

Tutorial for the Web-Based Pashto Proficiency Test

Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region

The purpose of the test is to evaluate the language proficiency of people who are non-native speakers of Pashto.

The test has 3 sections:

Section 1: Listening Comprehension

Section 2: Grammar

Section 3: Reading Comprehension

1. Listening Comprehension

In this section of the test, you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to understand conversations, monologues and talks in Pashto. The audios used in this section vary in length and difficulty. One-third of the questions will be based on short dialogues that take place between two speakers. The rest are longer monologues and/or radio broadcasts. The total number of questions is 36. This section should be finished in 40 minutes.

Each passage has a photograph indicating the type of listening passage you are about to hear (dialogue, monologue, radio broadcast). Each passage plays automatically within ten seconds after you start the test.

The audio passages will not be repeated. After listening to the passage, read the question and the four possible answers. Choose the best answer.

Look at the following example:



Listen carefully and answer the questions that follow.



On the recording, you hear:

- سپينه، ستا مشر ورور اوس څه کار کوي؟
- زلميه، هغه موټروان دی، ټکسي چلوي.
- ستا پلار هم موټرواني کوي؟
- نه، هغه اوس کار نه کوي، متقاعد دی.

Question: What does Spin's father do?

- a. He drives a taxi.
- b. He is unemployed.
- c. He is a retiree.
- d. All of the above

Answer: You learn from the conversation that Spin's father is retired and does not work now. The best answer is "He is retired." Therefore, the correct choice is (c).

Once you choose your answer, click the button and proceed to the next question.

2. Grammar

This section measures the learner's ability to recognize language appropriate for standard written Pashto. There are three types of questions in this section. The total number of questions is 36. The grammar section should be finished within 40 minutes.

A. Sentence Completion: Questions in this format consist of sentences with one or two blanks; each blank indicates that something has been omitted. Beneath each sentence you will see four suffixes, words, or phrases marked (a), (b), (c), and (d). To complete the test, you need to choose the one option for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Look at the following example:

- پرون میوند د شپې په ۱۱ بجو.....
- a – بیدپده
 - b – بیده شو
 - c – بیدپري

d – بيده شري

This sentence should read, “پرون ميوند د شپي په ۱۱ بجو بيده شو.” Therefore, you should choose (b).

B. *Error Identification:* Questions in this format consist of sentences that have four bolded suffixes, words or phrases. Beneath each sentence you will see these bolded endings, words or phrases, marked (a), (b), (c), and (d). Identify the one option that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.

Look at the following example:

ه غه ځلمی چې هلته روان دئ زما تريبور دئ، ددی نوم گلجان دئ.

a – هغه ځلمی

b – روان دئ

c – تريبور دئ

d – ددی نوم

This sentence should read, “هغه ځلمی چې هلته روان دئ زما همتولکی دئ، دده نوم گلجان دئ.” Therefore, you should choose (d).

C. *Cloze Test:* Questions in this format consist of one- or two-paragraph texts. In each paragraph there are several numbered blanks. In order to complete this task, you will need to read through the entire paragraph, and for each numbered blank choose the expression that best completes the text from the options marked (a), (b), (c) and (d) beneath the paragraphs.

Look at the following examples:

On your screen, the numbered blank you need to complete will be highlighted in bright yellow.

د مزار شريف بناريانو او هغو سيلانيانو چې له (1) سيمو څخه
دغه بنار ته راغلي دي د سندرغاړو له هنر څخه خوند (2)

Question 1:

a – نور

b – نوره

c – نورې

d – نورو

This clause should read:

چې له نورو سيمو څخه دغه ښار ته راغلي دي،

Therefore, you should choose (d).

Once you choose the answer, click the button, and proceed to the next question.

د مزار شريف ښاريانو او هغو سيلانيانو چې له نورو سيمو څخه دغه ښار ته راغلي دي د سندرغاړو له هنر څخه خوند

Question 2:

a – واخيست

b – واخيستل

c – اخيستل

d – واخيستلي

This whole sentence should read:

د مزار شريف ښاريانو او هغو سيلانيانو چې له نورو سيمو څخه دغه ښار ته راغلي دي د سندرغاړو له هنر څخه خوند واخيست.

Therefore, you should choose (c).

Once you choose the answer, click the button, and proceed to a new paragraph.

3. Reading Comprehension

This section is designed to measure your ability to read and understand short passages that native speakers of Pashto are likely to encounter in their daily lives. The total number of questions is 36. This section should be finished within 60 minutes.

In this section you will read several passages. Each one is followed by a number of questions about the passage. To each question, you are to choose the single best answer provided beneath the passages and marked as (a), (b), (c) or (d).

Answer all the questions based on what is stated or implied in the passage.

يو کال لانه و تير چي صفوی دولت کندهار ته یو غټ پوځ د محمد رستم خان په مشرۍ راولپړه خو د میرویس سرتیرو د هغه پوځ ته سخته ماتې ورکړه. ددی جنگ نه وروسته د ایران دولت د ناچاری څخه د کندهار خپلواکی په رسمیت وپېژندله. میرویس چي له جگړو فارغ سو اته کاله یې شپه او ورځ د ملک په خدمت کي پوره زیار وایست، په ۱۱۳۰ هجری کښي وفات سو.

1. Which one of the following interpretations is closest to the meaning of the phrase يو کال لانه و تير ?
- a. During a year [*during the year? in the span/space of a year? throughout a/the year?*]
 - b. A year later
 - c. A year before
 - d. A year had not yet passed.

The phrase is formed with the verb تېرېدل 'to pass' and the particle of negation; thus, the option "a year had not yet passed" is the closest to the original, so you chose (d).

2. Who was sent to Kandahar and for what purpose?
- a. Muhammad Rustam as an ambassador to Kandahar.
 - b. A large army to fight against Kandahar forces.
 - c. Mirwais Nike as ruler of the Kandahar state.
 - d. Safawid state officials to negotiate with the Kandahar people.

The passage states that the soldiers of Mirwais Nike strongly defeated the troops under the command of Muhammad Rustam. So you chose (b).

Once you choose the answer, click the button, and proceed to a new paragraph.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ✓ Never leave any answers blank. Even if you are unsure of the correct response, you should answer each question.
- ✓ Make sure you have working headphones and/or speakers.
- ✓ It is highly recommended that you use the Internet Explorer web browser when taking this test.
- ✓ Once you click the **SUBMIT** button, you cannot resubmit it using the **BACK** button from your browser.
- ✓ Remember that you have a time limit. You can check the remaining time on the clock located in the right top corner of your screen.