

## Cornell University

### Language Portfolio – Cornell University Version

*German Studies Language Portfolio*

**GERST 1220**

#### ***Self-assessment checklist***

(adapted from the Swiss Version of the *European Language Portfolio*)

These checklists are based on the common reference levels elaborated in the *Common European Framework* (<http://www.goethe.de/z/50/commeuro/>) and on the reference levels for German as a Foreign Language elaborated in *Profil deutsch* (<http://www.goethe.de/z/52/profile.htm>).

The Swiss ELP (European Language Portfolio) explains that the checklists can be used in two ways: (i) to review one's overall proficiency in a particular language prior to updating one's language passport at the beginning or end of an extended period of learning; and (ii) to monitor one's learning progress, perhaps in relation to a particular skill or skills.

The checklists can be used to plan the individual course of learning and to identify appropriate language goals.

The Cornell University *German Studies Language Portfolio* is based on extensive revisions of the curriculum and reflects the very unique circumstances and conditions under which students at Cornell University engage in their foreign language studies. It is a work in progress and an adaptation of both the *Framework* and *Profil* to suit the needs and qualities of Cornell students. As such it only proves how flexible and valuable a tool the *European Framework for Languages* is.

**Language Portfolio – Department of German Studies, Cornell University Version**

Use this checklist to record what you think you can do (Column 1). Ask someone else, for example your teacher, to also assess what they think you can do (Column 2). Use Column 3 to mark those things that you cannot yet do which you feel are important for you (Column 3 = Objectives). Add to the list – perhaps with your teacher – other things that you can do, or that are important for your language learning at this level.

**Use the following symbols:**

In columns 1 and 2

✓ I can do this under normal circumstances



✓✓ I can do this easily



In column 3



! This is an objective for me

!! This is a priority for me

If you have over 80% of the points ticked, you have probably reached Level A2/B1 (exit level GERST1220)

	Me	Another	My objectives
	1	2	3
 <b>LISTENING</b>			
<b>A1</b> I can understand familiar everyday expressions, simple sentences and structures, and familiar vocabulary, provided they are spoken clearly and slowly in standard German and important information is repeated.	✓✓	✓✓	
<b>A2</b> I can understand what is said clearly and slowly in standard German on topics dealing with predictable everyday matters.	✓✓	✓✓	
I can understand short texts that contain a fair number of internationalisms when someone speaks clearly, with long pauses for me to assimilate meaning.	✓	✓	
I can understand the most important points of a simple presentation on a familiar topic when visual aids or gestures are used.	✓	✓	
 <b>READING</b>			
<b>A2</b> I can understand parts of short, simple texts when I can read them several times.	✓	✓✓	
I can understand the main point of simple texts on general topics.	✓	✓✓	
I can understand simple, standard texts on familiar themes if they contain frequently used words and structures and/or some internationalisms.	✓	✓✓	
I can find certain information in longer texts on topics of personal		✓	!!

interest to me.			
I can understand short, simple, written instructions, especially if they are illustrated.	✓✓	✓✓	
I can skim small advertisements with only a few abbreviations and identify the most important pieces of information.		✓	!
<b>B1</b> I can understand the plot of a clearly structured story and recognize important episodes and events and what is significant about them.		✓	!!
 <b>SPOKEN PRODUCTION</b>			
<b>A2</b> I can express myself in common situations, even though I might pause to find the right words.	✓	✓✓	!!
I can describe aspects of my everyday life (people, places, job, school) fairly correctly in simple phrases and sentences.	✓	✓✓	
I can describe familiar topics, my hobbies and interests using a limited repertoire of phrases and sentences.	✓✓	✓✓	
I can make statements using reasonably accurate expressions and can structure them appropriately.	✓	✓	
I can make and respond to plans and appointments.	✓	✓	
I can narrate a short story.		✓	!
I can explain and justify opinions, plans, and actions.		✓	!!
I can connect my sentences with words such as “aber,” “weil,” and “deshalb.”	✓✓	✓	
<b>B1</b> I can describe familiar topics and persons in a simple and clear manner.	✓	✓	!!
 <b>WRITING</b>			
<b>A2</b> I can write about aspects of my everyday life (people, places, job, school) fairly correctly in simple phrases and sentences.	✓	✓✓	
I can write about familiar topics, my hobbies, and interests using a limited repertoire of phrases and sentences.	✓	✓	
I can write simple sentences, connecting them with words such as “und,” “aber,” and “weil.”	✓✓	✓✓	
I can apply some important orthographic rules to my writing.	✓	✓	
	<b>m.</b>	<b>a.</b>	<b>Obj.</b>
<b>A2</b> I can write notes about familiar situations using standard phrases and templates.		✓	!
<b>B1</b> I can write a simply structured story.	✓	✓	

 <b>SPOKEN INTERACTION FROM ANOTHER LANGUAGE INTO GERMAN</b>			
<b>A1</b> I can translate words and simple phrases such as “Good morning” and “Check, please” from another language into German, sometimes with the help of my German-speaking partner.	✓✓	✓✓	
I can convey to a German speaker some information written in another language with the help of a dictionary. Due to my pronunciation, my German partner might have to ask for clarification.	✓✓	✓✓	
<b>A2</b> I can convey the most important information from texts written in another language on everyday or familiar topics to a German speaker in German with the help of a dictionary, although I may have to pause to search for a word or expression.		✓	!
I can communicate information, questions or wishes of immediate relevance in a verbal exchange in another language to a German-speaker in German (e.g., relaying a friend’s wishes to a German speaking salesperson or instructions on how to get to the museum to a German speaking friend).	✓	✓	
 <b>SPOKEN INTERACTION FROM GERMAN INTO A COMMON LANGUAGE</b>			
<b>A2</b> I can convey names, numbers, prices and simple information from well-structured German texts to a non-German speaker in the language we share.	✓	✓	
I can communicate selective information, questions or wishes of immediate relevance in a verbal exchange from German to a non-German speaker in the language we share, provided the information is given clearly and slowly in standard German.	✓	✓	

These descriptors were developed for the *Common European Framework* and the Portfolio in the Swiss National Science Foundation project: Schneider, Günther & North, Brian (2000): *Fremdsprachen können – was heisst das?* Chur/Zürich, Rüegger.