

Language Background Questionnaire

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Language Acquisition **Language Acquisition Background** The School of Language Studies (SLS) is now giving all examinees taking a language test in the Division of Language Testing and Assessment (LTA) the opportunity to self-identify their status as native and heritage speakers by completing this form. The form should only take three to five minutes to complete. SLS will use this data to better understand the language background of our clientele and the potential role of unconscious bias among testing and training staff assessing language proficiency in SLS. SLS's Evaluation and Measurement Unit administers the form and analyzes the results. Responses will not be shared with the Division of Language Testing and Assessment or the language sections in SLS at any time. Data will be shared only in aggregate form. Respondents may complete the form 1) at the beginning of language training, 2) in LTA immediately after their language test, 3) when they receive their test score release email. Completion of the form is voluntary. OMB Control No: 1405-0193 Estimated burden: 3-5 minutes Expiration Date: 08-31-2024 Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3-5 minutes per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary documentation, providing the information and/or documents required, and reviewing the final collection. You do not have to supply this information unless this collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. If you have comments on the accuracy of this burden estimate and/or recommendations for reducing it, please send them to: fsislssurveys@state.gov.

Page Break

Q3 In the following items, we ask for your name and email address. We need this information to be able to link your responses with your test scores for analysis.

☐ First name (1) _____

☐ Middle initial (NMN if none) (2)

☐ Last name (3) _____

☐ Email address (.gov, .mil unless you are not an employee) (13)

Q4 In which language do you expect to take/did you take an FSI test?

▼ Albanian (1) ... Vietnamese (60)

Q13 The following pages ask questions about your experience with this language

Page Break _____

Q5 **Native speakers** of a language are raised in a home or community that speaks a language that is commonly used for communication in the region. They receive K-12 education in this language: for example, their math, art, or history classes are taught in a language spoken in their home. Do you consider yourself to be a native speaker of this language?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
- ☐ Not sure (3)
-

Q6 **Heritage speakers** of a language are raised in a home or community that speaks a language that is **not commonly used for communication in the region**. They do not receive any K-12 education in this language: for example, their math, art, or history classes are not taught in a language spoken in their home. Do you consider yourself to be a heritage speaker of this language?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
- ☐ Not sure (3)
-

Page Break

Q7 Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply.

- ☐ ☒ I have only learned or used this language in the context of my current FSI language-learning assignment. (1)
- ☐ This language was spoken in my home or by my family when I was a child. (2)
- ☐ I spent time as a child in a country or region where this was a language spoken by the community. (3)
- ☐ This language is currently spoken in my home or by my family. (4)
- ☐ I spent time as an adult in a country or region where this is a language spoken by the community. (5)
- ☐ Previous study at FSI before this current assignment. (6)
- ☐ Through government-sponsored language learning outside of FSI (as an adult). (7)

Display This Choice:

If Heritage speakers of a language are raised in a home or community that speaks a language that is... != Yes

- ☐ At least some K-12 education in the language, either through an immersion program or studying in a country where this was the primary language of instruction. (8)
- ☐ University-level study in country where this was the primary language of instruction. (9)
- ☐ K-12 second language instruction (also known as foreign or world language instruction). (10)
- ☐ University-level second language instruction (also known as foreign or world language instruction). (11)
- ☐ Work in the U.S. where this was the language used professionally. (12)
- ☐ Work in another country where this was the language used professionally. (13)

☐

Peace Corps or similar volunteer experience abroad where this was the language used professionally (14)

☐

Other (please describe) (15)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply. != I have only learned or used this language in the context of my current FSI language-learning assignment.

And Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply. = At least some K-12 education in the language, either through an immersion program or studying in a country where this was the primary language of instruction.

Q9 At what educational levels did you receive immersive or content-based instruction in this language? (For example, history, math, and art classes were in the language.) Select all that apply.

- ☐ Preschool or kindergarten (1)
 - ☐ Elementary school (2)
 - ☐ Middle school (3)
 - ☐ High school (4)
 - ☐ Undergraduate studies (5)
 - ☐ Masters (6)
 - ☐ Doctorate (Academic or Professional) (7)
 - ☐ Other (please describe) (8)
-

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply. != I have only learned or used this language in the context of my current FSI language-learning assignment.

And Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply. = K-12 second language instruction (also known as foreign or world language instruction).

Or If

Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply. != I have only learned or used this language in the context of my current FSI language-learning assignment.

And Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply. = University-level second language instruction (also known as foreign or world language instruction).

Q10 At what educational levels did you learn this language as a second language (also known as foreign or world language instruction)? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Preschool or kindergarten (1)
 - ☐ Elementary school (2)
 - ☐ Middle school (3)
 - ☐ High school (4)
 - ☐ Undergraduate studies (5)
 - ☐ Masters (6)
 - ☐ Doctorate (Academic or Professional) (7)
 - ☐ Other (please describe) (8)
-

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Display This Question:

If Where did you learn this language? Select all that apply. != I have only learned or used this language in the context of my current FSI language-learning assignment.

Q11 For what purpose(s) have you used this language? Select all that apply.

- ☐ ☒ I have only used this language as part of my current FSI language-learning assignment. (1)
- ☐ Interpreting on behalf of parents/family members (2)
- ☐ Interpreting in a professional or official capacity (3)
- ☐ Communicating socially with family members and/or friends (4)
- ☐ Communicating a position on foreign affairs related topics to a colleague or a stranger (5)
- ☐ Ordering food, giving directions, or shopping (6)
- ☐ Explaining technical concepts or professional knowledge to a colleague (7)
- ☐ Explaining technical concepts or professional knowledge to a non-expert (8)
- ☐ Reading and providing summaries of social media posts to a colleague in English (10)
- ☐ Reading and providing summaries of opinion-related articles to a colleague in English (11)
- ☐ Building relationships and trust with like-minded people (12)
- ☐ Building relationships and trust with people that might disagree with your views (13)
- ☐ Other (please describe) (14)
-

End of Block: Default Question Block
