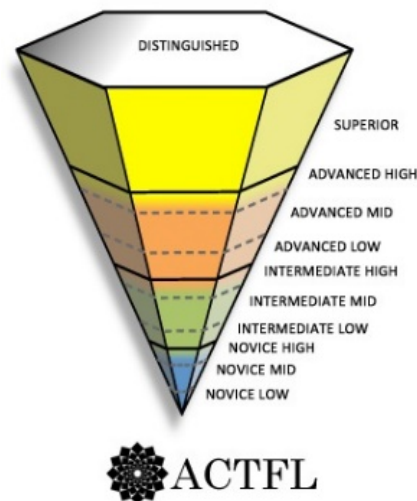


## Understanding the Themes and Topics for World Languages

This World Languages Curriculum Guide presents four overarching themes and 17 associated topics for use by teachers and curriculum designers in instructional planning. The themes serve as unifying ideas, while topics identify specific foci for teaching and learning within the themes. Themes are addressed at all Checkpoints (A, B, C), while the topics are aligned to specific Checkpoints. Together, themes and topics serve as the meaningful contexts of communication and promote the development of proficiency as learning spirals through the [ACTFL Proficiency Pyramid](#).



Topics appropriate for Novice learners at Checkpoint A specifically relate to communicating about their everyday experiences. As learners advance through Checkpoints B and C, they communicate about topics beyond their own immediate experiences. This document serves as an instrument to ensure that the themes and topics are addressed for each Checkpoint.

This document supports teachers to think broadly as they create engaging thematic units that show relationships among topics in meaningful ways. High frequency topics are addressed in multiple contexts to promote retention. Teachers and curriculum designers have the flexibility to integrate topics from several theme groups to develop a larger overarching theme.

This document facilitates the exploration of the Connections goal area of the [World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages](#) (2015). The wide breadth and range of the themes and topics enable teachers of different types of programs to include interdisciplinary content viewed through many lenses. This encourages the design of learning experiences which allow learners to "build, reinforce, and expand their knowledge of other disciplines while using the language to develop critical thinking and to solve problems creatively" (3.1); and to "access and evaluate information and diverse perspectives that are available through the language and its cultures." (3.2)

Teachers familiar with Modern Languages for Communication (1986) and Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English (1996) will note that those topics are still represented in this guide. New topics are included, and former subtopics are expanded. It is important that those designing benchmark assessments for each Checkpoint keep these topics in mind, as they provide teachers and learners with a guideline to prepare students for proficiency-based assessments.

**Themes & Topics for Modern Languages by Checkpoint**

<b><i>A. Identity &amp; Social Relationships</i></b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Identity	X	X	X
Family & Social Relationships	X	X	X
Celebrations, Customs, & Traditions	X	X	X
<b><i>B. Contemporary Life</i></b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Food & Meal Taking	X	X	X
House & Home	X	X	X
School Life & Education	X	X	X
Travel	X	X	X
Leisure	X	X	X
Communities & Neighborhood	X	X	X
Shopping	X	X	X
Earning a Living		X	X
<b><i>C. Science, Technology, &amp; the Arts</i></b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Health & Wellness	X	X	X
Physical Environment, Climate, Weather, & Geography	X	X	X
Technology, Media, & Social Media	X	X	X
The Arts		X	X
<b><i>D. Global Awareness &amp; Community Engagement</i></b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Environmental Issues & Sustainability		X	X
Social Justice & Human Rights			X



### Themes & Topics for Classical Languages by Checkpoint

<i>Theme</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
<i>A. Identity &amp; Family Life</i>	X	X	X
<i>B. Physical Environment, Geography, &amp; Travel</i>	X	X	X
<i>C. Daily Life &amp; Societal Institutions</i>	X	X	X
<i>D. History, Government, &amp; Economics</i>	X	X	X
<i>E. Religion, Myths, &amp; Legends</i>	X	X	X
<i>F. Literature, Architecture, &amp; Art</i>	X	X	X

<i>Theme/Checkpoint</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
Identity & Family Life	Names, gender, age, nationality, occupations, physical characteristics, parts of the body, personality traits, health, clothing  Family members, childhood, family life, house, apartment, country home, rooms, furnishings, garden	Names, gender, age, nationality, occupations, physical characteristics, parts of the body, personality traits, health, clothing  Family members, childhood, family life, <b>birth, coming of age, marriage, death &amp; funerals</b> , house, apartment, country home, rooms, furnishings, garden	Names, gender, age, nationality, occupations, physical characteristics, parts of the body, personality traits, health, clothing  Family members, childhood, family life, birth, coming of age, marriage, death & funerals, house, apartment, country home, rooms, furnishings, garden
Physical Environment, Geography, & Travel	City and town, weather, animals, calendar  Relevant geography (e.g., Italy, Greece, and the Mediterranean)  Roads	City and town, weather, animals, calendar, <b>natural disasters, time</b>  Relevant geography (e.g., <b>provinces</b> )  Roads, <b>modes of travel, mail and letter writing</b>	City and town, weather, animals, calendar, natural disasters, time  Relevant geography (e.g., <b>Asia Minor</b> )  Roads, modes of travel, mail and letter writing



<b>Theme/Checkpoint</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Daily Life & Societal Institutions	Pastimes, athletics, circus, arena  Everyday family fare  Number system, school life  Social class structure	Pastimes, athletics, circus, arena, <b>baths</b>  Everyday family fare, <b>banquets</b>  Number system, school life, <b>preparation and training for occupations, structure and curriculum</b>  Social class structure	Pastimes, athletics, circus, arena, baths, <b>theatre</b>  Everyday family fare, banquets  Number system, school life, preparation and training for occupations, structure and curriculum  Social class structure
History, Government, & Economics	Historical periods and forms of government	Historical periods, <b>biographies of important historical figures, structure and government organization, political issues, the military, conflict and conquest, economic class structure, shops, commerce and trade, coinage</b>	Historical periods, biographies of important historical figures, structure and government organization, political issues, the military, conflict and conquest, <b>law</b> , economic class structure, shops, commerce and trade, coinage
Religion, Myths, & Legends	Deities: functions and attributes  Gods, goddesses, heroes, traditional stories and folklore, ethics, mores and values	Deities: functions and attributes, <b>traditions and customs, festivals and holidays</b>  Gods, goddesses, heroes, traditional stories and folklore, ethics, mores and values	Deities: functions and attributes, traditions and customs, festivals and holidays, <b>augury, sacrifice</b>  Gods, goddesses, heroes, traditional stories and folklore, ethics, mores and values
Literature, Architecture, & Art	Buildings, structures, and works of art (e.g., mosaics, frescos)	Buildings, structures, and works of art (e.g., mosaics, frescos), <b>sites and city planning, painting, sculpture, literature, oratory and rhetoric</b>	Buildings, structures, and works of art (e.g., mosaics, frescos), sites and city planning, painting, sculpture, literature, oratory and rhetoric, <b>philosophy</b>