

2015/2016 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 (<http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/content/schools/secondary/challengeexams>)**.
2. Make sure you have **not** successfully completed the course that you are planning to Challenge (e.g. if you have completed French 12 previously with a C+, you cannot Challenge French 12 to improve the mark).
3. Visit the Language Challenge web page at:
<http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/content/schools/secondary/challengeexams> 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
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 October 30, 2015 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 \$155.00 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**.

COURSES AVAILABLE FOR CHALLENGE

Language Challenge Exams will be available in the following subject areas in 2015/2016:

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

<u>January 23, 2016</u>	<u>January 24, 2016</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French 12 • German 11/12 • 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:
October 30, 2015

LANGUAGE CHALLENGE EXAMINATIONS:
January 23rd and 24th, 2016 (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, or 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 2015/2016 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 **October 30th, 2015**. 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 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 23rd and 24th, 2016 – refer to exam schedule).
- Students cannot choose or change their assigned exam date.
- Refunds, withdrawals, and changes cannot be granted after December 11, 2015.

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 (please contact your counselor). 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 will pay \$155.00 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 11, 2015 will be subject to a \$25.00 administration fee. For requests after December 11, 2015, 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 23rd and 24th, 2016 – 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 are mailed out to the students and schools in the last week of March 2016. There are no exceptions for providing the Language Challenge examination results earlier than this date.

Further Information

A detailed description of the procedure and requirements for each course that may be challenged is available in the school. In addition, students are encouraged to review the current IRP to review the expected learning outcomes (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/). 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 following information:

- Exam specifications
- Frequently Asked Questions
- PDF copies of all documents
- Exam location
- Other information

<http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/content/schools/secondary/challengeexams>

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 (<http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/content/schools/secondary/challengeexams>) and IRP (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp) 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 23rd and 24th, 2016 – see schedule on p. 3).
- I cannot choose or change my assigned exam date.

- YES NO

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 11, 2015. Refunds will not be issued after December 11, 2015 and no changes will be made.)

- YES NO

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

- YES NO

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)

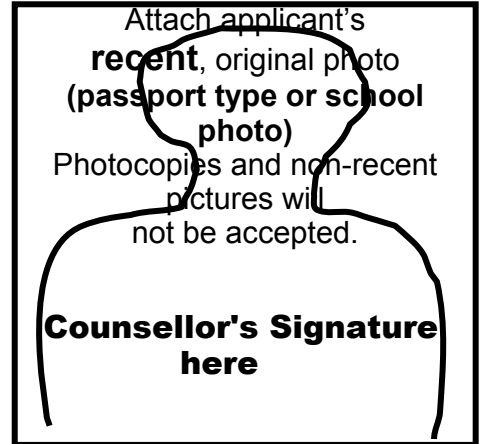
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

2015/2016 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: _____



(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.

- 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: _____ / _____ / _____ Sex: Male Female
Day Month Year

School: _____

School District: _____

International Student: Yes No Email: _____

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A refundable fee of \$50.00 is enclosed. (Independent School, International students and Adults please attach a cheque for \$155.00 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: **October 30th, 2015**

Exam dates are either: **January 23rd and 24th, 2016** (*exam schedule on page 3*)

Note: There will be a \$25.00 administration fee charged on refund requests received up to December 11, 2015. No refunds or changes will be given after December 11, 2015

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 \$155.00. **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;
 - input received at the school level;
 - 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 at their school or through a continuing education course in the subject being challenged are not eligible to write the challenge exam. Please check carefully this student is not currently enrolled in the course.**

School stamp: _____ Date: _____

 (Name of person responsible for
 Challenges at the school)

 (Signature of person responsible for
 Challenges at the school)