What is the Foreign Language Exemption Exam? It is a test to exempt and receive credit for Spanish and French classes. You can take the Exemption Exam for SPA/FRE 101, 102, and 101 & 102 combined, 201, 202, and 201 & 202 combined. The student can earn up to 14 credit hours, if the student scores 70% or higher on the Exemption Exam.

When should I make a decision about taking the Exemption Exam? Students should not attempt any foreign language courses until they have decided whether they want to attempt to place out of or exempt courses.

Why should I take the Exemption Exam? If you have taken Spanish or French classes before, you may already be proficient in the language skills that are being taught in a particular course. Challenge yourself and advance your skills. You can earn credit for Spanish or French courses at a fraction of the cost (only $75), and you can reach you academic goals sooner by exempting one course and advancing to the next level.

What score do I need on the Exemption Exam to exempt a course? Earn a grade of at least 70%.

How does the Exemption Exam appear on my transcript? If the student show proficiency at a level of 70% or higher, credit is recorded on your transcript as “Exemption Credit” and no grade is assigned. Your grade on the test will not affect your G.P.A.

Will my Exemption Exam credit transfer to another university? Many colleges and universities accept exemption credit, but the student is responsible for knowing their college’s policy for accepting exemption credit.

Does the Exemption Exam affect my credit hours or full/part time student status? The Exemption Exam hours earned do not count toward being a full/part time student, but Exemption Exam credit hours do count toward the 30 hour requirement for the Bridge to Clemson Program and the LIFE scholarship.

How many times can I take the Exemption Exam? You may take the exam only once.

Can I take the Exemption Exam if I’ve already taken a foreign language class at the university level? No, you may not take the exam if you have ever enrolled in the course (i.e. audited, failed, withdrawn, etc.) at Tri-County. Credits earned at another college will be used to place the student into the next level course. Example, if the student took SPA 101 at Clemson, then the student needs only to provide an unofficial transcript to register for SPA 102.

What do I need to do to take the Exemption Exam? To take the Exemption Exam, contact the Head of the Humanities Department, Dr. Della Vanhuss, at 646-1380 or dvanhuss@tctc.edu. You can take the Exemption Exam after completing the proper paperwork and paying the $75 fee. The student must provide the exact date on which they will take the Exemption Exam. Please, know your schedule and the best time for you to take the Exam. The student is allowed two hours to complete the exam.

What happens if I do not pass the Exemption Exam? If the student does not achieve the 70% score on the exam, the student has not mastered the skills necessary to move to the next level. TCTC wants the student to be successful, and therefore will provide the student with advising for which course is appropriate for their skills.

How do I know which Exemption Exam to take? See the list of topics on each test by clicking here for Spanish and here for French.
How do I find the results of the Exemption Exam? Contact the Head of the Humanities Department, Dr. Della Vanhuss, at 646-1380 or dvanhuss@tctc.edu.

How can I get more information? For questions about your Spanish proficiency, contact Trini Tumlin at 220-8018 or ttumlin@tctc.edu, Corey Evans at 260-6742 or cevans@tctc.edu, or Marisa Shook at 646-1489 or mshook@tctc.edu, or Timeko McFadden at 864-646-1440 or tmcfadde@tctc.edu. To schedule the Exemption Exam, contact the Head of the Humanities Department, Dr. Della Vanhuss, at 646-1380 or dvanhuss@tctc.edu.