



Establishing AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam Validity Using College Professors' Grading Standards

David Baum
Educational Testing Service

Introduction

- This presentation focuses on a college comparability study conducted in 2007.
- During a college comparability study, a portion of an AP Exam is administered to college students and the free-response portion is scored during the AP Reading.
- The results of a college comparability study are considered when setting AP grades in order to ensure that the AP standards are comparable to or higher than the grading standards that are applied by college professors when evaluating the performance of their own students in corresponding college courses.

How AP Exam Standards are Established (2004-2007)

- College curriculum survey
- “Evidence Centered Design”
- Task Force
 - College professors/AP teachers
- Development Committee
 - 3-4 College professors, 3-4 AP teachers
 - Chief Reader(s): 1-2 College professors
- Question tryout
- College comparability study

AP Chinese Language and Culture Course and Exam

- Designed to be equivalent to 4th-semester college Mandarin Chinese course
- 3 communicative modes: Interpretive, Interpersonal, Presentational
- 4 modalities: Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking
- Cultural knowledge

AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam Format

Language Modality & Communicative Mode		Tasks	# of Questions & % of Final Score	
Listening	Interpersonal	10-15	10-15	10%
	Interpretive	6	15-20	15%
Reading	Interpretive	10	35-40	25%
Writing	Presentational	2	2	15%
	Interpersonal	2	2	10%
Speaking	Interpersonal	1	6	10%
	Presentational	2	2	15%

AP Chinese Language and Culture College Comparability Study Exam Format

- Subset of exam administered to AP students
- All communicative modes and language modalities plus cultural knowledge
- Included:
 - 13 Listening questions
 - 15 Reading questions
 - 2 Writing tasks (2 questions)
 - 2 Speaking tasks (7 questions)

AP Chinese Language and Culture College Comparability Study Size

- 17 colleges/universities
- 353 students

AP Chinese Language and Culture College Comparability Study Participating Institutions

- Ball State University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Duke University
- Grinnell College
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- Tufts University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Hawaii
- University of Houston
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Southern California, LA
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

College Comparability Study Administration Procedures

- College professor at each participating institution performs the following tasks:
 - Administer exam
 - Assign exam grade
 - Report course and exam grades
 - Complete instructor's questionnaire
 - Describe administration environment (course title, student background, weight given to exam, etc.)
 - Evaluate appropriateness of exam content

College Comparability Study Scoring Procedures

- College student exams scored along with AP student exams
- Same scoring session
- Same scorers (mixture of college professors and AP teachers)
- Same scoring guidelines (rubrics)

Creation of Scoring Guidelines

- Free-response question tryout
- Sample selection

Scoring Overview

- Each response assigned a single holistic score
- Various dimensions evaluated simultaneously
- For example:
 - Task Completion
 - Delivery
 - Language Use

College Comparability Study Grade Setting Process

- Equate college scores to same scale as full AP exam
- Average college scores by exam grade by college (ignore all F's)
- Consider variations in courses and administrations
- Set cut score for each AP grade using average exam score obtained by college students earning corresponding letter grade

College Grade	AP Grade
A	5
B	4
C	3
D	2

Analysis Groups

1. Have you lived or studied for one month or more in a country where the language of the exam you are now taking is spoken?
2. Do you regularly speak or hear the language at home?

Group	Q1	Q2
STD	N	N
SPEC1	Y	N
SPEC2	Y/N	Y

AP Chinese Language and Culture College Comparability Study Results (120-point scale)

Colleges		AP Students (Standard Group)		
Exam grade	Average score	AP grade	Minimum composite score	Average Score
A	83	5	81	95
B	66	4	65	72
C	47	3	46	56
D	37	2	37	41
F	N/A	1	N/A	25

AP Chinese Language and Culture Percentage of Students Earning Each AP Grade (Standard Group)

AP Grade	2007
5	47.2%
4	19.3%
3	17.3%
2	7.6%
1	8.6%

More Information

- AP Central (<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>)
 - Exam questions
 - Scoring guidelines
 - Sample student responses with commentary on performance
 - Scoring statistics
 - “How AP College Comparability Studies Affect AP Grades for Foreign Language Exams”
- Foreign Language Annals
 - Bischof, et al (2004). “Validating AP Modern Foreign Language Examinations Through College Comparability Studies“, Foreign Language Annals, 37, 4, 616-622.