

2021/2022 LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

STUDENT APPLICATION PACKAGE

Coast-Metro Challenge Consortium

- ABBOTSFORD - BURNABY - COQUITLAM - DELTA - HOWE SOUND - LANGLEY - NEW WESTMINSTER -
- NORTH VANCOUVER - RICHMOND - SURREY - VANCOUVER - WEST VANCOUVER -

STEPS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FOR LANGUAGE CHALLENGE:

1. Review this Student Application Package – **please note that the application form starting on page 9 should be typed online before printing this package** (<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams>).
2. If you have successfully completed the course previously then you are not allowed to Challenge it (e.g. if you have already completed French 12 with a C+, you cannot Challenge French 12 to improve the mark).
3. Visit the Language Challenge web page at:
<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams> for further information on the exams
4. Complete the application form including the “Personal Background” (note: the “Personal Background” should be placed by the Counsellor in the student’s file, and is not to be submitted). Attach a recent photo of yourself.
5. Review completed application with your school counsellor. Counsellor should sign the front of your photo to attest that the picture is of you.
6. If the application is approved by the counsellor, attach a cheque for \$50 (refundable deposit, made to the Delta School District) and submit the package to your counsellor before the November 5, 2021 deadline. **Adults who are registered in the Adult Graduation Program** submit a \$50 refundable deposit (deposit is returned if you show up to do the exam). **Independent (private) School students, adult applicants who are not registered in the Adult Graduation Program and all International Students** submit \$195.00 as a non-refundable fee for exams (school districts are paying the exam costs of the public school students).
7. Please make all **cheques payable to the Delta School District**. On the back of the cheque, please print the **student’s full name, school, and the course being challenged**.
8. We will be contacting you by email to confirm your registration into your requested exam by the middle of December. If you have not received an email from us by December 17, 2021 please check your junk folder and, if needed, contact us by email pmanuel@deltaschools.ca or phone 604-940-5550.

9. COURSES AVAILABLE FOR CHALLENGE

Language Challenge Exams will be available in the following subject areas in 2021/2022:

- French 11/12
- Japanese 11/12
- Korean 11/12
- Mandarin 11/12 (simplified & traditional characters)
- Punjabi 11/12
- Spanish 11/12

<u>January 29, 2022</u>	<u>January 30, 2022</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French 12 • Japanese 11/12 • Korean 12 • Mandarin 11 (simplified) • Mandarin 11 (traditional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French 11 • Korean 11 • Mandarin 12 (traditional) • Mandarin 12 (simplified) • Punjabi 11/12 • Spanish 11/12

Non-Language Challenge Exams:

Please contact your school district for information regarding non-language challenge exams.

Please Register At Your School

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

November 5, 2021

LANGUAGE CHALLENGE EXAMINATIONS:

January 29th and 30th, 2022 (see schedule above)

Note: Language Challenge Examinations are administered by the Delta School District on behalf of the Coast-Metro Challenge Consortium. Challenge Examinations in other (non-language) subjects are administered by local School Districts.

Purpose

The purpose of Challenge is to permit students to obtain credit for a Grade 11 or 12 course who have already acquired the appropriate learning elsewhere. All students are entitled to request an opportunity to challenge a course for credit. Students who request the opportunity to challenge a course must be able to give strong and compelling evidence that they will succeed in the challenge and that it is in their best interests. A successful challenge results in a student receiving credit for the appropriate content as well as a school mark.

It is a strong recommendation, given the mature level of understanding required in the challenge activities, that students challenge the grade 11 course while they are in grade 10 and not before. Students would ordinarily be in grade 11 when they apply to challenge a grade 12 course, allowing them to take the course in grade 12 if they are unsuccessful with the Language Challenge.

Challenge provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate that they have satisfied the learning outcomes of a course in the graduation program and to enable them to earn credits without taking the course. It is anticipated that Challenge will be necessary and appropriate only in exceptional circumstances.

The process of Challenge is meant to be rigorous, maintaining the integrity of the curriculum and the standards of a quality education. It is intended for students of exceptional ability or for those who have had exceptional opportunities for learning through some special circumstance.

Challenge is not envisioned as a way for students to improve their course marks, nor as a replacement for the valuable experience of learning in a classroom setting.

Challenge is intended to acknowledge student learning so that students do not have to participate in courses which would be repetitive for them. It also allows students to broaden their high school program by selecting additional courses or to enrich their lives in other ways, such as pursuing personal interests in the Fine Arts or Athletics.

Students should show their readiness to challenge a course by demonstrating:

- **exceptional ability related to the course;**
- **knowledge, understanding, and skills equivalent to the prescribed learning outcomes for the course.**

Limitations

For the 2021/2022 school year, the Coast-Metro Challenge Consortium is providing Language Challenge exam opportunities for courses listed on page 3.

Any Grade 11 or Grade 12 course that is currently offered in the school district may be challenged for credit. In order to be eligible to participate in the challenge process, a student should be enrolled in the school district, registered for home schooling, or enrolled in the distance education school where the challenge is requested.

The Counsellor will conduct a pre-Challenge Equivalency review (please see Challenge website) in order to ensure that the student is not better suited to proceed with Equivalency instead of Challenge.

Provincial exams are no longer required or offered for language courses.

A student may challenge a course only once. Students who have successfully completed a course may not write a challenge exam in the same subject at a later date for the purpose of improving their mark. Students who have previously failed a course may write the challenge exam at a later date provided they show evidence that the learning outcomes have since been met. Consult your school for further information.

Students who would like to improve their mark in the course that they challenged are still eligible to take the course in a classroom setting at a later date.

Due to scheduling limitations, a student may be limited to challenging only one language course in the same year. It is strongly recommended that students carefully consider the implications of Challenging more than one course in the same year.

Structure of the Challenge Process

The Challenge process has two distinct parts: registration and examination. The details of these two phases will differ from one course to another, but the general structure is as follows:

1. Registration

The registration process involves demonstration of readiness, and in some cases, an initial assessment. Applications for a Challenge examination will only be accepted at the student's school. Complete applications will be accepted at the school until **November 5th, 2021**. If your school does not accept your application please contact us directly at 604-940-5550.

Please Note:

- Only fully completed applications will be accepted. Incomplete applications will be returned to the school.
- Check with your school to see if your school has an earlier deadline for processing your application form.

2. Examination

Students will be contacted in writing (email) as to the time and place of the examination. The exam will be held at a central location and will involve students from many schools and districts. The evaluation includes a traditional paper and pencil test, as well as listening and speaking sections.

Please Note:

- Students must be available between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on their exam day (January 29th and 30th, 2022 – refer to exam schedule).
- Students cannot choose or change their assigned exam date.
- Refunds, withdrawals, and changes cannot be granted after December 10th, 2021.
- Enter correct email address on the application (if you do not receive a confirmation email by Dec. 17th check your Junk email folder, and please contact us by email pmanuel@deltaschools.ca or phone 604-940-5550)

Results

The results of the Challenge process will be communicated in writing to the student, and their school. The school will record the result as a part of the student's record.

Fees

For the majority of applicants (public school students and adults who are registered in the Adult Graduation Program), the examinations are provided free of charge as per Ministry of Education policy. A refundable deposit of \$50 will be charged to all public school students which will be refunded on the day of the exam (this fee will not be returned if you do not show up for the exam). Independent school students, Adult students and International Students pay \$195.00 for exam fees.

- Please make cheques payable to the **Delta School District**.
- Please clearly print the **student's full name, school, and the course being challenged on the back of the cheque**.

Cancellations/Withdrawals and Changes Refund Policy

All requests for cancellation, withdrawal or change **must** be made in writing to your local school district. Cancellation/withdrawal requests received up to December 10th, 2021 will be subject to a \$25.00 administration fee. For requests after December 10th, 2021 no refunds will be issued and no changes will be made.

Note: Students must be available between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on their exam day (January 29th and 30th, 2022 – refer to schedule).

Repeat/Duplicate Registrations

Students can challenge a given course only once. If a student is found to have submitted a registration for a course that they have already challenged, the application will be returned and a non-refundable administrative processing fee of \$25.00 will apply.

Students who have successfully completed a Language course may **not** challenge it at a later date for the purpose of improving their mark. Students who have previously failed a course may write the challenge exam at a later date, provided they show solid evidence that they have worked on that course in the interim and that the learning outcomes have since been met.

Results for Language Examinations

Examination results will be mailed out to the students and schools in the last week of March 2022. There are **no exceptions** for providing the examination results earlier than this date.

Further Information

Students are encouraged to review the current IRP to review the expected learning outcomes (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/second-languages/all/courses>). Teachers and counselors are also available to assist students in clarifying what must be done to successfully meet a Challenge and to determine whether to proceed with a Challenge. Please see your counselor or teacher for more information.

All students are encouraged to visit the official Language Challenge Web page to get the more information:

<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams>

For Student File Only – Not To Be Submitted
PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Note: This information is useful for the Counsellor in determining the suitability of the candidate. We ask that this information be placed in the student's file and not be forwarded with the application package. Please check (✓) the boxes that apply:

1. I have acquired my knowledge of the language as follows: (check (✓) as many as apply)

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>No. of years</u>	<u>Where</u>
PROGRAMME FRANCOPHONE:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
SCHOOL IMMERSION PROGRAM:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
LIVED IN AREA WHERE LANGUAGE SPOKEN:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
LIVE IN HOME WHERE LANGUAGE SPOKEN:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

I would rate my ability in the language as follows:

	<u>Beginner</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Advanced</u>
UNDERSTAND (Listening)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPEAK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
READ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. I have reviewed and am able to demonstrate mastery of the provincial learning outcomes (IRP) designated for the course challenge. I realize that a variety of assessment procedures will be used.

☐ YES ☐ NO

3. I understand that the challenge examination will include the provincial learning outcomes (IRP) of the full course.

☐ YES ☐ NO

4. This Challenge supports my academic goals in the following way(s):

5. I have chosen the following supporting documents to share with teachers and/or other school personnel:

Report cards: ☐
Certificate of achievement: ☐
Letter of recommendation:
(outside agency) ☐

6. I have reviewed the exam specifications
(<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams>) and IRP
(<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/second-languages/all/courses>) and am fully
prepared to write the Challenge exam.

☐ YES ☐ NO

7. I understand:

- ☐ I must be available between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on exam days (January 29th and 30th, 2022 – see schedule on p. 3).
- ☐ I cannot choose or change my assigned exam date.

8. ☐ I understand that if I need to cancel or withdraw from the Challenge exam and want a refund, I must notify the Challenge contact at my school in writing. (A \$25.00 administration fee will be charged on all refund requests received by December 10th, 2021. Refunds will not be issued after December 10th, 2021 and no changes will be made.)

11. ☐ I have **NOT** previously written a Challenge Exam for this course and received a passing grade.

You are not allowed to take the Challenge Exam if you have passed the exam previously – you cannot take it again to improve your mark. See your Counsellor for details.

(Student Signature)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

2021/2022 APPLICATION FOR CHALLENGE

Please type all highlighted fields before printing this application. Please complete a separate form for each course being challenged. Multiple registrations using the same form will not be accepted and will be returned to the school.

Date of Application: _____

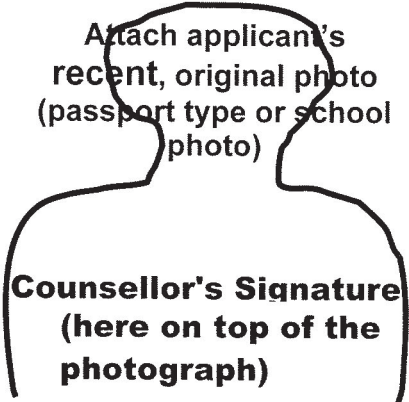
Subject of Challenge: _____

Exam Subject (Drop Down box)

(Use the Special Adjudication area below only if you need special assistance with your exam. For example you may have a learning disability, hearing or vision issues, or other physical challenges)

Please indicate if there is a need for Special Adjudication Provisions by STAPLING the appropriate documentation to the front of this application -- state clearly the student's needs.

Attach applicant's
recent, original photo
(passport type or school
photo)



Counsellor's Signature
(here on top of the
photograph)

- ☐ This is the likeness of the student applying for this Challenge (✓)
School official must sign the front/top of the photo.

STUDENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Last Name: _____ Given Name(s): _____

Usual Name (if different from above): _____

Student PEN Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Apt. #: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____ Gender: M ☐ F ☐ Other _____
Day Month Year

School: _____

School District: _____

International Student: Yes ☐ No ☐ Email: _____

We will contact you through your email address -- please make sure it is current and correct

☐ A refundable fee of \$50.00 is enclosed. (Independent School, International students and Adults please attach a cheque for \$195.00 for exam fees – non-refundable). Please make all cheques payable to the **Delta School District**. Print the full name of the **student, school, and course** on the back of the cheque.

Deadline for Registration: **November 5th, 2021**

Exam dates are either: **January 29th and 30th, 2022** (*exam schedule on page 3*)

Note: There will be a \$25.00 administration fee charged on refund requests received up to December 10th, 2021. No refunds or changes will be given after December 10th, 2021

Name of Parent or Guardian (please print in English)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

* For Mandarin exams, the Traditional Character version and Simplified Character version of the examination are exactly the same in content. However, the two examinations use different Chinese characters (traditional or simplified). Generally, students who have received their education in Taiwan and Hong Kong apply for the Traditional Mandarin examination. Students who are from Mainland China generally apply for the Simplified Mandarin examination.

If you are unsure about which examination you should write, please speak with your school Counsellor.

TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL

ATTACH THIS FORM TO APPLICATION FOR SUBMISSION

Please check (✓) each area to make sure the application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned to the school.

Student Name: _____

- ☐ The applicant's photo is an original and the face of the photograph has been endorsed by a school official. The photograph is a recent, clear, "passport-like" photo.
 - ☐ The first page giving personal information has been fully completed, including the PEN number.
 - ☐ A refundable cheque for the fee of \$50.00 has been enclosed. The full name of the student and school are printed clearly on the back of the cheque. **Independent School, International, and Adult Students** attach a non-refundable fee of \$195.00. **All cheques payable to Delta School District.**
 - ☐ The Personal Background pages have been completed:
 - ☐ how knowledge of the subject was acquired;
 - ☐ how the Challenge Exam fits into the student's learning plan;
 - ☐ signatures.
- (reminder: please place Personal Background in the student's file, do not submit with the application)
- ☐ Supporting documents have been reviewed. Student is not eligible for Equivalency.
- ☐ I have read the information below.
 - ***Students who have written and received a passing grade for this challenge exam in the past are not permitted to write the challenge exam again. If a student is found to have submitted a duplicate application, their application form will be returned and they will be charged a non-refundable \$25.00 processing fee.***
 - ***Students who are currently registered in the subject being challenged are not eligible to write the challenge exam.***

School stamp: _____

Date: _____

(Name of person responsible for Challenges at the school)

(Signature of person responsible for Challenges at the school)

Counsellor's Email: _____

If you are sending this application directly to us -- please submit by November 19th 2021 to:

***Attn: Phil Manuel
Delta Continuing Education
4750 – 57th Street
Delta, BC V4K 3C9***

2021/2022 LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

Also refer to:

- Student Application Package

COAST-METRO CHALLENGE CONSORTIUM

- ABBOTSFORD - BURNABY - COQUITLAM - DELTA - HOWE SOUND - LANGLEY - NEW
WESTMINSTER - NORTH VANCOUVER - RICHMOND - SURREY - VANCOUVER - WEST VANCOUVER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It is highly recommended that all counsellors read the Ministry of Education policy regarding the Language Challenge process in detail on the Ministry website (link below):

1. All public school students (and Adults who are registered in the Adult Graduation Program) are entitled to a free challenge process for any course taught by their school district
2. Students may challenge courses not taught by their own school district through another school district
3. The Ministry will fund every successfully completed course Challenge at the same rate as a 1-credit course – approximately \$235.00
4. Counsellors must do a pre-Challenge Equivalency review before recommending students for a Challenge. "Schools must document the Challenge assessment delivered to each student, including a pre-Challenge Equivalency review, and the documentation must be made available to Ministry auditors if requested (MoE Challenge Policy Document)." ([link below](#)).

Public school students and Adults who are registered in the Adult Graduation Program will not be charged any fees for the Language Challenge Exams; instead they will pay a \$50 refundable deposit, to be refunded on exam day (deposit will be forfeited if they do not show for the exam). We will bill the school districts directly for students who apply for Language Challenge Exams at a rate of \$195 per exam (note: the districts will be reimbursed at approximately \$235 per successful student).

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ADULTS (not registered in Adult Grad Program):

The cost for Language Challenge exams for students from Independent Schools, Adult Students (not registered in the Adult Grad Program) or International Students is \$195 per exam. The cheque for \$195 should be attached to the application when it is submitted (payable to Delta School District). Independent Schools can be refunded for each successful Challenge according the percentage of the funding you receive from the Ministry – please check with Ministry.

(<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/earning-credit-through-equivalency-challenge-external-credentials-post-secondary-credit-and-independent-directed-studies>).

STEPS FOR COUNSELLORS HELPING WITH LANGUAGE CHALLENGE APPLICATIONS:

1. Familiarize yourself with this Information Booklet and the Student Application Package – **please note that students are required to type highlighted areas on page 9 of the application form online (PDF) before they print the application.**
2. Communicate the availability of Language Challenge to Students and Staff (bulletins, TV monitors, website, etc.)
3. Instruct students to go to our webpage so they can complete the application before they print it and submit it to you. They can google “Language Challenge Exams” or some variation to find it:
<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams>
4. Provide course IRPs or ensure students know where to get this information (ministry website, Challenge web page)
5. Determine that the student is not better suited to receive credit through Equivalency. Review completed applications with students to make sure they provide sufficient evidence regarding their ability to challenge the course. Please check details on page 9 (a common mistake is student number instead of PEN).
6. If the student meets with your (counsellor’s) approval, place the completed “Personal Background” in their file.
7. Ensure that there is a current “passport-type” photo (endorsed with your signature directly on the photo) and a cheque for \$50.00, made to the Delta School District, attached. Forward the completed “2021/2022 Student Application Package” to your District Challenge Contact by November 12, 2021. All applications have to be submitted to the Delta School District by November 19th, 2021.

Independent and Non-Consortium Schools:

Please Note: Independent Schools and Schools that are not a part of the Coast-Metro Challenge Consortium can send their application forms directly to the Delta School District by November 19th, 2021.

Attn: Phil Manuel
Delta Continuing Education
4750 – 57th Street
Delta, BC V4K 3C9

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CHALLENGE INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF CHALLENGE

The purpose of Challenge is to permit students to obtain credit for a Grade 11 or 12 course who have already acquired the appropriate learning elsewhere. All students are entitled to request an opportunity to challenge courses for credit. Students who request the opportunity to challenge a course must be able to give strong and compelling evidence that they will succeed in the challenge and that it is in their best interests.

Challenge provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate that they have satisfied the learning outcomes of a course in the graduation program and to enable them to earn credits without taking the course. It is anticipated that Challenge will be necessary and appropriate only in exceptional circumstances.

The process of Challenge is meant to be rigorous, maintaining the integrity of the curriculum and the standards of a quality education. It is intended for students of exceptional ability or for those who have had exceptional opportunities for learning through some special circumstance.

Challenge is not a way for students to improve their course marks, nor a replacement for the valuable experience of learning in a classroom setting.

COURSES AVAILABLE FOR CHALLENGE

For 2021/2022, course challenges will be available in the following subject areas:

Language Challenge Exams:

Administered by the Delta School District

- French 11/12
- Japanese 11/12
- Korean 11/12
- Mandarin 11/12 (traditional & simplified characters)
- Punjabi 11/12
- Spanish 11/12

Non-Language Challenge Exams:

Please contact your school district for information regarding non-language challenge exams.

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Course Challenge 2021 – 2022 Timeline

September 2021	Course challenge applications, guidelines and specifications updated on the webpage.
November 5, 2021	Completed student applications for the challenge process due at the school level. The schools have one week to send applications to their district contact (Nov. 12, 2021) or two weeks to get applications directly to us
November 19, 2021	All applications for challenge are delivered to the Delta School District (Delta Continuing Education)
December 10, 2021	Last day for cancellation, withdrawal or changes. Requests must be made in writing.
December 2021	Confirmation letters (email) sent to students, reports sent to schools.
January 29th and 30th, 2022	Language Challenge examination dates (see Exam Schedule below).
March 2022	Results mailed to students and to schools

Dates of Language Challenge Examinations

The Language Challenge Examination will be held on **January 29th & 30th 2022**.

Students must be available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on their exam day (see exam schedule below). Students cannot choose or change their assigned exam date.

Refunds, withdrawals, and changes cannot be granted after December 10th 2021 to students who are unable to write the exam due to scheduling conflicts.

<u>January 29, 2022</u>	<u>January 30, 2022</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French 12 • Japanese 11/12 • Korean 12 • Mandarin 11 (simplified) • Mandarin 11 (traditional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French 11 • Korean 11 • Mandarin 12 (traditional) • Mandarin 12 (simplified) • Punjabi 11/12 • Spanish 11/12

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CHALLENGE LIMITATIONS

For the 2021/2022 school year, the Coast-Metro Challenge Consortium is providing Language Challenge exam opportunities for courses listed on page one.

Any Grade 11 or Grade 12 course that is currently offered in the school district may be challenged for credit. In order to be eligible to participate in the challenge process, a student should be enrolled in the school district, registered for home schooling, or enrolled in the distance education school where the challenge is requested.

The Counsellor will conduct a pre-Challenge Equivalency review (please see Challenge website) in order to ensure that the student is not better suited to proceed with Equivalency instead of Challenge.

A student may challenge a course only once. Students who have successfully completed a course may not write a challenge exam in the same subject at a later date for the purpose of improving their mark. Students who have previously failed a course may write the challenge exam at a later date provided they show evidence that the learning outcomes have since been met. Consult your school for further information.

Students who would like to improve their mark in the course that they challenged are still eligible to take the course in a classroom setting at a later date.

Due to scheduling limitations, a student may be limited to challenging only one language course in the same year. It is strongly recommended that students carefully consider the implications of Challenging more than one course in the same year. If the schedule allows, with their counsellors permission, students may challenge more than one course.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following information is intended to assist counsellors and school administrators with challenge procedures.

1. **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “PLACEMENT”, “EQUIVALENCY” AND “CHALLENGE”? (See Appendix C for more information)**

“Placement” refers to the internal process of assessing students for the purpose of placing them at a higher level. It does not give credit for the lower level. Students could be placed into grade 12 without challenging grade 11, if schools wish. But in this instance, the students cannot receive credit for the grade 11 level on their transcript.

“Equivalency” is used when students have earned credentials from outside the BC school system and these are deemed by the Ministry (or the District) to be the equivalent of course credentials offered through the school.

“Challenge” refers to the process of participating in a formal evaluation of grade 11 and 12 courses in order to receive credit with a percentage mark on the transcript.

Language courses do not have provincial exams.

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2. IS THIS PARTICULAR CHALLENGE PROCESS MANDATORY?

For students who do not have proper documentation allowing them to receive credit through Equivalency, Challenge is an approved way to receive credit with a percentage mark for grade 11 and 12 Language courses. The other option is for the student to take the course.

3. CAN STUDENTS BE COUNSELLED TO NOT ATTEMPT THE CHALLENGE?

Students need the opportunity to discuss the merits, the process of challenge and its place in the student's academic goals, with counsellors and other appropriate staff. Where a counsellor and/or teacher believe a student has insufficient background to successfully challenge a course, the student should be counselled to not proceed. However, students should not be denied their choice to undertake a course challenge. Furthermore, students need to know that the course challenge is rigorous, and processing the student's application to participate in the challenge process does not guarantee high or even passing results.

4. CAN STUDENTS CHALLENGE AGAIN IF THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE MARK?

No, students can challenge a given course only once. They are eligible to take the course later if the challenge was unsuccessful. The higher mark of the two will appear on the transcript

Students who have successfully completed a course may not write a challenge exam in the same subject at a later date for the purpose of improving their mark.

If a student is found to have submitted a duplicate application to write a challenge examination, a \$25.00 administrative processing fee will apply and the student's application will be returned to their home school.

5. CAN STUDENTS CHALLENGE A COURSE THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY FAILED?

Students who have previously failed a course may write the challenge exam at a later date, provided they show solid evidence that they have worked on that course in the interim and that the learning outcomes have since been met.

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6. CAN STUDENTS CHALLENGE A COURSE IN WHICH THEY ARE REGISTERED?

No. Students can either register in a course or challenge the course – they cannot do both.

7. CAN A STUDENT WRITE A CHALLENGE FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF A COURSE IF THEY HAVE ALREADY PASSED THE COURSE?

Students may not challenge a course once they have already completed that course.

8. WHAT SUPPORT OTHER THAN INFORMING STUDENTS ABOUT THE CHALLENGE PROCESS AND ITS REQUIREMENTS CAN STUDENTS EXPECT FROM THEIR SCHOOL IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE CHALLENGE PROCESS?

Students are required to review the IRP (Learning Outcomes) and the Challenge Exam Specifications in order to apply for the course challenge. Students may request IRPs and textbooks for the course or be referred to the BC government website for the IRP (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/second-languages/all/courses>). The language challenge exam specifications can be found at <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams/>. Schools are not expected to “coach” or “instruct” students in any other way. The idea is that students are already very familiar with the subject matter for that level.

9. AT WHAT GRADE LEVEL SHOULD A STUDENT CHALLENGE A GRADE 11 OR 12 COURSE?

It is a strong recommendation, given the mature level of understanding required in the challenge activities, that students challenge the grade 11 course while they are in grade 10 and not before. Grade 8 or 9 students will probably fare better if they wait until grade 10 if they are concerned about marks. Another reason for recommending grade 10 is to leave open the option of taking the course in grade 11 if the challenge is not successful. Students would ordinarily be in grade 11 before they apply to challenge a grade 12 course.

10. DO THE UNIVERSITIES REQUIRE A GRADE 11 LANGUAGE IF THE STUDENT HAS A GRADE 12 LEVEL LANGUAGE?

According to the registrar’s office at UBC and SFU there is no need to have a grade 11 level language on the transcript if there is a grade 12 level language to fulfill the language requirement.

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11. IS THERE PROVISION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

Students requiring special adjudication procedures must attach appropriate documentation to the application form and request this provision as per the *Provincial Examination Guidelines for Students with Special Needs*.

12. DOES THE STUDENT STILL HAVE TO TAKE A PROVINCIAL EXAM FOR A LANGUAGE CHALLENGE COURSE?

No, there are no provincial exams for language courses.

13. WHO QUALIFIES FOR A “FREE” CHALLENGE EXAM?

For students in the public school system the Language Challenge Exam fee is paid by their school districts (who are then reimbursed by the Ministry of Education).

Adults registered in the Adult Graduation program are also paid for by their school district. These two groups pay a \$50 refundable fee which is returned to them if they show-up for the exams.

Independent School students, International students and Adults not registered in the Adult Graduation program pay the fee for the exams (\$195 per challenge exam). This fee is non-refundable unless the student cancels before the Dec 10th 2021 deadline (a \$25 administration fee is deducted). All cheques are payable to the Delta School District.

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SECTION 1: SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.1 Identify one person who will take responsibility for Challenge Procedures in the school.
- 1.2 Decide upon a method to communicate Challenge Procedures with staff, students, and parents. For example:
 - Teachers:* Staff bulletins, staff meetings and Department meetings
 - Students:* Course selection booklets, Grade assemblies
Challenge Awareness/Information Evenings
TV monitors, website, notice boards and library displays
 - Parents:* Newsletters for home
PAC/Challenge Awareness Evenings
Meet the teacher nights
Link on school website
- 1.3 Provide students with appropriate IRPs, Challenge Exam Specifications, information pamphlets – explain that students have to complete the application form online before printing it for submission to their school.
- 1.4 Determine that the student is not eligible for Equivalency before approving for Challenge. Review applications for challenge.
- 1.5 Ensure cheque is attached -- \$50.00 (per course) Refundable Exam Deposit. (Please note: students who choose not to show up for the exam forfeit the deposit). ***Independent School, International and Adults students (not registered in the Adult Grad Program) attach \$195 cheque. Make all cheques payable to the Delta School District.***
- 1.6 Endorse the student's recent photo. Someone who knows the student at the school should do this. Please ensure that the picture is a recent, clear, "passport-like" photograph.
- 1.7 Forward all completed applications to your District Challenge Contact by November 12, 2021. (Retain photocopies of all documents for school records).
(*Note: District Contacts are required to forward Language Challenge applications to the Delta School District by November 19, 2021.*)

Please note:

The procedures at the school are a school-based issue. Usually, the Counselling Department would promote Challenge information, collect applications, verify photo ID and sign off the Personal Qualifications and Application Forms. Counsellors might refer students to subject Department Heads and other classroom teachers at their discretion.

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SECTION 2: STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Student completes **Student Application Package online (page 9) at our website before printing it for submission to their school** (discuss with parents).
<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams>
- 2.2 Student discusses “Challenge” suitability with Counsellor and a relevant Subject Teacher, and reviews Challenge Exam Specifications for the specific subject(s).
- 2.3 Student, in consultation with parents, checks to ensure that the course challenge meets their academic goals. The student refers to the exam specifications, learning outcomes (IRP) and notes any requirements.
- 2.4 Student completes the Challenge Application Form on website and prints (includes supporting documentation) and returns this form to the Counsellor who reviews the student’s readiness to challenge the course with the student.
- 2.5 After review by the Counsellor, the student must submit for attachment to the Challenge Application Form:
 - \$50.00 cheque. (*Cheque must have student’s name and school clearly marked on the back – this cheque is returned on exam day – if student is unable to attend the exam they will forfeit this money*). All Independent, International and Adult Students (not registered in the Adult Grad Program) attach \$195 cheque. Make all cheques payable to Delta School District.
 - Current school year photo ID that has been endorsed by a school official (signed on the actual photograph so we know the photo has not been substituted by the student).
- 2.6 Check the Language Challenge Web page for additional information:
<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams>.

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COURSES AVAILABLE FOR CHALLENGE

In the 2021/2022 school year, course challenges will be available in the following subject areas:

Language Challenge Exams:

Administered by the Delta School District

- French 11/12
- Japanese 11/12
- Korean 11/12
- Mandarin 11/12
- Punjabi 11/12
- Spanish 11/12

Non-Language Challenge Exams:

Please contact your school district for information regarding non-language challenge exams.

Please Register At Your School

REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Students

November 5, 2021

Deadline for Submission of Applications by Schools/Districts to Delta:

November 19, 2021

CHALLENGE EXAMINATIONS DATES

LANGUAGE: January 29th and 30th, 2022
(please see exam schedule on p. 2)

Mail Applications to:

Attn: Phil Manuel
Delta Continuing Education
4750-57th St
Delta, BC V4K 3C9

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APPENDIX A

EXTERNAL LEARNING

<u>EQUIVALENCY</u>	<u>CHALLENGE</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes documented learning from outside the BC school system which the Ministry and local school districts deem equivalent to the learning outcomes of a Ministry-Authorized or Locally Developed grade 11 and 12 course. • Where the Ministry has not assessed equivalency credentials from other institutions school boards have the authority to determine equivalency. e.g., Credit granted for a local Dance Studio program that is an 80% or better match of learning outcomes for Dance 11 Performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows students to receive credit and a percentage mark for a provincially developed grade 11 or 12 course, offered within a district, through a process of assessing the relevant knowledge and skills they have gained elsewhere. • Courses will be normally available for Challenge one year after full implementation of their Integrated Resource Packages (IRP). e.g., Credit granted through a Spanish 12 challenge process would provide a mark and percentage grade for the course.

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Some Helpful Steps

<u>EQUIVALENCY</u>	<u>CHALLENGE</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct students to gather relevant certificates and documentation for an equivalency review. 2. Compare learning outcomes from Appendix A of the IRPs for equivalencies. A high degree of overlap or 80% match to learning outcomes is required. 3. Develop your own district's equivalency list for local frequently requested reviews. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The challenge process is required if there is no documentation for equivalency review. 2. Ministry-Authorized grade 11 or 12 courses taught within a district are available for challenge. 3. This process provides credit with a percentage mark.

CASE STUDY #1

Shi Wei has recently come from Taiwan and is enrolled in grade 11. She studied English as a foreign language in her high school in Taipei, but the language of instruction for the rest of her schooling was Mandarin Chinese. Shi Wei and her parents want to ensure that she has the necessary language prerequisites to enter post-secondary institutions. In the pre-Challenge Equivalency review the counsellor discovers that they have the documentation that would allow her to receive a letter grade in Mandarin 12. The counsellor recommends that Equivalency is better suited for this student and does not approve the application for Challenge.

CASE STUDY #2

Harjot is a student who emigrated from India before he completed elementary school. He has been attending a Heritage Language school on the weekends to maintain his Punjabi skills. The counsellor determines that Harjot does not have the prior education to receive Equivalency credit for Punjabi 12. However, after receiving recommendations from his Heritage school and his parents, the counsellor is confident that the student has sufficient skills to do a successful Challenge of Punjabi 12.