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**ILLINOIS CERTIFICATION TESTING SYSTEM**  
**FIELD 137 FOREIGN LANGUAGE: ARABIC**  
**TEST FRAMEWORK**

**March 2008**

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**March 2008**

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# ILLINOIS CERTIFICATION TESTING SYSTEM

## FIELD 137 FOREIGN LANGUAGE: ARABIC

### TEST FRAMEWORK

Listening Comprehension  
Reading and Vocabulary  
Language Structures  
Cultural Knowledge  
Language Acquisition  
Written Expression  
Oral Expression

#### SUBAREA I—LISTENING COMPREHENSION

**0001 Demonstrate a general understanding of oral communication in Modern Standard Arabic.**

For example:

- Demonstrate comprehension of oral and audio presentations unsupported by visual aids.
- Demonstrate an understanding of questions or comments likely to be encountered in a social or formal situation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of requests for information.

**0002 Derive essential information from oral messages in Modern Standard Arabic.**

For example:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the main idea or details in an oral message.
- Demonstrate an understanding of a sequence of steps described in a set of oral directions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of a stated cause or effect of a situation described in an oral message.

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**0003 Infer meaning from oral messages in Modern Standard Arabic.**

For example:

- Assess the tone, mood, or point of view of one or more speakers.
- Analyze a relationship (e.g., cause-and-effect), implied but not stated, in an oral message.
- Analyze the social or cultural context of a spoken exchange or oral message.
- Analyze the relationship between two speakers.

**SUBAREA II—READING AND VOCABULARY**

**0004 Demonstrate a general understanding of written passages, including electronic texts, written in Modern Standard Arabic.**

For example:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the main message of written materials without the help of visual representations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of key vocabulary in written materials without the help of visual representations.

**0005 Demonstrate an understanding of the literal content of a variety of authentic materials written in Modern Standard Arabic.**

For example:

- Identify the stated main idea of a passage.
- Identify significant details of a passage.
- Recognize a sequence of events in a passage.
- Recognize a cause-and-effect relationship stated in a passage.

**0006 Apply skills of inference and analysis to a variety of authentic materials written in Modern Standard Arabic.**

For example:

- Infer setting, character, or mood from information provided in a passage.
- Determine implied cause-and-effect relationships in a passage.
- Infer an author's assumptions, purpose, or point of view in a passage.

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**SUBAREA III—LANGUAGE STRUCTURES**

**0007 Transform sentences or passages in Modern Standard Arabic according to given instructions.**

For example:

- Transform the tense or mood of a sentence or passage.
- Transform an affirmative statement or question to a negative one or vice versa.
- Transform the subject of a sentence from singular to dual or plural or vice versa where subject and predicate agreement are evident.
- Combine two or more sentences into one sentence that preserves the meaning of the original sentences.

**0008 Complete sentences in Modern Standard Arabic with grammatically correct words or phrases.**

For example:

- Recognize nouns, adjectives, or pronouns appropriate for a given context.
- Recognize verb forms or phrases appropriate for a given context.
- Recognize the appropriate connecting word or phrase to complete a sentence.

**0009 Demonstrate the ability to organize, analyze, and explain to students the linguistic structures of Modern Standard Arabic.**

For example:

- Select revisions to correct use of tenses, forms, or constructions.
- Organize parts of speech into grammatically and syntactically correct sentences.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze the linguistic structures of Modern Standard Arabic.

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**SUBAREA IV—CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE**

**0010 Demonstrate an understanding of the practices (e.g., common customs, patterns of daily life) and perspectives of Arab culture.**

For example:

- Demonstrate an understanding of characteristic features of daily life in Arab culture.
- Identify culturally acceptable behaviors in Arab culture in a variety of contexts.

**0011 Demonstrate an understanding of the products (e.g., literature, music, visual art, dance, architecture, technology) and perspectives of Arab culture.**

For example:

- Identify major movements, writers, and works in Arabic literature and understand their cultural significance.
- Demonstrate an understanding of characteristic forms and elements of the arts in Arab culture and their cultural significance.
- Recognize major scientific and technological achievements of Arab culture and understand their cultural significance.

**0012 Demonstrate an understanding of the history and geography of Arab culture.**

For example:

- Identify key historical events and turning points in Arab culture.
- Identify diverse historical figures (e.g., scientists, mathematicians, inventors) in Arab culture.
- Demonstrate knowledge of natural geographic features (e.g., climate, location, natural resources) of regions associated with Arab culture.

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**SUBAREA V—LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

**0013 Understand processes involved in second-language acquisition.**

For example:

- Demonstrate knowledge of language development and the role of language learning as it pertains to second-language acquisition.
- Demonstrate knowledge of second-language acquisition and the approaches, methodologies, and strategies that promote second-language acquisition.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the ways students' native language, prior knowledge, and educational background influence second-language acquisition.
- Demonstrate knowledge of instructional strategies for developing students' communicative skills in a second language and ways to adjust instruction to facilitate optimal learning for all students.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of various classroom activities for developing students' communicative skills in a second language.

**SUBAREA VI—WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

**0014 Use Modern Standard Arabic to present in writing information, concepts, and ideas for a variety of purposes to different audiences.**

For example:

- Write expository pieces that include description, definition, and analysis for a variety of situations.
- Write an account describing the reasoning behind a personal or professional decision.
- Write a letter that is appropriate in style and formality level for a given audience, purpose, and occasion.

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**SUBAREA VII—ORAL EXPRESSION**

**0015 In response to a prompt, construct connected oral discourse in Modern Standard Arabic that communicates a message effectively and that demonstrates command of a range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and simple and complex language structures.**

For example:

- Narrate events or actions in tenses and formality levels appropriate to the task.
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of an idea or proposed course of action.
- Respond to a hypothetical situation by explaining events, narrating events, or requesting assistance.