish between independent and dependent clauses Use because and since to express cause effect relationships use appropriate quantifiers and units of measure with count and non-count nouns use appropriate articles (a/an/the/zero article) use appropriate prepositions of manner, movement, time and place. Use gerund or infinitive objects with selected verbs 	 contrast past continuous with simple past correctly form the simple past with most common irregular verbs produce sentences that contain past and future time clauses distinguish between different subordinators of time utilize 'whose' in correct question word order distinguish among subject pronouns, object pronouns, possessive adjectives, possessive pronouns, reflexive pronouns, reciprocal pronouns, and indefinite pronouns differentiate between 'another,' 'other,' 'the other,' and 'the others' distinguish between and use "be going to", and 'will''to express the future identify form, and use present, past, and future real conditionals use "be able to""may", "might", "could" and "will" to express present and future possibilities use adverbs of manner appropriately apply intensifiers to adjectives 	 use simple present,, present continuous, <i>will</i>, and <i>be going to</i> appropriately use future continuous use indefinite and definite articles, quantifiers, and measurement words, appropriately use selected adjectives and adverbs with 'too,' 'enough,' 'so,' and 'such' utilize adverbs of manner probability, and degree differentiate between participles being used as adjectives and as verbs distinguish between -ed and -ing forms of participial adjectives use comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverb use gerunds and infinitives as subjects and objects in a wide variety of sentences 	 use appropriate modals to make requests and offers and express probability and preferences classify verbs as either transitive or intransitive differentiate between a clause and a phrase recognize, form, and use the present, past, and future passive voice use relative clauses to modify nouns use tag questions use noun clauses as objects distinguish between and use present perfect and present perfect continuous identify and use direct and indirect objects
Listening	 follow basic instructions and commands understand and respond to simple questions recognize the basic phonemes listen to a level-appropriate utterance and write down the words identify general information and details in conversations 	 follow classroom instructions and commands comprehend a brief listening passage draw conclusions and make predictions make inferences about speaker's feelings and opinions listen to a level-appropriate utterance and write down the words take scaffolded notes using a graphic organizer identify general information and details in conversations 	 demonstrate comprehension by answering questions draw conclusions and make predictions make inferences about speaker's feelings and opinions listen to an utterance and write down the words follow oral instructions to complete tasks recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate conversations to demonstrate comprehension 	 demonstrate comprehension by answering questions draw conclusions and make predictions make inferences about speaker's purpose, feelings, and opinions listen to a short set of sentences and write them down follow oral instructions to complete tasks recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate conversations to demonstrate comprehension 	 complete scaffolded notes and partially completed outlines of short talks or conversations make assumptions and inferences draw conclusions and make predictions distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in level-appropriate passages follow oral instructions recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate talks and conversations to demonstrate comprehension 	 complete scaffolded notes and partially completed outlines make assumptions and inferences draw conclusions and make predictions distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in level-appropriate passages follow oral instructions recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate talks and conversations to demonstrate comprehension
Speaking	 name the alphabet letters and recognize and produce basic phonemes for letters and blends introduce self and people and communicate personal information give simple commands and directions provide basic details to support personal opinions and ideas formulate and respond to yes/no 	 communicate personal information give simple directions provide basic details to support personal opinions and ideas formulate and respond to yes/no and information questions on familiar topics use expressions of satisfaction/dissatisfaction and agreement/disagreement 	 provide basic details to support personal opinions and ideas formulate and respond to yes/no and information questions use expressions of satisfaction/disatisfaction and agreement/disagreement give an individual and group presentation participate in and conduct an 	 provide details to support personal opinions and ideas formulate and respond to yes/no and information questions use expressions of satisfaction/disatisfaction and agreement/disagreement give an individual and group presentation participate in and conduct an 	 provide details to support personal opinions and ideas obtain information from others by asking and answering questions argue and debate a given topic prepare an individual and group presentation organize presentation content with an introduction, body, and conclusion, as well as appropriate transitions 	 provide details to support personal opinions and ideas obtain information from others by asking and answering questions argue and debate a given topic paraphrase and report information prepare an individual and group presentation organize presentation content with an introduction, body, and conclusion, as

	 and information questions on familiar topics express likes, dislikes, and preferences discuss everyday topics demonstrating a low-beginning level of fluency identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	 prepare an individual and group presentation organize presentation content with an introduction, body, and conclusion participate in and conduct an interview speak spontaneously on familiar topics, demonstrating a low-beginning level of fluency identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation participate in a discussion with prompting use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	interview speak spontaneously, demonstrating a high-beginning level of fluency participate in a discussion with prompting identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking	 interview speak spontaneously, demonstrating a high-beginning level of fluency give brief informal presentations with minimal preparation identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation maintain discourse with prompting use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	 speak spontaneously, demonstrating an low-intermediate level of fluency give informal presentations with minimal preparation identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation maintain discourse with prompting use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	 well as appropriate transitions speak spontaneously, demonstrating an low-intermediate level of fluency give informal, unplanned presentation identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation maintain discourse with minimal prompting lead a class discussion (as an individual or with a partner) and solicit classmates' comments use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking
Reading	 produce generally correct sound-symbol correspondence when reading aloud activate background knowledge by previewing titles and graphics differentiate between the main idea and supporting details of simple narratives and descriptive nonfiction using true-beginner-level vocabulary. respond to fact-level yes/no questions use context clues to approximate the meanings of unknown, basic vocabulary 	 produce mostly correct sound-symbol correspondence and accurate intonation and pauses when reading aloud activate background knowledge by previewing titles, graphics, and captions distinguish between the main idea and supporting details of simple narratives and descriptive nonfiction using beginner-level vocabulary. use context clues to approximate the meanings of unknown, basic vocabulary scan for specific/keywords or answers to yes/no and wh- questions at the paragraph level 	 activate background knowledge via pre-reading strategies identify main ideas and supporting details in passages using high-beginner level increase reading speed identify noun antecedents for subject, object, and possessive pronouns in sentences and paragraphs. use context clues to approximate meanings of unknown, basic vocabulary in level-appropriate text scan for answers to fact-level yes/no and wh- questions and skim for main ideas at the paragraph level of level appropriate texts recognize chronological and causative relationships in level-appropriate texts 	 activate background knowledge via pre-reading strategies identify and distinguish between main ideas and supporting details in passages at a high-beginner level. use context clues to approximate meanings of unknown vocabulary in level-appropriate texts increase reading speed make basic inferences in level- appropriate texts distinguish facts from opinions as well as degree of certainty in level-appropriate texts compare and contrast information presented in two different readings identify the basic structure of texts 	 activate background knowledge via a variety of pre-reading strategies identify and differentiate between main ideas and supporting details in texts at a low-intermediate level use context clues to approximate the meaning of unknown vocabulary in level-appropriate texts, increase reading speed identify antecedents of pronouns and demonstratives scan for answers to a variety of questions and skim for main ideas at the paragraph and text level determine chronological, causative, and contrastive relationships as expressed in level-appropriate texts 	 activate background knowledge via a variety of pre-reading strategies identify and differentiate between main ideas and supporting details in texts at a low-intermediate level approximate the meaning of unknown vocabulary in level appropriate texts by utilizing context clues, identify the connotation of lexical items presented in level-appropriate texts scan for answers to a variety of questions and skim for main ideas at the paragraph and text level increase reading speed make inferences based on information presented in level-appropriate texts differentiate between facts, opinions, and biased language used to support arguments in level-appropriate texts identify author's purpose, tone, degree of certainty, register, and use of reported speech to support arguments extrapolate information from graphs, tables, and other data sets

 last different verbs in 30 minutes minutes write sentences with adjectives to describe self, home, people, objects, the weather, places, likes/dislikes, and events in one's life communicate personal opinions and experiences in sentence journals oidentify and correct rors in written work to produce a mostly error-free final written grammar in writing write a summary of a leveled reader using appropriate vocabulary from the text. use level-appropriate vocabulary in writing use level-appr	Writing	 distinguish between capital and lowercase letters. write name and address and prepare personal information forms. write complete sentences with a subject and predicate, including affirmative statements, negative statements, and questions write sentences that include correct capitalization of first words and end punctuation write 5 sentences responding to a prompt on a familiar topic using at 	 form capital and lowercase letters correctly write affirmative statements, negative statements, and questions with subject and predicate and correct word order, correct capitalization of first words, end punctuation, and correct use of apostrophes write at least 7 sentences responding to a prompt on a familiar topic using at least 5 verbs in 30 minutes write sentences with adjectives and adverbs to describe self, home, people, objects, the weather, settings, 	 write complete sentences using correct capitalization (first word of sentences and proper nouns) use correct end punctuation, apostrophes, and commas in series and compound sentences edit written work for errors. write a basic paragraph of 7-10 complete sentences, including a topic sentence write a summary of a level-appropriate text using keywords communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve 	 write complete sentences using correct capitalization (first word of sentences and proper nouns) use correct end punctuation, apostrophes, and commas in series and compound sentences write a basic paragraph of 7-10 related sentences, including a topic sentence and a concluding statement write a summary of a level-appropriate text using keywords communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency (minimum of the equivalent 	 write an outline and a summary of a reading passage. write a correctly formatted paragraph of at least 8 sentences on a given topic identify and correct errors. demonstrate correct use of topic, supporting, and concluding sentences demonstrate use of appropriate cohesive devices such as transition words and phrases communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency use level-appropriate grammar and 	 write outlines and summaries of reading passages use prewriting techniques write a correctly formatted 3-4 paragraph essay including a thesis statement, introduction, body, and conclusion use appropriate cohesive devices such as transition words and phrases communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency complete an assignment following the steps of the writing process including
		 forms. write complete sentences with a subject and predicate, including affirmative statements, negative statements, and questions write sentences that include correct capitalization of first words and end punctuation write 5 sentences responding to a prompt on a familiar topic using at least 3 different verbs in 30 minutes write sentences with adjectives to describe self, home, people, objects, the weather, places, likes/dislikes, and events in one's life communicate personal opinions and experiences in sentence journals to improve fluency (minimum 5 sentences 4 times per week) use level-appropriate vocabulary in writing. identify errors in written work employ a word processing program to complete a writing 	 and predicate and correct word order, correct capitalization of first words, end punctuation, and correct use of apostrophes write at least 7 sentences responding to a prompt on a familiar topic using at least 5 verbs in 30 minutes write sentences with adjectives and adverbs to describe self, home, people, objects, the weather, settings, likes/dislikes, events and make simple comparisons communicate personal opinions and experiences in sentence journals identify and correct errors in written work to product. write a summary of a leveled reader using appropriate vocabulary from the text. use level-appropriate grammar and 	apostrophes, and commas in series and compound sentences edit written work for errors. write a basic paragraph of 7-10 complete sentences, including a topic sentence write a summary of a level-appropriate text using keywords communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency use level-appropriate vocabulary and	 apostrophes, and commas in series and compound sentences write a basic paragraph of 7-10 related sentences, including a topic sentence and a concluding statement write a summary of a level-appropriate text using keywords communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency (minimum of the equivalent of ¼ typed page 3 times per week) complete a final draft of a written assignment following steps of the writing process use level-appropriate vocabulary and 	 identify and correct errors. demonstrate correct use of topic, supporting, and concluding sentences demonstrate use of appropriate cohesive devices such as transition words and phrases communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency 	 paragraph essay including a thesis statement, introduction, body, and conclusion use appropriate cohesive devices such as transition words and phrases communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency complete an assignment following the steps of the writing process including identifying and correcting errors use level-appropriate vocabulary

	400	450	500	550	
Grammar	 form and use past perfect, past perfect continuous, future perfect, and future perfect continuous contrast future perfect forms and all other future forms use appropriate modal forms to make polite requests and suggestions, give advice, discuss preferences, certainty/possibility, permissions and prohibitions, abilities, obligations in the present and future, unfulfilled intentions and repeated past actions/habits. use definite, indefinite, and the zero article in less common applications modify countable and uncountable nouns with additional quantifiers use correct adjective order express possession with <i>of</i> use complex prepositions, subordinating conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs to express contrast, concession, purpose, and cause/effect use gerunds and infinitives to express purpose use causative verbs use sensory verbs 	 use past and present forms of all types of modals use past, present and future real and unreal conditional structures use the passive voice in the past, present, and future continuous tenses quote direct speech with appropriate punctuation use reported speech with correct verb tenses and pronoun forms use noun clauses as subjects, objects, objects of prepositions and subject complements use selected separable and inseparable phrasal verbs 	 use all verb tenses and aspects in extended discourse use emphatic <i>do</i> helping verb use <i>be</i> and <i>get</i> passives produce sentences using a wide variety of phrasal verbs use all modal forms in active and passive voice use indefinite, definite and the zero article and other determiners and quantifiers appropriately use wide variety of types of comparative and superlative forms 	 reduce relative, noun, and adverb clauses use restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses distinguish and produce relative and noun clauses Use the subjunctive mood with appropriate nouns and adjectives in noun clauses use <i>it</i> constructions with both noun clauses and infinitives use real and unreal conditional structures in past, present & future, including mixed time conditionals using a variety of modal and modal-like expressions use active and passive gerund and infinitive forms appropriately use present and past participles as adjectives invert sentences with fronted negative adverbs 	
Listening	 complete scaffolded notes and partially completed outlines make assumptions and inferences organize and synthesize information from listening passages distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in level-appropriate passages follow detailed oral instructions recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate talks and conversations to demonstrate comprehension identify speaker's purpose, attitude, and tone 	 complete scaffolded and some independent notes and partially completed outlines make assumptions and inferences organize and synthesize information from listening passages distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in level-appropriate passages use context clues to understand unfamiliar words follow detailed oral instructions recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate talks and conversations identify speaker's purpose, attitude, and tone 	 take notes on authentic listening passages using student-selected note-taking strategies make and justify inferences about level-appropriate listening passages organize and synthesize information from multiple sources distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in level-appropriate passages draw conclusions and make predictions based on evidence from a level-appropriate listening passage follow complex and detailed oral instructions recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate talks and conversations identify speaker's purpose, attitude, and tone 	 take detailed and accurate notes on authentic listening passages using student-selected note-taking strategies make and justify inferences in level-appropriate listening passages organize and synthesize information from multiple sources distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in level-appropriate passages draw conclusions and make predictions based on evidence from a level-appropriate listening passage follow complex and detailed oral instructions recognize vocabulary and identify main idea and details in level-appropriate talks and conversations Identify speaker's purpose, attitude, and tone 	
Speaking	 use appropriate register formulate and respond to questions participate in and conduct an interview paraphrase and report information prepare an individual and group 	 use appropriate register formulate and respond to questions paraphrase and report information prepare an individual and group presentation 	 debate a given topic from an assigned perspective paraphrase and report the speech of others prepare an individual and group 	 participate in formal academic debate paraphrase and report the speech of others prepare an individual and group 	

	 presentation speak spontaneously, demonstrating a high-intermediate level of fluency give an informal, unplanned presentation that lasts at least 1 minute identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation maintain discourse with minimal prompting lead class discussion (individual or pair) and solicit classmates' comments and discussion use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	 give a presentation of at least 3 minutes showing evidence of research speak spontaneously, demonstrating an high-intermediate level of fluency give informal, unplanned presentation that lasts at least 1 minute identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation maintain discourse with occasional prompting lead class discussion (individual or pair) and solicit classmates' comments provide evidence to support responses or arguments use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	 presentation give a presentation of at least 5 minutes showing evidence of research give informal, unplanned presentation on a topic of the instructor's choosing that lasts at least 2 minutes identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation demonstrate fluency by sustaining extended discourse lead class discussion (individual or pair) on a controversial and/or academic topic; solicit classmates' comments provide personal and research-based evidence to support responses or arguments use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	 presentation give a 6-8 minute presentation showing evidence of research, providing proper written and spoken citations, design and conduct a survey use appropriate register give informal, unplanned presentation on a topic of the instructor's choosing that lasts at least 2 minutes identify and correct selected errors in pronunciation, stress, and intonation demonstrate fluency by sustaining extended discourse lead class discussion (individually or in pairs) on a controversial and/or academic topic; solicit classmates' comments and discussion challenge classmates' and instructors' opinions in a culturally-appropriate manner provide personal and research-based evidence to support response or argument use level-appropriate grammar and vocabulary in speaking 	
Reading	 activate background knowledge via a variety of pre-reading strategies identify and distinguish between thesis, main ideas, and supporting details of reading passages at a high-intermediate level approximate the denotations and connotations of unknown vocabulary determine reading speed and use specific strategies to improve it identify biased language used to support arguments in level-appropriate texts identify antecedents (including entire ideas) for pronouns and demonstratives scan for answers to a variety of question types and skim for main ideas in level-appropriate texts interpret chronological, causative, contrastive, and comparative relationships as expressed in level-appropriate text summarize main ideas of level-appropriate passages 	 determine the gist of level-appropriate texts prior to reading by activating background knowledge via a variety of pre-reading strategies identify, distinguish between, and explain thesis, main ideas, and supporting details of reading passages at a high-intermediate level use context clues to approximate the meanings of unknown non-academic and core academic vocabulary approximate the denotations and connotations of non-academic and academic vocabulary increase reading speed by using specific strategies infer meanings, attitudes, and opinions in level-appropriate texts synthesize and evaluate information presented in different texts adjust reading speed and style for various texts interpret author's tone, purpose, degree of certainty, and register interpret information from graphs, tables, and other data sets paraphrase and annotate level-appropriate texts 	 interpret the gist of level-appropriate texts prior to reading by activating background knowledge via a variety of pre-reading strategies determine and analyze central argument, main ideas, and supporting details of academic reading passages at an advanced level approximate denotations and connotations of unknown non-academic and core academic vocabulary and phrases apply specific strategies and engage in regular practice to improve reading speed identify antecedents in a text scan for answers to a variety of question types and shim for main ideas, text-type and author's opinions, purpose and bias in academic texts explain chronological, causative, contrastive, comparative, and annotate level appropriate texts 	 identify the gist of level-appropriate texts prior to reading by activating background knowledge via a variety of pre-reading strategies determine, analyze, and evaluate central argument, main ideas, and supporting details of academic reading passages at an advanced level approximate denotations and connotations of unknown non-academic and core academic vocabulary and phrases apply specific strategies and engage in regular practice to improve reading speed infer meanings, attitudes, and opinions and evaluate a writer's bias synthesize and analyze information presented in different readings evaluate structural patterns of level-appropriate texts evaluate author's tone, purpose, target audience, degree of certainty, and register paraphrase, summarize, and annotate level appropriate texts 	
Writing	 write an organized, cohesive, unified essay on a given topic that includes an introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion demonstrate correct use of APA manuscript style use prewriting techniques paraphrase and summarize reading 	 write an organized, unified, cohesive essay on a given topic that includes an introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion demonstrate correct use of APA manuscript style and the use of at least two appropriate outside sources and in-text citations and end-of-text 	 write an organized, unified, cohesive essay responding fully, clearly and directly to the writing prompt that includes an introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion. write rough and revised drafts of a research paper of 1000-1250 words 	 write an organized, unified, cohesive essay responding fully, clearly and directly to the writing prompt that includes an introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion write rough and revised drafts of a research paper of 2,000 - 3,000 	

 texts in writing communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency complete an essay assignment following steps of the writing process incorporating revisions based on peer and instructor feedback as well as self-correction use level-appropriate vocabulary and grammar in writing. 	references communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency paraphrase and summarize reading texts in writing complete an essay assignment following steps of the writing process incorporating revisions based on peer and instructor feedback as well as self-correction use level-appropriate vocabulary and grammar in writing	 (4-5 pages), including well-organized sections pertaining to the topic, correct paragraph structure, and a conclusion that reiterates the main idea demonstrate correct use of APA manuscript style and the use of at least four appropriate outside sources and in-text citations and end-of-text references paraphrase and summarize reading texts in writing complete an assignment following steps of the writing process incorporating revisions based on peer and instructor feedback as well as self-correction communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency (minimum the equivalent of 1 typed page 2 times per week) use level-appropriate vocabulary and grammar produce a variety of sentence-types 	 words (8-12 pages), including well-organized sections pertaining to the topic, correct paragraph structure, and a conclusion that reiterates the main idea demonstrate correct use of APA manuscript style and the use of at least six appropriate outside sources and in-text citations and end-of-text references paraphrase and summarize reading texts in writing complete an academic paper following steps of the writing process incorporating revisions based on peer and instructor feedback as well as self-correction communicate personal opinions and experiences in journals to improve fluency (minimum the equivalent of I typed page 2 times per week) use level-appropriate vocabulary and grammar in writing 		
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