

# Learning Certification EPE

2012/2013

(Ensino Português no Estrangeiro -  
 Portuguese Teaching Abroad)

## What does this mean?

It is a **process of certification of attainment** awarded by the Portuguese Government to students attending the courses included in the network of Portuguese Teaching Abroad (EPE).

This Learning Certification is a joint responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Science, through the Directorate-General for Education and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P. (Camões – The Institute for Cooperation and Language).

It is awarded based upon results in exams sat for each level of proficiency, when students achieve the learning outcomes for the appropriate level as set out in the Quadro de Referência para o Ensino Português no Estrangeiro (QuAREPE), the Framework of Reference for Portuguese Teaching Abroad.

## What advantages does this confer?

In the globalized world in which we live, where people move about, either of their own free will or because they are obliged to do so, knowledge of languages is a considerable asset, so it is of the utmost importance that a common Learning Certification Process for Portuguese Teaching Abroad is created, one that will lead to valuing, recognizing and accrediting the ability of students to communicate in the Portuguese Language, regardless of where they live.

The Learning Certification now introduced will enable students to move about freely in the countries where the EPE network exists and will also enable their qualifications to be recognised as compatible with local qualifications.

As a result, a novel element certifying the level achieved by EPE students is being introduced, based on the new legal framework for Portuguese Teaching Abroad\*

\* Decree-Law n. 165/2006, of the 11th August, as amended and republished by Decree-Law n. 165-C/2009, of the 28th July and as amended by Decree-Law nr. 234/2012, of the 30th October

## Where does this take place?

The Learning Certification exams will take place in **local examination centres** in each country. These centres are determined by the number of students who have enrolled, according to criteria based on the proximity of the greatest possible number of candidates to a particular venue and on compliance with other necessary requirements.

In April, the final list of exam centres will be made known by teachers, by the Education Departments (Coordenações de Ensino) and on the Camões, IP website.

## Who is this for?

**All students included in the network for Portuguese Teaching Abroad**, as part of their basic and secondary education, can apply if approved for entry by their teacher or on their own initiative.

They can enrol through their teachers, in Europe, or at the Education Departments in the United States and in Canada.

Exceptionally, in the academic year 2012/13, exams will not be subject to the payment of an enrolment fee.

## When will this take place?

The Learning Certification exams take place once a year, at the end of the academic year, at 3 different times, depending on the continent.

For the 2012/2013 academic year, the dates have been determined in order to reach a compromise between the different school calendars in each country.

In 2013, the exams will take place on the following dates:

| Continent     | Date          |
|---------------|---------------|
| North America | 15th June     |
| Europe        | 29th June     |
| Africa        | 23rd November |

## How is the qualification obtained?

There are 5 exams, each one corresponding to one of the set levels of linguistic proficiency, that is, the levels of knowledge and ability in the use of the language as set out in Levels A1, A2, B1, B2 and C1.

The knowledge and competences needed to take the 5 exams are set out in QuaREPE, the Framework of Reference for Portuguese Teaching Abroad, which is recognised as the main tool applying to the Learning evaluation process for EPE students. This framework was based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages > Learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR). In addition to these two documents, the Camões, IP's EPE Curriculum, is also a basis for the current Learning Certification Process.

## Exam papers

The exam papers will test the following competences in the Portuguese Language: Listening; Speaking, in conversation or dialogue; Reading; Writing.

The exam papers comprise questions or requests to do things based on real life situations whether in conversations or in writing.

## Structure of the exams

### 1. Competences and exam parts

The exams, for any level of proficiency, are divided into three parts, depending upon the competences to be tested: (i) Listening; (ii) Reading and Writing, which will be assessed together in the same paper; (iii) Speaking.

The duration of the exam will vary according to the level, but will not exceed 90 minutes

### 2. Competences and Tasks – exam patterns (matrices)

Taking into account the fact that some students may have started the formal Portuguese Language learning process earlier than others, QuaREPE states that level A1 and A2 exams can be sat by students in one of the following age groups: (i) 8-10 years; (ii) 11-14 years; (iii) 15-18 years. Because the interests and maturity of the students in each age group may be different, there will be three different exams: (i) Exam A, for students aged 8 to 10; (ii) Exam B, for students aged 11 to 14; (iii) Exam C, for students aged 15 to 18.

Students in the following age groups can sit the level B1 exams: 11-14 years and 15-18 years. Consequently, for the reasons stated above, there will be two exams: Exam A, for students aged 11 to 14; (ii) Exam B, for students aged 15 to 18.

Because of the degree of autonomy fluency, command of language, effectiveness of speech, grammatical accuracy and awareness of the required linguistic process and resources, levels B2 and C1 are only appropriate for students who are in Secondary Education in their country of residence – i.e. students over the age of 15.

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## Exam Matrices

### Level A1 - Exam A (age 8-10; Exam B (age 11-14); Exam C (age 15-18) / Duration: 60 minutes

| Exam parts   | Objectives   | Types of text   | Marks                        |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b><br>(15 minutes)<br><b>Listening</b>  | Evaluate the ability to understand verbal messages and simple dialogue (recorded material).                      | . Conversations (covering everyday situations – family, school or social contexts)  | 25 marks                     |
| <b>Part II</b><br>(35 minutes)<br><b>Reading</b><br><br><b>and</b><br><br><b>Writing</b> | Evaluate the ability to understand simple written text.  | Reading:<br>. Dialogues<br>. Dictionary entries<br>. Notices<br>. Recipes<br>. Informative Texts (from school textbooks)<br>. Short stories (narration and description) | 50 marks<br><br>(25 Reading) |
|  | Evaluate the ability to write.   | Writing:<br>. Postcards / e-mails<br>. Invitations<br>. Messages  | (25 Writing)                 |
| <b>Part III</b><br>(7-10 minutes for each pair of candidates)<br><b>Oral Expression</b>  | Evaluate the ability to interact with the examiner and with the other candidate in a conversation in Portuguese. | _____   | 25 marks                     |

### Level A2 - Exam A (age 8-10); Exam B (age 11-14); Exam C (age 15-18) / Duration: 70 minutes

| Exam parts   | Objectives   | Types of text  | Marks                        |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b><br>(20 minutes)<br><b>Listening</b>  | Evaluate the ability to understand verbal messages and simple dialogue (recorded material).                      | . Conversations (covering everyday situations – family, school or social contexts)<br>. News (radio or television)<br>. Interviews (radio or television)                             | 25 marks                     |
| <b>Part II</b><br>(40 minutes)<br><b>Reading</b><br><br><b>and</b><br><br><b>Writing</b> | Evaluate the ability to understand different written texts.  | Reading:<br>. dialogues<br>. informal letters/e-mails<br>. Notices, signs<br>. Recipes<br>. Informative Texts (from school textbooks)<br>. Short stories (narration and description) | 50 marks<br><br>(25 Reading) |
|  | Evaluate the ability to write.   | Writing:<br>. Informal letters / e-mails<br>. Notices<br>. News<br>. Reports   | (25 Writing)                 |
| <b>Part III</b><br>(7-10 minutes for each pair of candidates)<br><b>Oral Expression</b>  | Evaluate the ability to interact with the examiner and with the other candidate in a conversation in Portuguese. | _____  | 25 marks                     |

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## Level B1 – Exam A (age 11-14); Exam B (age 15-18)

Duration: 85 minutes

| Exam parts  | Objectives   | Types of texts  | Marks                        |
|---|--|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b><br><b>(30 minutes)</b><br><b>Listening</b>  | Evaluate the ability to understand oral presentations, dialogues, debates (recorded material).                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Conversations (covering everyday situations – family, school or social contexts)</li> <li>. Recorded voice mails</li> <li>. Advertising (radio or television)</li> <li>. Interviews (radio or television)</li> <li>. Debates</li> <li>. Short Presentations</li> </ul> | 25 marks                     |
| <b>Part II</b><br><b>(45 minutes)</b><br><b>Reading</b><br><br><b>and</b><br><br><b>Writing</b> | Evaluate the ability to understand and interpret different written texts.  | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Informal letters / e-mails</li> <li>. Descriptive texts</li> <li>. Instruction manuals (extracts)</li> <li>. Reports</li> <li>. Scientific or Technical articles (from specialist magazines or from school textbooks)</li> </ul>                              | 50 marks<br><br>(25 Reading) |
|   | Evaluate the ability to write.   | Writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Informal letters / e-mails</li> <li>. Formal letters</li> <li>. Reports</li> <li>. Opinion texts</li> </ul>   | (25 Writing)                 |
| <b>Part III</b><br><b>(8-10 minutes for each pair of candidates)</b><br><b>Oral Expression</b>  | Evaluate the ability to interact with the examiner and with the other candidate in a conversation in Portuguese. | _____   | 25 marks                     |

## Level B2 - Exam A (age 15-18...)

Duration: 90 minutes

| Exam parts  | Objectives  | Types of texts   | Marks                        |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b><br><b>(30 minutes)</b><br><b>Listening</b>  | Evaluate the ability to understand oral presentations, dialogues, debates (recorded material).                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Conversations (covering everyday situations – family, school or social contexts)</li> <li>. Recorded voice mails</li> <li>. Advertising (radio or television)</li> <li>. Commentaries (radio or television)</li> <li>. Interviews (radio or television)</li> <li>. Debates</li> <li>. Short Presentations</li> </ul>  | 25 marks                     |
| <b>Part II</b><br><b>(50 minutes)</b><br><b>Reading</b><br><br><b>and</b><br><br><b>Writing</b> | Evaluate the ability to understand and interpret different written texts.   | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Regulations</li> <li>. Information leaflets / brochures</li> <li>. Programmes</li> <li>. Advertising</li> <li>. Commentaries</li> <li>. Opinion texts</li> <li>. Scientific or Technical articles (from specialist magazines or school textbooks)</li> <li>. Short Stories/ Romances, Novels (extracts)</li> <li>. Diaries (extracts)</li> <li>. Biographies (extracts)</li> </ul> | 50 marks<br><br>(25 Reading) |
|   | Evaluate the ability to write.  | Writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Formal letters</li> <li>. Reports</li> <li>. Opinion articles</li> <li>. Chronicles</li> </ul>   | (25 Writing)                 |
| <b>Part III</b><br><b>(10 minutes for each pair of candidates)</b><br><b>Oral Expression</b>    | Evaluate the ability to interact with the examiner and with the other candidate in a conversation in Portuguese . | _____  | 25 marks                     |

## Nível C1 – Prova A (15-18 ... anos)

Duração total da Prova: 90 minutos

| Exam parts  | Objectives   | Types of texts   | Marks                        |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b><br><b>(30 minutes)</b><br><b>Listening</b>  | Evaluate the ability to understand oral presentations, dialogues, debates (recorded material).                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Conversation (covering everyday situations – family, school or social contexts)</li> <li>. Monologues</li> <li>. Interviews</li> <li>. Debates</li> <li>. Documentaries (radio or television)</li> <li>. Presentations</li> </ul>   | 25 marks                     |
| <b>Part II</b><br><b>(50 minutes)</b><br><b>Reading</b><br><br><b>and</b><br><br><b>Writing</b> | Evaluate the ability to understand and interpret different written texts.  | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Regulations</li> <li>. Convening Notices</li> <li>. Applications</li> <li>. Encyclopaedia entries (extracts)</li> <li>. Reports</li> <li>. Commentaries</li> <li>. Opinion texts</li> <li>. Scientific or Technical articles (from specialist magazines or from school textbooks)</li> <li>. Short Stories/ Romances, Novels (extracts)</li> <li>. Diaries (extracts)</li> <li>. Biographies (extracts)</li> </ul> | 50 marks<br><br>(25 Reading) |
|   | Evaluate the ability to write.   | Escrita: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Cartas formais</li> <li>. Requerimentos</li> <li>. Comentários</li> <li>. Artigos de opinião</li> <li>. Crônicas</li> </ul>  | (25 Writing)                 |
| <b>Part III</b><br><b>(10 minutes for each pair of candidates)</b><br><b>Oral Expression</b>    | Evaluate the ability to interact with the examiner and with the other candidate in a conversation in Portuguese. | _____  | 25 marks                     |