



# Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure<sup>®</sup>

# TEST INFORMATION BOOKLET

**32 Portuguese**

MA-SG-FLD032-04

*Massachusetts Department of Education*

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## *Portuguese (Field 32)*

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**Test Overview Chart**

**Sample Test Directions and Test Items**

**Answer Key**

**Information on Scoring**

**Test Objectives**



***Test Overview Chart:  
Portuguese (32)***

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Subareas	Approximate Number of Multiple-Choice/Short-Answer Items	Number of Open-Response Items
I. Listening Comprehension		1
II. Reading Comprehension		1
III. Linguistics and Language Structures	31–33	
IV. Cultural Understanding	23–25	
V. Written Expression		1
VI. Oral Expression		1

The Portuguese test is designed to assess the candidate's knowledge of the subject matter required for the Massachusetts Foreign Language Teacher certificate. This subject matter knowledge is delineated in the Massachusetts Department of Education *Regulations for the Certification of Educational Personnel in Massachusetts* (April 1995), 603 C.M.R. 7.12, "Competencies for Specific Certificates," Section (13) (a) 2. "Competency I: Subject Matter Knowledge."

The Portuguese test assesses the candidate's proficiency and depth of understanding of the subject at the level required for a baccalaureate major, according to Massachusetts standards. Candidates are typically nearing completion of or have completed their undergraduate work when they take the test.

The multiple-choice, short-answer, and open-response items cover the subareas as indicated in the chart above.

## ***Sample Test Directions and Test Items: Portuguese (32)***

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### **Sample General Test Directions**

This test consists of six sections: (1) a listening section, (2) a section on cultural understanding, (3) a section on linguistics and language structures, (4) a reading section, (5) a writing assignment, and (6) a speaking assignment. The first five sections will be administered in this room. The speaking assignment (Section Six) is contained in a separate test booklet and may be administered in a separate room. The directions for each section appear before that section.

FOR TEST SECURITY REASONS, YOU MAY NOT REMOVE YOUR NOTES OR ANY OF THE TEST MATERIALS FROM THE ROOM. Your test materials must be returned to a test administrator when you finish the test.

If you have any questions, please ask them now before you begin the test.



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

**Sample Multiple-Choice Item Test Directions for Cultural Understanding and Linguistics**

Each question in this section of the test is a multiple-choice question with four answer choices. Read each question carefully and choose the ONE best answer. Record your answer on **Answer Sheet A** in the space that corresponds to the question number. Completely fill in the space having the same letter as the answer you have chosen. *Use only a No. 2 lead pencil.*

- Sample Question:      1.    What is the capital of Massachusetts?
- A.    Worcester
  - B.    New Bedford
  - C.    Boston
  - D.    Springfield

The correct answer to this question is C. You would indicate that on the answer sheet as follows:

1.    (A)   (B)   ●   (D)

Try to answer all questions. In general, if you have some knowledge about a question, it is better to try to answer it. You will NOT be penalized for guessing. **You may use the margins of the test booklet for scratch paper, but only the answers that you record on your answer sheet will be scored.**

1. Which of the following best matches a twentieth-century Portuguese writer with a major emphasis of that writer's work?

<b>Line</b>	<b>Writer</b>	<b>Emphasis</b>
1	Maria Velho da Costa	exploring the condition of women in a traditional society
2	Jorge de Sena	recovering archaic forms of rural speech
3	Augustina Bessa Luís	reconciling Portugal's Catholic monarchist heritage with the modern world
4	Aquilino Ribeiro	establishing a basis for moral certainty in a changing world

- A. Line 1
- B. Line 2
- C. Line 3
- D. Line 4
2. In contrast to an adult learner, a child learning the structure of a second language is more likely to:
- A. depend on written representation of the second language.
- B. apply the deep structure of the second language spontaneously.
- C. memorize grammar rules of the second language.
- D. compare the structures of the native and second languages consciously.

## **Description of Open-Response Items**

### **Listening Comprehension**

In this section of the test, candidates are presented with an assignment that requires literal and inferential comprehension of a sample of speech. The recorded speech sample is played twice for the candidate. The recorded speech sample may be in the form of a monologue (e.g., a speech) or a dialogue (e.g., an interview or a conversation). After listening to the recorded speech sample twice, the candidate writes an answer to a question testing literal and inferential comprehension of what was said. The assignment requires the candidate to demonstrate the ability to make auditory discriminations (e.g., verb tenses), recognize vocabulary, understand content, and identify the context of the speech. Because the assignment is designed to test listening comprehension and not writing ability, the candidate is offered the choice of writing the response either in English or in the target language.

### **Language Structures**

This assessment consists of three exercises that require the candidate to demonstrate command of the grammatical structure of the language. The first exercise is a cloze passage with sixteen blanks to be filled in according to specific directions. The words or phrases to be filled in may include verb forms, pronouns, modifiers requiring agreement, inflected noun forms, or other important elements of syntax and usage. The second exercise involves transformation of one or more sentences according to specific directions (e.g., from one tense or voice to another, from singular to plural, or from an informal to a formal language style). The third exercise requires candidates to rewrite in correct form one or more sentences containing grammatical errors. In the scoring of this section of the test, all grammatically correct answers consistent with the directions will be accepted.

### **Reading Comprehension**

The candidate is presented with an assignment that requires comprehension and interpretation of a passage of text. The passage may be taken from a work of literature or from a nonliterary source (e.g., a newspaper or magazine article, an expository text). After reading the passage, the candidate writes an answer to a question that tests literal and inferential comprehension of the passage. The assignment may require, for example, summarizing information stated in the passage, inferring the author's implied attitude, or relating one or more details to the writer's main theme. The assignment may also require the candidate to describe the cultural background of the passage and/or analyze the author's literary style and techniques. The response may be written either in English or in the target language.

### **Written Expression**

The candidate is required to produce a well-organized written response in the target language in response to a prompt. Each assignment will specify a particular type of written product (e.g., a letter, a narrative description, etc.) and an audience for whom the written product is intended. The candidate is expected to demonstrate the ability to communicate in an appropriate register, using a range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and simple and complex linguistic structures, and displaying cultural knowledge and sensitivity.

### **Oral Expression**

The candidate is required to speak on tape in response to a prompt, which is presented in written form in the test booklet. Each assignment describes an imaginary situation requiring oral communication in the target language (e.g., a response to a problem encountered in the course of travel, a description of a hypothetical course of events, or a discussion of the advantages and/or disadvantages of a proposed idea). Candidates are given one minute to formulate their response and two minutes to speak on tape. The candidate is expected to demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively, using an appropriate range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and simple and complex language structures, and displaying cultural knowledge and sensitivity.

### **Sample Listening Comprehension Test Directions**

In this section of the test, you will listen to a recording and respond in writing to the assignment on the following page. Your response may be written in either the target language or in English.

Your response will be evaluated based on the following criteria. Please take the next 20 seconds to familiarize yourself with these criteria.

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

The question will begin with directions that will tell you what to listen for. The directions will be read aloud on the recording. They are also printed in your test booklet. Listen carefully to the recording and follow along in your test booklet. The listening passage will be read twice.

Once the recording has begun, it cannot be stopped, nor can any part of it be replayed. Therefore, listen carefully. If you have any questions or if you cannot hear this recording clearly, please raise your hand now.

3. (You will see in the test booklet and hear on the recording:)

**This question is a listening comprehension exercise. You will hear dialogue between a student and a teacher. After you have heard the dialogue twice, you will respond in writing to the assignment in your test booklet. Before you hear the dialogue, you will be given 30 seconds to study the assignment. Begin studying the assignment now.**

(You will see in the test booklet:)

Write a brief paragraph in which you:

- summarize the student's problem and the events that led it to;
- explain what the teacher recommends doing about it; and
- describe what you think might happen next.

Write your response on the following page. It may be written in either Portuguese or English.

(You will hear on the recording:)

**Listen carefully to the following dialogue. After you have heard it twice, respond to the assignment in your test booklet.**

ALUNO: Preciso muito da sua ajuda. Perdi uma prova importante de Estudos Sociais na segunda-feira, e agora a Prof. Robinson quer me reprovar.

PROFESSORA: Por que você perdeu a prova? Estava doente?

ALUNO: Esta é a mesma pergunta que a Prof. Robinson fez. Quando eu respondi que não estava doente, ela disse que eu tinha que reprovar e não me deu chance de contar o que tinha acontecido.

PROFESSORA: E o que aconteceu?

ALUNO: Minha mãe caiu e não podia se mover. Eu liguei para o pronto-socorro e tive que ficar esperando até que a ambulância chegasse. Foi uma coisa inesperada. Eu não queria perder o teste, e tinha estudado bastante. Mas, a Prof. Robinson não me deu a chance de explicar.

PROFESSORA: Tenho certeza que a Prof. Robinson será mais compreensiva quando souber o que aconteceu. Quer que eu vá com você para falar com ela? Provavelmente sua mãe terá que enviar um bilhete confirmando o que aconteceu, e eu tenho certeza que encontraremos uma solução sobre a prova perdida.

ALUNO: Muito obrigado. Vai ser legal!

### Sample Language Structure Test Directions

This section of the test consists of three exercises that require you to demonstrate your command of the grammatical structure of the language.

Write your responses to the three exercises in the spaces provided in this test booklet. Your responses to the exercises will be scored on the basis of grammatical correctness.

4. Follow the directions for each of the three exercises below.

A. Complete the following passage using appropriate indefinite, interrogative, or possessive pronouns/adjectives, or with appropriate verb forms.

O mês passado, quando chegámos ao congresso de literatura não vimos \_\_\_\_\_ dos (nós)  
\_\_\_\_\_ professores lá. \_\_\_\_\_ perguntou \_\_\_\_\_ tinha organizado o congresso. Nós  
dissemos que tinha sido o Departamento de Línguas Estrangeiras. Procurámos para ver se (haver)  
\_\_\_\_\_ uma secção de literatura brasileira. Não havia \_\_\_\_\_. Resolvemos (ir) \_\_\_\_\_  
comer a um restaurante ali perto. Quando regressámos à sala, as pessoas já (encontrar-se)  
\_\_\_\_\_ lá. Eu (ir) \_\_\_\_\_ ser o próximo a apresentar uma comunicação. Eu estava nervoso  
mas \_\_\_\_\_ reparou na \_\_\_\_\_ ansiedade. Quando terminei, \_\_\_\_\_ a audiência aplaudiu.  
Depois foi a vez do \_\_\_\_\_ colega ler a comunicação \_\_\_\_\_. A \_\_\_\_\_ comunicação foi  
sobre o Neo-Realismo português. Depois de \_\_\_\_\_ terminarem, fomos à recepção que teve  
lugar logo após o congresso.

**B. Change the following sentences to one of their negative forms.**

Todos apareceram no congresso.

(17)

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Houve algumas comunicações sobre a literatura brasileira.

(18)

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Sempre gostei de congressos.

(19)

---

Tenho alguns problemas em ler em público.

(20)

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**C. Rewrite the following sentences, correcting errors in structure and syntax but retaining the original meaning.**

O mês passado nós tínhamos ido na meu carro para o congresso.

(21–22)

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Amanhã o meu colega leu a dela comunicação.

(23–24)

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### **Sample Reading Comprehension Test Directions**

In this section of the test, you will read a passage and respond in writing to a series of questions about the passage. Your response may be written in either the target language or in English. This should be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work.

Your response will be evaluated based on 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

5. Read the story below, written by a student for a writing assignment on the theme, "The Immigrant Experience." Then respond to the assignment that follows.

Uma vez, um pássaro decidiu voar mais longe e mais alto do que os outros pássaros do bando. Ele subiu à altura das nuvens, bem longe e mar adentro. A sensação de voar foi espetacular. A sensação de liberdade foi exaltante. Mas, quando as asas ficaram cansadas, o pássaro olhou em volta e notou que estava sozinho, não havia sinal de terra firme.

Assustado, o pássaro fez a volta e começou a voltar para casa, mas logo as asas esmoreceram e ele acabou por pousar em uma acumulação de plantas marinhas que flutuavam sobre as ondas. O suficiente para não deixar que ele se afogasse. As plantas marinhas serviram também de alimento e proteção, mas o pássaro logo conscientizou-se que jamais poderia ir embora, pois não havia terreno para ter velocidade suficiente levantar vôo. O pássaro suspirou e se colocou da forma mais confortável possível.

Eventualmente o pássaro aprendeu a pescar e obter outros alimentos esticando a cabeça debaixo d'água. Ele encontrou água para beber deixando que a água da chuva se acumulasse em buracos que ele fez na acumulação de algas. Ele encontrou abrigo contra o vento protegendo-se com as plantas.

O pássaro procurou fazer o melhor do novo mundo observando coisas e sons, tentando adivinhar onde a corrente o levava a cada dia, olhando para encontrar outros pássaros no céu, esforçando-se para ser esperançoso e curioso sobre a sua situação em vez de ter solidão e medo. Ele até mesmo aprendeu a falar um pouco com os peixes e outras criaturas que viviam no mar, quando conseguia fazer com que eles parassem e o ouvissem.

Write a brief paragraph in which you:

- summarize the writer's main point;
- describe the mood the writer creates in the essay; and
- explain how the writer uses detail to communicate that point and mood.

Be as specific as you can in citing examples from the passage to support your statements.

Your response may be written in either Portuguese or English.

## **Sample Written Expression Test Directions**

This section consists of a written assignment to which you must respond **in the target language**. The assignment appears on the following page. A list of suggestions is provided to help direct your writing for the assignment. It is not necessary that you address 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 the blank space on the unlined pages following the written assignment to make notes, write an outline, or otherwise prepare your response. **However, your score will be based solely on the version of your response written on the lined pages in your test booklet.**

Your response will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- **PURPOSE:** the extent to which the objective of the assignment is achieved and the response is appropriate for the intended audience
- **COHERENCE:** organization and clarity of ideas
- **CONTENT:** development of ideas and relevance of supporting details
- **GRAMMAR:** accuracy of grammatical forms and syntax
- **VOCABULARY:** command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions
- **MECHANICS:** accuracy of spelling, diacritical marks, and punctuation

Be sure to write about the assigned topic and use **MULTIPLE PARAGRAPHS**. Please write legibly. You may not use any reference materials during the test. This should be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work. Remember to review your work and make any changes you think will improve your written response.

6. Imagine that you have a warm relationship with a family with whom you lived during a year of study in a Portuguese-speaking country. You have stayed in touch with them since returning to the United States, but several months have passed since you last wrote. To reestablish contact with them, write a letter in Portuguese to the parents of the family, a couple in their fifties. You may wish to include, but are not limited to, the following topics:
- reminiscences about your stay with them;
  - inquiries about their health and activities;
  - your own recent activities;
  - your plans for the immediate future.

## Sample Oral Expression Test Directions

For this section of the test, you will speak on tape in response to an assignment presented in your test booklet. You will read the assignment in your test booklet and have one minute to consider your response, then two minutes to speak. A list of suggestions is provided to help direct your response. It is not necessary that you address every point in the list, nor are you limited in your response to those points indicated. However, what you say must be relevant to the situation with which you are presented, and part of your score will be based on the degree to which you elaborate on the topic 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 response you provide on the audiotape after the announcer instructs you to begin speaking.**

Your response will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- **CONTENT:** the adequacy of the information presented, including the number of ideas, the development of ideas, and the depth and specificity of supporting details
- **COHERENCE:** the organization and clarity of the ideas communicated
- **GRAMMAR:** the accuracy of grammatical and syntactic constructions (e.g., conjugation of verbs, appropriate use of tenses, subject/pronoun and article/noun agreement)
- **VOCABULARY:** the command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions and appropriateness of word choice
- **FLUENCY:** the ability to maintain a flow of speech, without hesitations or pauses that affect the overall comprehensibility of the response
- **PRONUNCIATION:** the comprehensibility of articulation and the appropriateness of stress

Once recording has begun, it cannot be stopped, nor can you re-record your 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.

7. (You will see in the test booklet and hear on the recording:)

**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 Portuguese. 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 see in the test booklet:)

Imagine that you are the faculty advisor to a student from a Portuguese-speaking country who is spending a year at your school on an exchange program. After two weeks in the United States, the student is unhappy and wants to go home. The student's parents telephone to express their concern and ask your advice. Speaking in Portuguese, reassure them about the situation and explain to them why you feel their child should make the effort to stay for the full year. You may wish to include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- possible reasons for the student's discontent, and any changes that could improve the situation;
- the potential benefits to the student of a year's stay in the United States;
- what the parents might do to encourage the student to stay;
- what the student could do to adapt more successfully to the new situation.

(You will have 1 minute to study the instructions above. Then you will have 2 minutes to respond on the audiotape.)

***Answer Key:***  
***Portuguese (32)***

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<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Correct Response</b>	<b>Test Objective*</b>
1.	<b>A</b>	Understand literature, the nonliterary arts, science, and technology as aspects of cultures associated with the target language.
2.	<b>B</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language and language acquisition.

\*Each test objective is clarified and further described by a descriptive statement, which provides examples of the types of knowledge and skills covered by the test objective. The test objectives for the Portuguese test begin on page 46.

## ***Information on Scoring: Portuguese (32)***

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### **Scoring Open-Response Items**

Open-response items are scored holistically according to standardized procedures, using scoring scales that have been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education. In judging the overall effectiveness of each response, scorers use scoring scales that describe varying levels of performance.

Responses are scored holistically by two or more qualified educators during scoring sessions held after each administration of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. Scorers are oriented before the scoring session to ensure that all responses are scored according to standardized procedures.

**Performance characteristics.** The performance characteristics for each type of open-response item guide scorers in considering responses to open-response items of that type. It may be helpful to you to be aware of the performance characteristics for each type of open-response item as you prepare for and take the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.

**Scoring scales.** The scoring scale for each type of open-response item is used by scorers in assigning scores to responses to open-response items of that type. Note that the description of each score point on a scoring scale is given in terms of the performance characteristics for the type of open-response item being scored.

The performance characteristics and scoring scales for this group of fields are provided on the following pages.

**Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure®  
SCORING RUBRIC FOR SUBJECT TEST  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSIGNMENTS—LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**Performance Characteristics:**

Listening Comprehension	Accuracy and completeness in comprehending spoken language.
Inference	Demonstrated ability to infer information accurately from spoken language, including subtleties such as tone.

**Scoring Scale:**

<b>Score Point</b>	<b>Score Point Description</b>
<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate demonstrates thorough comprehension of the literal content of a sample of spoken language.</li> <li>• The candidate accurately infers implied information, including correctly characterizing tone when it is a factor in comprehension.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate demonstrates good overall comprehension of the literal content, though some details may be misunderstood or missed.</li> <li>• The candidate shows some ability to infer implied information, though some subtleties in tone may be misinterpreted or missed.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate shows partial comprehension discerning the main idea but fails to understand significant supporting ideas and details.</li> <li>• The candidate generally fails to infer information or discern tone.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate fails to demonstrate understanding of the main idea, showing comprehension only of isolated words and phrases.</li> <li>• The candidate fails to infer information or discern tone.</li> </ul>
<b>U</b>	<b>The response is unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, not written in the required language, not of sufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment.</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>There is no response to the assignment.</b>

**Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure®  
SCORING RUBRIC FOR SUBJECT TEST  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSIGNMENTS—LANGUAGE STRUCTURES EXERCISES**

**Performance Characteristics:**

<b>GRAMMAR</b>	16 items that require supplying the grammatically correct term
<b>TRANSFORMATION</b>	4 items that require making a specified transformation
<b>CORRECTION</b>	4 items that require correction of errors

Each identified scorable item will be "**Correct**" if the candidate's response is described by one of the following:

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Notation</b>	<b>Notation Description</b>
<b>Grammar: Tasks 1-16</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Correct.</b> The candidate's response is grammatically correct and appropriate within the context of the presented statement (i.e., the response satisfies all of the target language's rules of grammar demanded by the instructions and intended by the context of the statement).
<b>Transformation: Tasks 17-20</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Correct.</b> The candidate's response correctly transforms the sentence or passage as instructed (i.e., the response follows all applicable grammatical rules of the target language and accurately supplies a transformed word, phrase, or clause construction as directed).
<b>Correction: Tasks 21-24</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Correct.</b> The candidate's response acceptably corrects the syntactic or linguistic errors found in the passage (i.e., the response has located and corrected the errors of language structure found within the passage and has retained the original meaning).

Each identified scorable item will be "**Not Correct**" if the candidate's response is described by the following:

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Notation</b>	<b>Notation Description</b>
<b>All Tasks</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>Not correct.</b> The candidate's response does not accurately follow the target language's rules of grammar, or the response is incomplete or is blank.

**Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure®  
SCORING RUBRIC FOR SUBJECT TEST  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSIGNMENTS—READING COMPREHENSION**

**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:**

<b>Score Point</b>	<b>Score Point Description</b>
<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate demonstrates thorough understanding of the literal content of the reading passage, including significant details.</li> <li>• The candidate accurately infers implied information, even if this information is subtly conveyed in the text.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate demonstrates understanding of the main idea of the passage but misses some details.</li> <li>• The candidate shows some ability to infer information from the text but may misinterpret some subtleties.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate shows partial understanding of the main idea of the passage but fails to understand significant supporting ideas and details.</li> <li>• The candidate generally fails to make inferences from the text.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The candidate fails to extract the main idea from the passage, demonstrating comprehension only of isolated words and phrases.</li> <li>• The candidate fails to make any inferences implied in the text.</li> </ul>
<b>U</b>	<b>The response is unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, not written in the required language, not of sufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment.</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>There is no response to the assignment.</b>

**Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure®  
SCORING RUBRIC FOR SUBJECT TEST  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSIGNMENTS—WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

**Performance Characteristics:**

Purpose	The extent to which the objective of the assignment is achieved and the appropriateness of the response for the intended audience.
Coherence	Organization and clarity of ideas.
Content	Development of ideas and relevance of supporting details.
Grammar	Accuracy of grammatical forms and syntax.
Vocabulary	Command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.
Mechanics	Accuracy of spelling, diacritical marks, and punctuation.

**Scoring Scale:**

Score Point	Score Point Description
<b>4</b>	<p><b>The "4" response reflects a thorough application and strong command of the performance characteristics for the written assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The response thoroughly fulfills the purpose of the written assignment and is completely appropriate for the intended audience.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas are well organized and clearly expressed.</li> <li>• Ideas are extensively developed and well-supported with relevant information.</li> <li>• The response shows a comprehensive command of syntax and grammar, with only minor errors that do not interrupt communication.</li> <li>• Vocabulary reflects a broad command of the language and appropriate use of idiomatic expressions.</li> <li>• Spelling, diacritical marks, and punctuation are mastered, with few, if any, errors.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>The "3" response reflects an adequate application and satisfactory command of the performance characteristics for the written assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The response satisfactorily fulfills the purpose of the written assignment and is generally appropriate for the intended audience.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas show some organization and are generally clear.</li> <li>• Ideas are adequately developed with some elaboration and support of specific points.</li> <li>• The response shows a good command of syntax and grammar, though some errors may cause minor interruptions in communication.</li> <li>• Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions are general, but adequate for communicating a complete message.</li> <li>• There are minor errors in spelling, diacritical marks, and punctuation that do not interfere with communication.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>The "2" response reflects a partial application and limited command of the performance characteristics for the written assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The response partially fulfills the purpose of the written assignment and may not be entirely appropriate for the intended audience.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas show limited organization and are somewhat unclear.</li> <li>• Ideas are developed in a limited way with minimal support.</li> <li>• The response shows a limited command of syntax and grammar, with frequent errors that partially impede communication of ideas.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is simple and lacks key words and expressions but is sufficient for communicating a partial message.</li> <li>• There are some errors in spelling, diacritical marks, and punctuation, which partially interfere with communication.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>The "1" response reflects an inadequate application and a lack of command of the performance characteristics for the written assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The response fails to fulfill the purpose of the written assignment and is inappropriate for the intended audience.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas are unorganized and unclear.</li> <li>• Ideas are developed minimally, if at all, and lack any relevant supporting detail.</li> <li>• The response shows little command of basic elements of grammar or syntax, with numerous and frequent errors that impede communication.</li> <li>• Vocabulary is not adequate for communicating a complete message, with word usage errors and misformations that impede communication.</li> <li>• Errors in spelling, diacritical marks, and punctuation are so numerous that they impede communication.</li> </ul>
<b>U</b>	<b>The response is unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, not written in the required language, not of sufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment.</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>There is no response to the assignment.</b>

**Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure®  
SCORING RUBRIC FOR SUBJECT TEST  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSIGNMENTS—ORAL EXPRESSION**

**Performance Characteristics:**

Content	Adequacy of the information presented, including the number of ideas, the development of ideas, and the depth and specificity of supporting details.
Coherence	Organization and clarity of ideas communicated.
Grammar	Accuracy of grammatical and syntactic constructions (e.g., conjugation of verbs, appropriate use of tenses, subject/pronoun and article/noun agreement).
Vocabulary	Command of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions and appropriateness of word choice.
Fluency	Ability to maintain a flow of speech, without hesitation or pauses which affect the overall comprehensibility of the response.
Pronunciation	Comprehensibility of articulation and the appropriateness of stress.

**Scoring Scale:**

Score Point	Score Point Description
<b>4</b>	<p><b>The "4" response reflects a thorough application and strong command of the performance characteristics for the speaking assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The speaker's ideas are well developed and elaborated.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas are logically sequenced, well connected, and consistently clear.</li> <li>• The response shows a comprehensive command of syntax and grammar, making only minor errors that do not interfere with the comprehensibility of ideas.</li> <li>• The candidate demonstrates extensive command of appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.</li> <li>• The candidate maintains a strong flow of speech, with few, if any, hesitations or pauses.</li> <li>• The speaker's pronunciation is easily intelligible, with few, if any, errors.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>The "3" response reflects an adequate application and satisfactory command of the performance characteristics for the speaking assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The speaker's ideas are adequately developed, with some elaboration.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas are adequately organized and are generally clear.</li> <li>• The response shows good command of syntax and grammar, though some errors may cause minor interruptions in the comprehensibility of ideas.</li> <li>• The candidate demonstrates a good command of generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.</li> <li>• The candidate generally maintains a steady flow of speech, with only occasional hesitations and pauses.</li> <li>• The speaker's pronunciation is generally intelligible, with only minor errors.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>The "2" response reflects a partial application and limited command of the performance characteristics for the speaking assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The speaker's ideas show limited development and elaboration.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas are only partially organized and are at times unclear.</li> <li>• The response shows a limited command of syntax and grammar, with frequent errors that partially impede the comprehensibility of ideas.</li> <li>• The candidate demonstrates a limited range of expression, using very simple vocabulary and lacking some key words and phrases.</li> <li>• The candidate does not maintain a consistent flow of speech, having frequent hesitations and pauses.</li> <li>• The speaker's pronunciation contains several errors and is occasionally difficult to understand.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>The "1" response reflects an inadequate application and a lack of command of the performance characteristics for the speaking assignment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The speaker's response provides few, if any, comprehensible ideas, with minimal development.</li> <li>• The candidate's ideas are not organized and are largely unclear.</li> <li>• The response shows little command of basic elements of grammar or syntax, with numerous and frequent errors that make ideas incomprehensible.</li> <li>• The candidate demonstrates little knowledge of vocabulary beyond the most common words, and may misuse and misform numerous words and expressions.</li> <li>• The candidate fails to maintain any flow of speech, with frequent hesitations and pauses that interrupt comprehensibility.</li> <li>• The speaker's pronunciation contains numerous errors and is at times unintelligible.</li> </ul>
<b>U</b>	<b>The response is unrelated to the assigned topic, inaudible/incomprehensible, not spoken in the required language, not of sufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment.</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>There is no response to the assignment.</b>

## ***Test Objectives: Portuguese (32)***

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### **SUBAREAS:**

LISTENING COMPREHENSION  
READING COMPREHENSION  
LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE STRUCTURES  
CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING  
WRITTEN EXPRESSION  
ORAL EXPRESSION

### **LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**0001 Derive essential information from oral messages in the target language.**

For example: understanding a question or comment likely to be encountered in a social situation; understanding the main idea or details in a spoken passage; understanding a telephone message or public address announcement; and understanding a sequence of steps described in a set of oral directions.

**0002 Infer meaning from oral communications in the target language.**

For example: characterizing the tone, mood, or point of view of one or more speakers; analyzing a relationship (e.g., cause-and-effect) implied but not stated in an oral communication; and analyzing the social context of a spoken exchange or the relationship between speakers.

### **READING COMPREHENSION**

**0003 Understand the literal content of a variety of authentic materials in the target language.**

For example: analyzing a passage to determine the stated main idea or an accurate summary; discerning details regarding character, setting, or events described in a passage; and analyzing a passage to determine the sequence of events.

**0004 Apply skills of inference and interpretation in a variety of authentic materials in the target language.**

For example: making inferences about setting or character from information provided in a passage; discerning implied cause-and-effect relations in a passage; inferring an author's assumptions, purpose, or point of view in a passage; and interpreting figurative language (e.g., metaphors, similes) in a literary passage.

### **LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE STRUCTURES**

**0005 Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language and language acquisition.**

For example: applying general concepts of the nature of language; analyzing the communication process using concepts and strategies associated with pragmatics and discourse analysis; and applying knowledge of theories and processes of first- and second-language acquisition.

**0006 Transform sentences or passages in the target language according to given instructions.**

For example: transforming a positive statement, question, or comment to a negative one, or vice versa; transforming the tense or mood of a sentence or passage; transforming a sentence or passage from direct to indirect discourse, or vice versa; and combining two or more sentences into one sentence that preserves the meaning of the original sentences.

**0007 Analyze sentences in the target language to determine grammatically correct words or phrases to complete them.**

For example: using the correct noun or pronoun form or particle for a given context; using verb forms or phrases as appropriate for a given context; using the appropriate modifying word or phrase to complete a sentence; and using the appropriate subordinate clause to complete a sentence.

**0008 Revise written passages in the target language to correct errors in structure and syntax that interfere with accurate communication.**

For example: selecting revisions to correct inappropriate use of tenses, forms, or constructions.

## **CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING**

**0009 Understand major developments in the history of cultures associated with the target language and the cultural significance of those developments.**

For example: analyzing the role of major historical events and figures in the development of cultures associated with the target language; understanding major political, economic, social, and cultural trends and developments that have shaped the history of cultures associated with the target language and analyzing their historical and contemporary significance; and analyzing the nature and significance of historical interactions between the cultures associated with the target language and other cultures.

**0010 Understand geographic, economic, social, and political features of contemporary cultures associated with the target language, including the ways in which values influence these features.**

For example: relating natural geographic features (e.g., climate, location, natural resources) of nations using the target language to the economies of these nations (e.g., mineral and agricultural products, commercial relations with other nations); analyzing major features of the economic systems of nations using the target language (e.g., the roles of free-market institutions or central planning); understanding key features and processes associated with governmental institutions of nations using the target language and their historical or cultural significance; and understanding characteristic features of daily life in nations in which the target language is the major vehicle of communication.

**0011 Understand literature, the nonliterary arts, science, and technology as aspects of cultures associated with the target language.**

For example: recognizing major movements, writers, and works in the literature of the target language and understanding their cultural significance; understanding characteristic forms and elements of the visual arts and music of cultures associated with the target language and their cultural significance; and recognizing scientific and technological achievements (historical or contemporary) of cultures associated with the target language and understanding their cultural significance.

## **WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

- 0012 Write a well-organized passage in the target language that is appropriate in style and diction for a given audience, purpose, and occasion and that communicates a message effectively through use of a range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and simple and complex linguistic constructions.**

For example: a letter to a professor requesting a recommendation for a particular job or program of study, including the writer's reasons for being interested in the job or academic program; an account describing to a teacher or other acquaintance the reasoning behind a significant personal decision; or a letter of thanks written to an appropriate audience in the target culture (e.g., a family with whom the writer has spent a summer as an exchange student).

## **ORAL EXPRESSION**

- 0013 In response to a prompt, construct connected oral discourse in the target language that communicates a message effectively and that demonstrates command of a range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and simple and complex linguistic structures.**

For example: describing events or actions in tenses appropriate to the task; discussing advantages and disadvantages of an idea or proposed course of action; or responding to a hypothetical situation (e.g., a traffic accident) by explaining or describing events or by requesting assistance.