

The Growth of Greek: The National Greek Exam and Junior Classical League

Teachers and students of Ancient Greek face a multitude of challenges, not least of which is a relative scarcity of materials and opportunities compared to those available for other languages (including Latin). This presentation highlights new and growing opportunities for those studying the Greek language: the National Greek Exam, the Classical Greek Language test offered at the National Junior Classical League convention, and Agon (Greek Certamen), also offered at NJCL. The National Greek Exam provides an opportunity to test students of all ability levels from across the nation against one another, along with the benefit of a scholarship opportunity, much like the more familiar National Latin Exam. The Classical Greek Language test at NJCL is a newly piloted exam designed for students of all levels to take as part of the academic battery of tests at the National Junior Classical League convention each summer. Finally, Agon or Greek Certamen, is a newly piloted competition that allows a team of students to compete against other teams in the subjects of Hellenic history, Greek mythology, Greek literature and culture, and Greek language. Traditional Certamen is wildly popular in the Junior Classical League; Agon provides a venue for underserved Hellenists to participate in this type of competition, which has proven to be an effective teaching tool and a “hook” for maintaining student participation and engagement.