1. What is FLACS?
   FLACS is a professional organization whose members traditionally have been FL supervisors, chairpersons and/or other school administrators. However, because many school districts do not have a supervisor of LOTE, we have opened our membership to include one District employee to represent the district. We require at least one member representative per district.

2. What is the FLACS Exam Consortium?
   The FLACS consortium is made up of a group of FLACS member school districts who have signed up to be a part of our exam development process and to use our exams to satisfy the NYS high school diploma requirements regarding LOTE. Consortium members contribute test items electronically to a secure location. The chairpersons for each exam review and edit the items and then select items to be on the exam, ensuring that all topics are level appropriate and there is a nice balance of topics and ease/difficulty level. The exams are then field tested and proofed. Exams are made available (password-protected online) for printing and secure storage in early June.

2. How does a school district gain access to the FLACS Checkpoint A and B exams?
   The District must first join FLACS. The District must appoint the LOTE supervisor, or if there is no LOTE supervisor, the district must designate a district employee to represent the district in the FLACS Consortium. Membership application to FLACS is available online: http://www.flacs.org/membership/
   Once payment is received and membership is activated, the Superintendent of Schools needs to complete an online application to sign up for the exam consortium:
   - Link to join consortium: http://tinyurl.com/flacsexams2015

3. How many people need to join FLACS from each district?
   At least one member per district is necessary.

4. When is the deadline to join the FLACS consortium?
   The deadline for schools and districts to join is October 1, 2014. Late registration deadline is December 15, 2014. A fee of $100 is imposed for late registration.
   No enrollment possible after December 15, 2014.

5. Can a school district sign up for only one exam and not another?
   Yes, the school district contact person will receive access to all FLACS exams and use only the exams needed.

6. What happens if a district signs on to the consortium but then decides not to use the exams?
   That is the option of the school district. FLACS would like the courtesy of an email with the reason for our own data collection.
7. Can schools in the consortium choose when to administer the exams?
   No. In order to keep our tests valid and secure, the FLACS exams may only be given as follows:
   Checkpoint A Exams: Monday, June 22nd at 9:15 am*
   Checkpoint B Exams: Monday, June 22nd at 12:15 pm*
   *Schools may begin the exam up to one hour early.

If your district or school is not able to comply with this protocol, you may not use our tests. Please let us know as soon as possible if this will be a problem for you.

8. Can I use the exams for make-ups, as well?
   No. FLACS exams may only be given on the designated date, at the designated time.

9. Can we use FLACS exams as a make-up exam?
   No. The FLACS exam is a secure exam that is administered on the same date and time each year. Since security has been breached after its administration, the exam cannot be used as a make-up.

   It is important to note that Districts have the option to create their own local exam to meet the graduation requirements.

10. What is the format of the exams? Are there any changes?
   Several changes have been made to the Checkpoint A exams (formerly known as the SLP). The word count for the writing task has changed from 30 words to 50 words and a Read to Write Common Core task was added to the writing options. Additionally, changes were made to the Part 1 speaking portion of the exam.
   Please click on these links to view a detailed description of the FLACS exams and the changes that have been made:
   http://www.flacs.org/consortium/read_me.html and

The FLACS Checkpoint B exams have also been changed. A Read to Write Common Core task was added as an option to Part 4, the writing section. Questions for the reading passages are no longer in order of the reading and they will include Common Core type questions (inference, tone, etc.). New point values have been set and the original rubric has been modified. See the link below for details:

11. What are the most recent changes to the FLACS exams?
   Starting in June 2015, one of the options for the writing tasks for both Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B will be a Common Core-aligned writing task in which the writing will be informed by the reading text(s). It will be either an expository or persuasive writing task. Students will be able to select one out of a possible 3 reading-writing tasks. A modified version of the original rubric will be available.

   The speaking portion of the Checkpoint A exam will be rated on a 0 (no credit), 1 (minimal proficiency), 2 (proficient/beyond).
The amount of listening items has been reduced on both exams. Checkpoint A exams have 15 listening items instead of 20. Five for each section (2a, 3b, 2c). Checkpoint B exams have 13 listening items instead of 15: Eight with questions in English, five with questions in the target language.

Point values for several sections of the exams have been adjusted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checkpoint A:</th>
<th>Checkpoint B:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>Speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (0 / 1 / 2 points)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>Listening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (15 items)</td>
<td>26 (13 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (new task/rubric)</td>
<td>20 (new task/rubric)</td>
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</table>

Please click on these links to view a detailed description of the FLACS exams and the changes that have been made: [http://www.flacs.org/consortium/read_me.html](http://www.flacs.org/consortium/read_me.html) and [http://www.flacs.org/consortium/docs/2015/exam_description_2015.pdf](http://www.flacs.org/consortium/docs/2015/exam_description_2015.pdf)

12. Are June 2014 exams available?
   Yes. They are posted online and available to FLACS consortium members only (password protected). Please contact Jennifer Nesfield (Steering Committee Chairperson) for exam access issues: jnesfield@flacs.org

13. How many items should schools submit?
   We encourage quality over quantity. Item writing is the most important part of our process and we encourage teachers to submit items. In addition to being an excellent opportunity for professional development, item writing allows us to have a pool of questions from which we can choose. Consider this an opportunity for departments to discuss assessments, themes, topics, standards and proficiency development. We have experienced a shortage of items for the French and Italian exams. We would encourage your district to provide support for these exams by submitting as many items as possible.

14. How will schools receive the exams?
   Districts will receive passwords to access the exams on June 2, 2015. Exams must be stored and kept secure until the day of administration: June 22, 2015. No teacher who will be administering the exam to his or her own students should see the exam prior to June 22, 2015. It is the district’s responsibility to appoint a staff member who does not have a vested interest in the outcome of the exams to receive access to the exams and oversee the photocopying and storage of the exams.

15. Is FLACS collecting data and if so, what kind?
   For the past several years, FLACS has collected data regarding enrollment, passing, and mastery rates for the FLACS exams via google doc links. Only a small percentage of our districts are submitting data. We encourage all districts participating in the consortium to submit results to this link:

16. Will questions from prior tests be recycled from year to year, or will there be a completely new exam every year?
   We create new exams each year.
17. How should schools handle the speaking part of the exams?

We have edited the NYS Checkpoint A speaking tasks to better conform to our new format of three speaking functions (rather than four categories, Socializing and Expressing Personal Feelings have been collapsed into one category; the other two categories are Providing/Obtaining Information and Persuasion). The new speaking manuals and administration guidelines with the new rubrics are posted on our website. This year a change in the scoring for speaking will be implemented. Students taking Checkpoint A exams will be awarded 0 points (no credit), 1 point (minimal proficiency), or 2 points (proficient/beyond) for each of the 15 utterances for the three tasks.

**Please note: if you are using the FLACS exams for the purpose of your APPR evaluations (the SLO or LOCAL component of your APPR evaluation), you must arrange for someone other than the teacher to score the students speaking tasks.**