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**PREPARATION
GUIDE
SUPPLEMENT**

**Bilingual Education
Assessment—
French (031)**

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**PREPARATION GUIDE SUPPLEMENT
Bilingual Education Assessment—
French (031)**

This guide is a supplement only and should be used in conjunction with the NYSTCE Bilingual Education Assessment—Languages Other Than Spanish Preparation Guide, which contains complete information about the assessment.

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■ ABOUT THE BILINGUAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT—FRENCH

The purpose of the Bilingual Education Assessment—French is to assess knowledge and skills in the following seven subareas:

- Subarea I. Foundations of Bilingual Education
- Subarea II. Listening Comprehension in English
- Subarea III. Listening Comprehension in the Target Language
- Subarea IV. Reading Comprehension in the Target Language
- Subarea V. Written Expression in the Target Language
- Subarea VI. Oral Expression in English
- Subarea VII. Oral Expression in the Target Language

The test objectives defining the content to be assessed by the Bilingual Education Assessment—French and a complete set of sample items presented in English are contained in the NYSTCE Bilingual Education Assessment—Languages Other Than Spanish Preparation Guide. This supplement describes the target-language assignments. For each of the four target-language assignments, a sample assignment in the target language and a description of the expected response are provided.

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATION GUIDE SUPPLEMENT FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT—FRENCH

On the following pages are:

- ▶ Sample test directions for the constructed-response assignments in the target language
- ▶ Sample constructed-response assignments, accompanied by descriptions of the tasks and expected responses
- ▶ Performance characteristics and scoring scale for each constructed-response assignment

On the actual test, candidates will be given different constructed-response assignments from those provided as samples in this preparation guide supplement.

■ LISTENING COMPREHENSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE

Sample Test Directions for the Listening Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

DIRECTIONS FOR SECTION TWO

LISTENING COMPREHENSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE

Section Two of this test consists of a listening comprehension exercise that involves listening to a brief passage in the target language on audiotape and then responding in writing to an assignment presented in your test booklet. The exercise will begin with directions that will be read aloud on the tape. They are also printed in your test booklet. Listen carefully to the tape and follow along in your test booklet. The passage will be read twice. Your response may be written in either the target language or English. Write your response on page 3 of the answer document under "Section Two." *Your score will be based solely on the response you write on page 3 of the answer document.*

Your response to the assignment will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria. Please take the next 30 seconds to familiarize yourself with these criteria.

- **LISTENING COMPREHENSION:** accuracy and completeness in comprehending spoken language
- **LISTENING INFERENCE:** demonstrated ability to infer information accurately from spoken language, including subtleties such as tone

Turn the page and continue with Section Two.

Sample Listening Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

SUBAREA III: LISTENING COMPREHENSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE



For this section of the test, you will listen twice to a taped sample of speech in the target language and respond in writing to an assignment presented in your test booklet. The taped speech may be an extended public announcement, an excerpt from a conversation, or some other example of speech encountered in a realistic context. The assignment will require you to do one or more of the following tasks:

- summarize an explicit message,
- draw one or more inferences (e.g., the relationship among the speakers in a dialogue, the setting in which a message is communicated), or
- recall one or more details.

An excellent response will demonstrate a thorough understanding of both stated and implied content, including, where appropriate, such subtleties as the tone used by one or more speakers. Because this exercise is designed to test your listening skills and not your writing ability, you may write your response in either the target language or English. You may wish to use the language that is more familiar to you.

(You will hear and read in the test booklet in English:)

4. **The following question is a listening comprehension exercise. You will hear in the target language a dialogue between a student and a teacher. After you have heard the dialogue twice, you will respond in writing to the assignment on page 3 of your answer document. It may be written in either the target language or English. Before you hear the dialogue, you will be given 30 seconds to study the assignment. Begin studying the assignment now.**

(You will read in the test booklet in French:)

Rédigez un paragraphe dans lequel :

- vous résumez le problème de l'élève et les événements à son origine,
- vous expliquez les recommandations du professeur pour résoudre le problème, et
- vous décrivez la suite de l'histoire, telle que vous l'imaginez.



(You will hear in English:)

Listen carefully to the following dialogue. After you have heard it twice, respond to the assignment in your answer document.

(You will hear in French:)

ELEVE : J'ai vraiment besoin de votre aide. J'ai manqué une épreuve importante lundi en sociologie, et mademoiselle Robinson veut me donner une note éliminatoire.

PROFESSEUR : Pourquoi étiez-vous absent ? Etiez-vous malade ?

ELEVE : C'est précisément ce que mademoiselle Robinson m'a demandé et quand je lui ai dit que non, elle a répondu que j'aurai une note éliminatoire. Mais elle ne m'a pas laissé le temps de lui raconter toute l'histoire.

PROFESSEUR : Quelle histoire ?

ELEVE : Ma mère a fait une chute et elle ne pouvait plus se relever. J'ai dû appeler l'ambulance et attendre que les secours arrivent. C'était totalement inattendu. Je n'ai jamais eu l'intention de manquer l'examen. J'étais prêt à le passer. Mais mademoiselle Robinson ne m'a pas laissé m'expliquer.

PROFESSEUR : Je suis certain que mademoiselle Robinson montrera plus de compréhension quand elle aura compris la situation. Voulez-vous que j'aille lui parler avec vous ? Vous devrez probablement présenter une note de vos parents sur ce qui s'est passé, et je suis sûr que nous arriverons à trouver une solution à propos de cet examen.

ELEVE : Oh, merci beaucoup ! Ça serait super !

Performance Characteristics for Listening Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

Candidate responses are scored holistically based on the extent to which the response reflects a command of the skills included in the following performance characteristics.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION	accuracy and completeness in comprehending spoken language
LISTENING INFERENCE	demonstrated ability to infer information accurately from spoken language, including subtleties such as tone

Scoring Scale for Listening Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

The four points of the scoring scale correspond to varying degrees of performance. The following statements describe typical responses at each score point.

Score Point	Score Point Description
4	The candidate demonstrates thorough comprehension of literal content of a sample of spoken language. The candidate accurately infers information implied in a sample of spoken language, including correctly characterizing tone when tone is a factor in comprehension.
3	The candidate demonstrates good overall comprehension of literal content of a sample of spoken language, though some details may be misunderstood or missed. The candidate shows some ability to infer information implied in a sample of spoken language, though some subtleties may be misinterpreted or missed.
2	The candidate shows partial comprehension of a sample of spoken language, discerning some main ideas but failing to understand other major ideas and details. The candidate generally fails to infer information or discern tone in a sample of spoken language.
1	The candidate fails to demonstrate understanding of major points in a sample of spoken language, showing comprehension only of isolated words and phrases. The candidate fails to infer information or discern tone in a sample of spoken language.

■ READING COMPREHENSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE

Sample Test Directions for the Reading Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

DIRECTIONS FOR SECTION FOUR

READING COMPREHENSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE

Section Four of this test consists of a reading comprehension exercise that involves reading a brief passage in the target language and then responding in writing to an assignment presented after the passage in your test booklet. Your response may be written in either the target language or English. Write your response on page 5 of the answer document under "Section Four." *Your score will be based solely on the response you write on page 5 of the answer document.*

Your response to the assignment will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- **LITERAL COMPREHENSION:** accuracy and completeness in comprehending literal content of written language
- **INFERENCE:** demonstrated ability to infer information implied in a reading passage, including subtleties such as tone

Turn the page and continue with Section Four.

Sample Reading Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

SUBAREA IV: READING COMPREHENSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE



For this section of the test, you will read a brief passage in the target language and respond in writing to an assignment presented in the target language in your test booklet. The passage may be drawn from a newspaper story, a magazine article, a travel guidebook, a literary work, or some other text in the target language. The assignment will require you to do one or more of the following tasks:

- summarize information stated in the passage,
- make an inference from the passage (e.g., the writer's implied attitude toward the subject, the relationship between two or more fictional characters), or
- recall one or more details from the passage.

An excellent response will demonstrate a thorough and accurate understanding of the elements of the passage that the assignment requires you to discuss. Because this exercise is designed to test your reading skills and not your writing ability, you may write your response in either the target language or English. You may wish to use the language that is more familiar to you.

(You will read in the test booklet in English:)

10. **Read the story below, written by a student for a writing assignment on the theme, "The Immigrant Experience"; then write your response on page 5 of the answer document in either the target language or English.**

(You will read in the test booklet in French:)

Il était une fois un oiseau qui voulait voler plus loin et plus haut que les autres oiseaux. Il s'élança dans les nuages, au-dessus de la mer, droit vers l'horizon. Il se sentait transporté de joie et de beauté, grisé par la liberté. Quand ses ailes commencèrent à se fatiguer, l'oiseau regarda autour de lui, et s'aperçut qu'il était seul et qu'aucune terre n'était plus en vue.

Pris par la peur, l'oiseau tourna pour rebrousser chemin, mais ses forces l'abandonnèrent bientôt et il vint se reposer sur un gros paquet d'algues balotté par les vagues. Suffisamment solide pour le protéger de la noyade, ce radeau improvisé lui offrit aussi quelque nourriture et quelque abri. L'oiseau réalisa cependant très vite qu'il ne serait plus jamais capable de repartir car il ne disposait pas d'assez de place pour prendre son élan et s'envoler. L'oiseau soupira et s'installa aussi confortablement qu'il le put.



Avec le temps, il apprit à pêcher poissons et autres nourritures en plongeant la tête. Il buvait l'eau de pluie recueillie dans des trous qu'il avait creusé dans le paquet d'algues. Il s'abritait du vent en se blotissant sous les algues.

L'oiseau essaya de profiter le plus possible de son nouveau monde en observant et en écoutant autour de lui, en essayant de deviner chaque jour où le courant allait le conduire, en scrutant les cieux à la recherche d'autres oiseaux, en s'efforçant d'espérer et de s'intéresser à sa situation plutôt que de penser à sa solitude et à sa peur. Il apprit même à parler un peu le langage des poissons et des autres créatures vivant dans ou sur la mer, quand il réussissait à les faire s'arrêter et à l'écouter.

L'oiseau passait de longues heures à regarder la grande étendue marine derrière lui, vers son ancienne patrie. La vie n'était pas si mauvaise. Il avait assez à manger. Il se sentait relativement en sécurité. Mais le monde dans lequel il vivait n'avait pas été fait pour lui.

Ecrivez un texte de réponse dans laquelle vous :

- résumez le propos principal de l'auteur,
- décrivez l'atmosphère que l'auteur essaie de créer dans son essai, et
- expliquez comment l'auteur se sert de certains détails pour démontrer son propos et suggérer l'atmosphère voulue.

Performance Characteristics for Reading Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

Candidate responses are scored holistically based on the extent to which the response reflects a command of the skills included in the following performance characteristics.

LITERAL COMPREHENSION	accuracy and completeness in comprehending literal content of written language
INFERENCE	demonstrated ability to infer information implied in a reading passage, including subtleties such as tone

Scoring Scale for Reading Comprehension in the Target Language Assignment

The four points of the scoring scale correspond to varying degrees of performance. The following statements describe typical responses at each score point.

Score Point	Score Point Description
4	The candidate demonstrates thorough understanding of the literal content of a reading passage, including virtually all significant details. The candidate accurately infers information implied in a reading passage, even if this is subtly conveyed in the text.
3	The candidate demonstrates understanding of the main idea of a reading passage, but misses some details. The candidate shows some ability to infer information from the text, but may misinterpret some subtleties.
2	The candidate shows only partial understanding of the main idea of a reading passage. The candidate generally fails to make inferences from written text.
1	The candidate fails to extract the main idea from a written passage, demonstrating comprehension only of isolated words and phrases. The candidate fails to make inferences from written text.

WRITTEN EXPRESSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE

Sample Test Directions for the Written Expression in the Target Language Assignment

DIRECTIONS FOR SECTION FIVE

WRITTEN EXPRESSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE

Section Five consists of a written expression assignment in the target language. The assignment appears on the following page. A list of suggestions is provided to help direct your response to the assignment. It is not necessary that you cover every point on the list, nor are you limited in your response to those points indicated. You are, however, required to write about the general assignment that you are given, and part of your score will be based on the degree to which you elaborate on the assignment by addressing either the suggested points or points of your choosing.

You may use any blank space provided after the assignment to make notes, write an outline, or otherwise prepare your response, but remember to record your final response on pages 7–8 of the answer document under "Section Five." *Your score will be based solely on the response you write on pages 7–8 of the answer document. Your response must be written in the target language.*

Your response to the assignment will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- **DEVELOPMENT:** fullness of development of the topic
- **COMMUNICATION:** effectiveness of communication, including sociocultural appropriateness
- **COHERENCE:** coherence and flow of language
- **VOCABULARY:** command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions
- **SYNTAX:** handling of syntax and grammatical structures
- **MECHANICS:** accuracy of spelling or character formation, diacritical marks, and punctuation

Be sure to write about the assigned topic. Please write legibly. You may not use any reference materials during the test. Remember to review what you have written and make any changes that you think will improve your response.

Turn the page and continue with Section Five.

Sample Written Expression in the Target Language Assignment

SUBAREA V: WRITTEN EXPRESSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE



Objective 0015

Write a well-organized passage of moderate length (appropriate to the language) that is syntactically correct and appropriate in style and diction for a given audience, purpose, and occasion and that communicates a message effectively.

For this section of the test, you will write in the target language a response to an assignment presented in the target language. The assignment will contain a description of an imaginary situation and ask you to carry out a writing task that arises from the situation: for example, writing a letter to a friend narrating an experience described in the assignment. Your written response to the assignment in the target language will be evaluated on the basis of six major criteria:

- fullness of development of the topic;
- effectiveness of communication, including sociocultural appropriateness;
- coherence and flow of language;
- demonstrated command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions;
- accuracy in handling of syntax and grammatical structures; and
- accuracy of spelling or character formation, diacritical marks, and punctuation.

An excellent response to the assignment will fully address the assigned topic and develop the topic by extensive elaboration of specific points. The message will be clearly and effectively communicated in a socioculturally appropriate manner. Ideas will be coherently presented and the flow of language will be smooth and varied and organized into well-constructed sentences. The vocabulary used will reflect a broad command of the target language, and appropriate idiomatic expressions will be used. The excellent response will exhibit control of grammar, avoiding errors in syntax that interrupt communication. The response will be accurate in spelling or character formation and in the use of diacritical marks and punctuation.



(You will read in the test booklet in English:)

11. **The following question is a written expression assignment in the target language. Write your response on pages 7–8 of the answer document. Your response must be written in the target language.**

(You will read in the test booklet in French:)

Imaginez que vous préparez une excursion scolaire pour laquelle vos élèves doivent obtenir une permission écrite de leurs parents. Ecrivez une lettre en français aux parents/tuteurs des élèves, décrivant l'excursion et demandant leur collaboration pour sa réussite. Vous pouvez notamment traiter des sujets suivants :

- la destination et l'objet de l'excursion,
- ce que les élèves feront une fois arrivés,
- toute aide spécifique requise des parents/tuteurs, en particulier permissions écrites, pique-niques à emporter, etc.,
- les bénéfices éducatifs attendus de l'excursion.

Performance Characteristics for the Written Expression in the Target Language Assignment

The following characteristics guide the scoring of responses to the written expression assignment.

DEVELOPMENT	fullness of development of the topic
COMMUNICATION	effectiveness of communication, including sociocultural appropriateness
COHERENCE	coherence and flow of language
VOCABULARY	command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions
SYNTAX	handling of syntax and grammatical structures
MECHANICS	accuracy of spelling or character formation, diacritical marks, and punctuation

Scoring Scale for the Written Expression in the Target Language Assignment

Scores will be assigned to each response to the written expression assignment according to the following scoring scale.

Score Point	Score Point Description
4	The candidate fully addresses the assigned topic and develops the topic by extensive elaboration of specific points. A message is clearly and effectively communicated in a socioculturally appropriate manner. The candidate's ideas are coherently presented, and the flow of language is smooth and varied in well-constructed sentences. The vocabulary used reflects a broad command of the language and the use of appropriate idiomatic expressions. There is control of grammar with only minor syntax errors that do not interrupt communication. There is accuracy in spelling or character formation and accuracy in the use of diacritical marks and punctuation.
3	The candidate adequately addresses the assigned topic, with some elaboration of specific points. The message is generally clear, but command of sociocultural aspects of the language may be uncertain. The candidate exhibits some awkwardness in phrasing of ideas. The vocabulary used is appropriate but limited in expression and word choice. There is good command of simple linguistic constructions and grammar but uneven command of more complex constructions. The writer makes few errors in spelling or character formation and few errors in the use of diacritical marks and punctuation.
2	The candidate addresses the assigned topic in a very limited way, with minimal elaboration. The candidate fails to communicate a fully understandable message. The candidate's ideas are presented in a disconnected manner that makes comprehension difficult. The vocabulary is very simple, lacking some key words and expressions. The use of grammar and syntax is so elementary that either little information is conveyed or, though the information may be advanced, its grammatical presentation is seriously flawed. The candidate makes frequent errors in spelling or character formation and punctuation.
1	The candidate ineffectively addresses the assigned topic, without elaborating any points. The candidate makes only a few statements, which may be unconnected. There is an inadequate command of vocabulary to communicate a complete message. The errors made in the use of grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation are so frequent that communication is generally very difficult to understand.

ORAL EXPRESSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE

Sample Test Directions for the Oral Expression Assignments

DIRECTIONS FOR SECTIONS SIX AND SEVEN

ORAL EXPRESSION ASSIGNMENTS IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE AND IN ENGLISH

For Sections Six and Seven of this test, you will speak on tape in response to two assignments presented in your test booklet. You must respond to the first assignment in the target language and to the second assignment in English. You will be given ample time to read each assignment in your test booklet and consider your response, then you will have two minutes to record your response to each assignment. A list of suggestions is provided to help direct your response to each assignment. It is not necessary that you address every point in the list, nor are you limited in each response to the points mentioned. However, what you say must be relevant to the situations with which you are presented, and part of your score will be based on the degree to which you elaborate on the topics by addressing either the suggested points or points of your choosing.

You may NOT write in this test booklet. *You will be scored only on the responses that you provide on the tape after the announcer instructs you to begin speaking.*

Your responses will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- **DEVELOPMENT:** fullness of development of the topic
- **COHERENCE:** clarity and coherence of the message
- **FLUENCY:** fluency and ease of expression
- **VOCABULARY:** command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions
- **SYNTAX:** handling of syntax and grammatical constructions
- **PRONUNCIATION:** pronunciation and intonation

Once the tape has begun, it cannot be stopped, nor can you re-record a response.

When you have finished reading these directions, please look up. You will receive further instructions from your test administrator.

Look up when you are ready to begin.



DO NOT GO ON UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Sample Oral Expression in the Target Language Assignment

SUBAREA VII: ORAL EXPRESSION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE



Objective 0017

In response to a prompt, construct connected oral discourse in the target language that communicates a message effectively and that demonstrates a command of vocabulary and syntax appropriate to an educational setting.

For this section of the test, you will speak on tape in the target language in response to an assignment that is presented in the target language in your test booklet and that contains a description of an imaginary situation that requires oral communication: for example, resolving a problem you encounter while traveling in an area where the target language is spoken. You will read the assignment in your test booklet and have one minute to consider your response, then you will have two minutes to speak. The oral response that you record on tape in the target language will be evaluated on the basis of six major criteria:

- fullness of development of the topic;
- clarity and coherence of the message;
- fluency and ease of expression;
- demonstrated command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions;
- accuracy in handling of syntax and grammatical constructions; and
- accuracy of pronunciation and intonation.

An excellent response to the assignment will address the assigned topic and develop the topic by extensive elaboration of specific points. The response will be delivered in a consistently clear manner. The speaker will speak fluently, using a variety of sentences. The speaker will show mastery of a broad vocabulary, including appropriate use of idiomatic expressions. The speaker will handle simple and complex linguistic constructions, avoiding errors that interfere with communication. The speaker will exhibit good to excellent pronunciation and intonation.

(You will hear and read in the test booklet in English:)

12. **Read the instructions below. You will have 1 minute to study these instructions. Then, when you are told to do so, begin to respond in the target language. You may take up to 2 minutes to complete your response. You will be told when the 2 minutes are up. You may begin studying the instructions now. You will be told when to begin speaking.**

(You will read in the test booklet in French:)

Imaginez que le professeur de gymnastique de l'école secondaire dans laquelle vous travaillez vous demande de communiquer en français avec la famille de l'un de vos élèves. Votre collègue a découvert que l'élève est extraordinairement doué dans un sport et voudrait l'inviter à rentrer dans l'équipe de l'école, pour jouer et s'entraîner après les classes. Pendant la saison, l'équipe s'entraîne deux fois par semaine après l'école, et joue plusieurs matchs contre les équipes des autres écoles locales. Le professeur de gymnastique souhaite que vous obteniez la permission des parents de l'élève pour qu'il puisse participer.

Appelez les parents de l'élève au téléphone et, en français :

- (1) introduisez-vous et expliquez la raison de votre appel, et
- (2) décrivez les avantages potentiels que l'élève retirerait de cette activité.

Traitez bien des deux sujets ci-dessus. Vous pouvez inclure, entre autres, les sujets suivants :

- l'évaluation des talents de l'élève par le professeur de gymnastique,
- des informations pratiques sur l'entraînement et sur les matchs,
- l'expérience sociale et sportive que l'élève retirera probablement de sa participation à l'équipe.

Performance Characteristics for the Oral Expression Assignments

The following characteristics guide the scoring of responses to the oral expression assignments.

DEVELOPMENT	fullness of development of the topic
COHERENCE	clarity and coherence of the message
FLUENCY	fluency and ease of expression
VOCABULARY	command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions
SYNTAX	handling of syntax and grammatical constructions
PRONUNCIATION	pronunciation and intonation

Scoring Scale for the Oral Expression Assignments

Scores will be assigned to responses to the oral expression assignments according to the following scoring scale.

Score	Score Point Description
4	The candidate fully addresses the assigned topic and develops the topic by extensive elaboration of specific points. The candidate delivers a consistently clear message. The candidate speaks fluently and uses a variety of sentences. The speaker displays mastery of a broad vocabulary, including appropriate idiomatic expressions. The speaker handles simple and complex linguistic constructions, making only minor grammatical errors that do not interfere with communication. The speaker exhibits good to excellent pronunciation and intonation.
3	The candidate adequately addresses the assigned topic, with some elaboration of a few points. The candidate generally delivers a clear message. The candidate speaks with some hesitation, using a limited variety of sentence structures. The speaker uses appropriate but limited idiomatic expressions and vocabulary. The speaker shows good command of simple linguistic constructions, with some errors in more complex statements, and makes noticeable grammatical errors that cause minor interruptions in intelligibility. There are minor mistakes in pronunciation and intonation that do not interfere with communication.
2	The candidate addresses the assigned topic in a very limited way, with minimal elaboration. The candidate delivers a message that is intermittently difficult to understand. The candidate speaks with frequent hesitation, using simple and repetitive sentence structures. The speaker uses very simple vocabulary, lacking some key words and expressions. The speaker handles only simple linguistic constructions, with uneven command, and makes frequent grammatical errors that significantly impede comprehension. Pronunciation and intonation are sufficiently faulty to make comprehension sometimes difficult.
1	The candidate inadequately addresses the assigned topic, without elaborating any points. The candidate generally fails to communicate a clear message. The speaker hesitates frequently, making speech sound fragmented and choppy. The speaker exhibits inadequate command of vocabulary to communicate a complete message. The speaker shows little command of basic elements of sentence structure, grammar, and syntax. Frequent errors are made in pronunciation and intonation, making speech generally very difficult to understand.