

National Spanish Examinations

Practice Proficiency Exam – Level 1 - 2014

Part One. Reading Comprehension.

This section will measure your proficiency in reading Spanish and contains 17 multiple choice questions in increasing order of difficulty. You should work as far into the section as you can.

Each item is comprised of (1) a context in English, (2) an authentic reading in Spanish, and (3) a question in English. Each question is followed by four possible answers, only ONE of which is correct. Choose the **ONE** answer which best completes each statement.

1. Valentina wrote the following text message to her friend explaining what she and her friends will be doing over the next few weeks.

Hoy es jueves, tres de abril. Mañana mis amigos y yo vamos al parque después de las clases para jugar al fútbol. El sábado voy al cine para ver una película de terror. El domingo, seis de abril, vamos a la iglesia. El lunes vamos a estudiar para el examen de matemáticas. El once vamos a la casa de Pedro para celebrar su cumpleaños. El doce, que es sábado, voy a ir de compras en el centro comercial.

When is Pedro's birthday?

- Friday.
 - Sunday.
 - Wednesday.
 - Monday.
2. As you're reading an online newspaper from Latin America, you find this information about when a popular videogame will be released to consumers.

Días de estreno:
Buenos Aires: 05.06.14
Santiago: 06.06.14
Montevideo: 06.05.14
Caracas: 15.05.14

When will the videogame be available in Buenos Aires?

- May 6.
- June 6.
- June 14.

- June 5.
3. As you're studying in Peru, you come across this advertisement in the local newspaper.

¡Y divertido! ¡Ritmos del mundo!

¿Te gusta escuchar música favorita de muchos estudiantes latinos y divertirse bailando?

Ofrecemos todos tipos de baile, pero nos especializamos en merengue, salsa, y bachata.

¡Ven y disfruta! Martes y jueves en el gimnasio.

---Hora: 16:30 a 17:30---

Más música en: <http://www.masmusicalatina.com>

What is this advertisement promoting?

- An exercise session.
- Dance lessons.
- A student concert.
- Cooking classes.
4. Sandra is planning on studying in Peru and has provided her mother with a list of things she needs.

Cosas que necesito:

bolígrafos negros

lápices

muchas carpetas

mucho papel

mochila

In what department of the store will Sandra's mom shop for these items?

- Shoes.
- Housewares.
- Girls' clothing.
- School supplies.
5. Next school year, your family will be hosting an exchange student from Colombia. Adrián, your new host brother, writes you this letter describing his daily routines.

Normalmente me despierto a las seis y media. Me levanto y me quito los pijamas para ducharme. Después de ducharme, me visto y me gusta desayunar. Me gusta comer pan tostado y un café con leche. Después de comer, me peino y me cepillo los dientes, me pongo los zapatos, busco mis útiles escolares y salgo para las clases. No me gusta llegar tarde.

Which part of the day is Adrián describing?

- The night.
- The afternoon.
- The morning.
- The evening.

6. Matias just logged into Facebook and reads the following post among some of his friends.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from Javiera Amaya, dated December 17th, asking if anyone wants to go to the movies with her and Camila on Friday. Below the post are several comments:

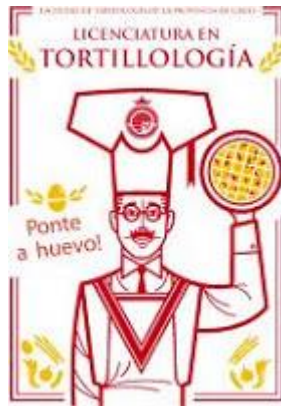
- Sebastián Cruz Vázquez** (Dec 17, 0:21): "¡Cómo no! ¿Cuál es la película?" (Me gusta)
- Javiera Amaya** (Dec 17, 0:22): "No tengo ni la menor idea." (Me gusta)
- Matías Machado Santos** (Dec 22, 12:36): "¡Que idea tan buena! Quiero ir contigo, Javi, y con Camila." (Me gusta)
- Camila Goya Borges** (Dec 17, 9:35): "Lo siento. No puedo ir con ustedes." (Me gusta)
- Sebastián Cruz Vázquez** (Dec 17, 9:36): "@Cami - ¿Por qué no?" (Me gusta)
- Camila Goya Borges** (Dec 17, 9:49): "Tengo que cuidar a mi hermanito." (Me gusta)

At the bottom of the screenshot is a comment input field with the placeholder text "Escribe un comentario..." and a camera icon for photo uploads. Below the input field, it says "Presiona Enter para publicar."

According to the post, who is unable to go to the movies?

- Matias.
- Javiera.
- Camila.
- Sebastian.

7. Angela reads this paragraph about Spanish schools in an online magazine.



En una escuela en el sur de España hay un curso muy diferente: *Tortillogía*. Es un curso creado para enseñar a hacer una tortilla perfecta. La tortilla de patatas es un plato típico español. Generalmente tiene solamente tres ingredientes principales (patatas, cebolla y huevo) pero para hacer una buena tortilla es necesario practicar mucho. Durante la clase los estudiantes visitan varios restaurantes para probar la tortilla. Es diferente en cada lugar.

What material does the *Tortillogía* class cover?

- The best locations to find a good tortilla in Spain.
- The health benefits of cooking tortillas.
- How to prepare a classic Spanish tortilla.
- The difference between Mexican and Spanish tortillas.

8. Margarita wrote the following description in a letter to a friend.

Mi dormitorio es bastante grande. Hay una cama grande, dos mesitas de noche, una cómoda, un estante, un escritorio, una silla y una alfombra rosada. Hay un espejo sobre la cómoda. En la pared hay unos carteles de Justin Bieber y Taylor Swift. Mi dormitorio siempre está ordenado. Hago la cama todos los días, paso la aspiradora y saco el polvo cada semana. No comparto el dormitorio con otra persona porque es mi propio dormitorio. Mi dormitorio siempre está mucho más ordenado que el dormitorio de mi hermano. A él no le gusta ni arreglar su dormitorio ni limpiar el baño. ¡A nadie le gusta limpiar el baño!

Which **ONE** of the following statements is true?

- Margarita's bedroom is fairly large.
- Margarita shares a room with her sister.
- Margarita's brother generally cleans the bathroom.
- Margarita's bedroom is often messy.

9. Scott saw this posting about Hispanics in New York in the travel section of an online newspaper.

La población hispanohablante de Nueva York es una de las más grandes del mundo. Entre los grupos que hablan español, los puertorriqueños son la mayoría. Más de un millón de puertorriqueños viven en Nueva York. Muchos de los puertorriqueños que viven allí tienen parientes en Puerto Rico y mantienen contacto con ellos. Por eso muchos jóvenes visitan Puerto Rico durante las vacaciones. También hay otras personas que hablan español en Nueva York, como los cubanos, los panameños, los dominicanos, los venezolanos. Mucha gente en Nueva York habla español.

Which fact is mentioned in this posting about Spanish speakers in New York?

- That the majority of people who speak Spanish in New York are Puerto Rican.
 - That Puerto Rico is the largest Spanish speaking island in the world.
 - That other Hispanic groups travel to Puerto Rico for vacation since they speak the same language.
 - That long distance rates to Puerto Rico are low enough to allow for frequent phone calls.
10. Jeff read this article in a pamphlet in the school nurse's office.

Un nuevo estudio dice que muchos adultos no duermen ni seis horas por noche y afecta mucho a su calidad de vida. Las personas que duermen menos de seis horas por noche tienen varios problemas. Generalmente están más cansadas y tienen más estrés y fatiga. Están más tristes y menos alertas. Hacen peor su trabajo y tienen más problemas de relaciones interpersonales. Comen más de lo usual. Tienen menos energía. Es muy importante dormir suficiente para mantener la buena salud.

What statement best summarizes the topic of this paragraph?

- Ways to limit stress and fatigue.
 - Problems resulting from getting too little sleep.
 - Physical and emotional causes of insomnia.
 - Health advantages of good fitness habits.
11. Your Spanish teacher is reading this email that she received from a possible pen pal for your class.

¡Hola! Me llamo Elena y soy de Colombia. Tengo catorce años y mi cumpleaños es el trece de noviembre. Soy una persona bastante extrovertida. No soy tímida para nada. A veces me gusta cantar y escuchar música. No me gusta estudiar mucho. Sobre todo me encanta jugar a varios deportes. Juego al básquetbol los fines de semana con mis amigos y nado durante la semana. También me encanta jugar al tenis cuando hace buen tiempo.

With which type of student would your teacher most likely pair Elena?

- A shy student.

- A studious student.
- An athletic student.
- An introverted student.

12. Dylan sees this blog entry written by a girl who is describing her family.

Me llamo Cecilia. En mi familia somos seis. Vivo con mis padres, mi abuela, mi hermano mayor Antonio y mi hermana mayor Valentina. También tenemos una gata que se llama Kokó. En junio mi hermana va a cumplir dieciséis años. En vez de tener una fiesta de cumpleaños muy grande, ella prefiere viajar a Cancún para nadar con los delfines.

According to the paragraph, which **ONE** of the following statements is true?

- There are seven members of the family.
- There will be a sweet sixteen party in Cancun.
- The narrator is the youngest member of the family.
- Koko's birthday is in June.

13. Sara reads these descriptions of some classmates on the whiteboard in Spanish class.

David tiene quince años. No es muy alto, pero es guapo y muy simpático. Es bastante serio y estudia mucho. Le gusta jugar a videojuegos, pasar el rato solo y leer. No le gustan los deportes. Amelia tiene diez y siete años. Es alta, guapa y muy simpática. No le gusta estudiar. Es muy graciosa. Le gusta practicar deportes y salir con amigos.

Which statement about the paragraph is true?

- David is more studious than Amelia.
- David is taller than Amelia.
- Amelia is more serious than David.
- Amelia is younger than David.

14. You're planning on studying in Peru, and you've just received this letter from your host family telling about the town in which they live.

En nuestra ciudad hay mucho que hacer. En la plaza central hay muchos restaurantes y cafés. Nos gusta comer donde hay comida típica peruana. Tenemos una piscina pública para nadar y tomar el sol. Hay una biblioteca grande si quieres leer libros o revistas. También la ciudad tiene un museo de la historia del Perú. Hay muchas cosas interesantes allí. Hay un gimnasio si quieres hacer ejercicio cuando estás aquí. Cerca de nuestra casa tenemos un parque donde puedes jugar a varios deportes. A muchos de los jóvenes les gusta pasar el rato allí para ver conciertos y jugar a los deportes.

According to the information in this letter, where do young people typically like to spend their time in your host family's town?

- The pool.
- The plaza.
- The park.
- The gym.

15. Kara reads this article in the zoology section of an online news magazine.

El ligre es el resultado entre el cruce de un león y una tigresa. Es muy raro que esto ocurra y más raro aun que ocurra en un zoológico. Las crías de esta unión son unos animales grandes con rayas de tigre difusas. Muchas veces son de mayor tamaño que los leones. Por esto son considerados los felinos más grandes del mundo.

According to the information found in this article, what is a liger?

- A rare zoo animal that is stronger than a cat.
- A striped animal similar to a leopard in size.
- The biggest animal in the world.
- An animal that is a cross between a male lion and a female tiger.

16. The parents one of your friends are looking to rent a condominium in Chile. Since they can't read Spanish, they have asked you to help them interpret the different listings.



STITCHKIN
GESTIÓN INMOBILIARIA

condominio
BELISARIO 1840
independencia

Condominio Belisario 1840
Belisario Prats 1840, Independencia, RM

Sala de ventas: Belisario Prats 1840, Independencia
Horario de visita: Lunes de 16:00 a 19:00 hrs. y de Martes a Domingo de 11:00 a 14:00 y de 16:00 a 19:00 hrs.

Precio D
1.036 U

Cotiza

Código
Tel: +56 2 731

Listed below are the times which your friend's parents have available to view the condominium. Given the times that the property is open, which time would you suggest to them?

- Sunday afternoon at 3:00.
- Monday morning at 8:00.
- Wednesday afternoon at 1:00.
- Friday evening at 7:30.

17. Beth reads this paragraph in an email from a pen pal from Argentina.

No me gusta hacer los quehaceres. Todos los días tengo que hacer la cama y arreglar mi cuarto. A veces pongo la mesa, lavo los platos y preparo la comida. Mi hermano da de comer al perro y también saca la basura. Los sábados por la mañana él limpia los baños y lava el coche. Es muy trabajador. Mi mamá también es muy trabajadora. Ella es enfermera y cuida a las personas enfermas en el hospital. Ella trabaja mucho más que mi hermano y yo.

Which chore does the narrator do each day?

- Feed the dog.
- Take out the trash.
- Clean the bathrooms.
- Make the bed.

Part Two. Listening Comprehension.

This section will measure your proficiency in listening to spoken Spanish and contains 17 multiple choice questions in increasing order of difficulty. You should work as far into the section as you can.

Each item is comprised of (1) a context in English, (2) an audio clip in Spanish, and (3) a question in English. Each question is followed by four possible answers, only ONE of which is correct. Choose the **ONE** answer which best completes each statement.

18. You are at the station waiting for the train and someone approaches you to ask a question.



What is being discussed?

- This afternoon's plans.
- How late the train is.
- The time of day.
- The date.

19. A mother is talking with her son about his schoolwork.



What word best describes the son's current condition?

- Sad.
- Worried.
- Sick.
- Tired.

20. Two friends are walking around downtown and are discussing their plans.



What are the two people discussing?

- Serving dinner.
- Shopping for food.
- Going to the library.
- Eating lunch.

21. Two friends are in a department store talking about some merchandise.



In which department does this conversation take place?

- Furniture.
- Sporting goods.
- Men's clothing.
- The shoe department.

22. Two people are discussing the date.



What day of the week is it?

- Wednesday.
- Monday.
- Thursday.
- Tuesday.

23. Tyler and Brooklyn are discussing a teacher.

 **Escuche**

According to the description given, what assumption can you make about Brooklyn's teacher?

- Brooklyn's teacher is a man, and she doesn't like him.
- Brooklyn's teacher is a woman, and she doesn't like her.
- Brooklyn's teacher is a man, and she likes him.
- Brooklyn's teacher is a woman, and she likes her.

24. The speech teacher has assigned the class to write a paragraph expressing one's opinion about the city's transportation system. Here is Veronica's speech.

 **Escuche**

What is the opinion of the speaker?

- The roads in the city need to be improved.
- Having good roads is necessary for economic growth.
- Automobiles have created some problems.
- Tourists have trouble navigating the city's streets.

25. A teacher is asking his student some questions about geography.

 **Escuche**



What aspect of geography is the class most likely studying?

- The role of rivers in transporting goods to the east and north of Madrid.

- Guadalajara's importance as Spain's ancient capital.
- The location of Madrid in relation to other cities in Spain.
- Avila's strategic position near the Henares River.

26. Ashley and John are foreign exchange students in Spain and are talking about one of the other classmates.



What is the next question that John would most likely ask about Mario?

- What languages does he speak?
- Is he the guy in our history class?
- Where is from originally?
- What sports does he play?

27. You overhear this conversation about activities in different kinds of weather.



When does the man prefer to ride his bicycle?

- When it's cool.
- When it's hot.
- When it's sunny.
- When it's cold.

28. You hear two people discussing a person in a picture.





How is Ana related to the woman who is speaking?

- She is the wife of her father's brother.
- She is her mother's sister.
- She is the wife of her mother's brother.
- She is her father's sister.

29. Rob and Silvia are discussing their study habits while driving to school.



According to the conversation, who would be a good person to ask for help with science?

- Miguel.
- Monica.
- Antonio.
- Javier.

30. You are at a party and overhear the following conversation between Guillermo and Martina.



What can you infer about Guillermo and Martina from this conversation?

- They are classmates.
- They have just met.

- They live in different cities.
- Guilleremo knows Martina's brother.

31. A man who had to leave a soccer game early is questioning a woman about its outcome.



What happened after the man left?

- The Italians won.
- The French won.
- The game ended in a tie.
- The game got postponed.

32. Sandra hears a radio announcement for a sale at her favorite store.



What season's clothing is this store trying to liquidate?

- Spring.
- Summer.
- Winter.
- Fall.

33. José and Pilar are traveling through Buenos Aires and are asking the hotel clerk to direct them to sites of interest near the hotel.





According to the hotel clerk, what type of architecture can be seen in Palermo?

- Indigenous.
- Argentine.
- Spanish.
- European.

34. It's early morning, and Sonia has just telephoned Jorge.



What statement best summarizes the conversation?

- They have just returned from a winter vacation.
- They are discussing what is on the upcoming test.
- They have just found out that they have a snow day.
- They are planning what to do this weekend.

Version A

Practice Exam - National Spanish Examination - Proficiency - Level 1

This test measures proficiency in Spanish reading and listening comprehension.

1. Friday.
2. June 5.
3. Dance lessons.
4. School supplies.
5. The morning.
6. Camila.
7. How to prepare a classic Spanish tortilla.
8. Margarita's bedroom is fairly large.
9. That the majority of people who speak Spanish in New York are Puerto Rican.
10. Problems resulting from getting too little sleep.
11. An athletic student.
12. The narrator is the youngest member of the family.
13. David is more studious than Amelia.
14. The park.
15. An animal that is a cross between a male lion and a female tiger.
16. Wednesday afternoon at 1:00.
17. Make the bed.
18. The time of day.
19. Worried.
20. Eating lunch.
21. Men's clothing.
22. Tuesday.
23. Brooklyn's teacher is a man, and she doesn't like him.
24. Having good roads is necessary for economic growth.

25. The location of Madrid in relation to other cities in Spain.
26. What sports does he play?
27. When it's cool.
28. She is the wife of her mother's brother.
29. Monica.
30. They have just met.
31. The Italians won.
32. Summer.
33. European.
34. They have just found out that they have a snow day.