

National Spanish Examinations

Practice Proficiency Exam – Level 2 - 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. Matias just logged into Facebook and reads the following post among some of his friends.

The image shows a Facebook post interface. At the top, the user **Javiera Amaya** has posted: "Voy al cine con Camila el viernes. ¿Quién quiere ir con nosotros?". Below the post are interaction buttons: "Me gusta", "Comentar", and "Compartir". There are six comments visible:

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

At the bottom, there is a text input field with the placeholder "Escribe un comentario..." and a camera icon to its right. Below the input field, it says "Presiona Enter para publicar."

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

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

2. 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 long distance rates to Puerto Rico are low enough to allow for frequent phone calls.
- That other Hispanic groups travel to Puerto Rico for vacation since they speak the same language.
- 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.

3. 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?

- Health advantages of good fitness habits.
- Physical and emotional causes of insomnia.
- Problems resulting from getting too little sleep.
- Ways to limit stress and fatigue.

4. 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.
- How to prepare a classic Spanish tortilla.
- The health benefits of cooking tortillas.
- The difference between Mexican and Spanish tortillas.

5. 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?

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

6. Joe read this advertisement on an electronic company's website.

iTunes es una aplicación gratuita para Mac y PC. Reproduce toda tu música y videos digitales. Con iTunes puedes descargar música, películas, programas de televisión, libros en audio, y podcasts de la tienda en línea iTunes Store 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana. Ahora puedes comprar películas de Disney y puedes verlas sin salir de la

comodidad de tu hogar. Además viene con un administrador de descargas que sirve la pausar y resumir cuando lo necesites. Organiza y reproduce tu colección de audio.

Which feature of iTunes is **NOT** mentioned in the advertisement?

- Its fast download speeds for both audio and video.
 - Its availability as a dual format free app (Mac and PC).
 - The opportunity to watch Disney movies at home.
 - The possibility of downloading podcasts at any time of day or night.
7. 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 plaza.
 - The pool.
 - The park.
 - The gym.
8. While doing research for her marketing class, Barb saw this blurb on a shoe company's website.



UN NUEVO ZAPATO

El Señor Ángel Martínez, del Bronx inventó un zapato aeróbico para la compañía Reebok. Cuando observó que las mujeres hacían ejercicios en zapatos de correr, vio que era necesario un nuevo zapato casual, ligero y elegante. Durante los 1980s vendieron 20 millones de zapatos alrededor del mundo. La compañía ganó mucho más dinero que en el pasado.

Which strategy for raising Reebok's profits is mentioned in the paragraph?

- Putting more women in executive positions.
 - Hiring marketing experts.
 - Moving shoe factories to key sites around the world.
 - Creating a new type of shoe.
9. 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?

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

10. Sonia is looking for a home for her and her family and writes this email to her realtor.

Mi casa ideal estaría cerca de muchas tiendas y restaurantes. Tendría tres dormitorios y dos baños. Quiero un garaje doble para nuestros autos. Tiene que tener un comedor grande para nuestra mesa de ocho sillas. Prefiero tener dos salas, una para el televisor y los videojuegos y otra para el piano. Los baños tienen que ser completos con bañera y ducha. También tiene que tener un patio detrás de la casa para nuestras mascotas. No quiero estar muy lejos del centro. Me da igual el color de la casa, pero tiene que tener estas cosas que he incluido.

Of the four listings available, which one should the realtor show Sonia?

- A three-bedroom house in the suburbs.
- A townhouse with two updated bathrooms in the downtown area.
- A two-bedroom condominium with a combined living / dining area.
- A house with a swimming pool in a quiet rural area.

11. While studying word origins, Teresa saw this write-up in a Spanish language journal.

El español es una lengua romance que viene del latín. Debido a los muchos siglos de dominación árabe (711-1492) en la Península Ibérica, el español tiene muchas palabras de origen árabe como **algodón, alcalde, almohada, alcohol y álgebra**. Otro aporte árabe es la terminación **-ez** que significa "hijo de...", como en los apellidos Martínez, González, Rodríguez.

What is the main point of the paragraph?

- That Spanish is a Romance language.
- That the Spanish language has been influenced by the Arabic language.
- That Arab people also have names like Martínez and Rodríguez.
- That words like "alcalde" and "almohada" were exported from Spanish into Arabic.

12. 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?

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

13. 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

Códig
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?

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

14. You are reading an article in the education section of an online newspaper.

Durante los últimos años se ha discutido la moralidad de los jóvenes, debido a ciertas maneras de vestirse, en las que se ve a adolescentes de edad escolar, vistiéndose de ropa más apropiada para la playa que el aula. Según directores de las escuelas secundarias, los estudiantes que asisten a escuelas que han implementado reglas

para uniformes han tenido más éxito con las notas y con el comportamiento. Muchos padres están de acuerdo con la opinión de los directores y dicen que no importa el tiempo que los estudiantes pasan haciendo la tarea en casa.

According to high school principals, what is given as a reason for improving grades and behavior?

- Implementing dress code regulations.
- Allowing sufficient recreation time.
- Permitting self-expression in choice of uniform.
- Requiring more time at home studying.

15. Ana has just opened a medical website on the Internet and has found this text.

El Día Mundial del SIDA se celebra el 1 de diciembre de cada año en todo el mundo. Tiene como objetivo generar una mayor conciencia de lo que supone el VIH/SIDA. Aunque se ha progresado mucho, treinta millones de personas viven con el VIH en todo el mundo. Juntos podemos detener el avance del VIH y el estigma que surge principalmente por el miedo y la ignorancia sobre la enfermedad y los prejuicios que existen.

What is the main point of this text?

- Notifying the public about a rally on December 1.
- Educating people about HIV/AIDS.
- Treating people with HIV/AIDS.
- Informing the public about the number of deaths.

16. You are browsing Facebook and see the following post.



Rincones, historias y mitos de Buenos Aires compartió una foto.

Parroquia San Pedro Telmo en el barrio de San Telmo



| Parroquia San Pedro González Telmo - Humberto 1° 340

Me gusta · Comentar · Compartir · 92 2 22 · Hace 22 minutos ·

En 1734, los jesuitas decidieron fundar una iglesia en la zona cercana al Puerto de Buenos Aires, para dar auxilio espiritual a los pobladores. En 1748 comienza la construcción de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Belén, el arquitecto elegido fue Antonio Masella. En 1806 se creó la Parroquia de San Pedro González Telmo, patrono de los navegantes, designándose a la iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Belén como sede provisora de la misma hasta tanto se erigiera el templo cabecera, cosa que nunca se realizó. Durante la época de las invasiones inglesas, la Parroquia fue tomada por los invasores y utilizada como hospital.

According to this selection, why was the church founded?

- To supply sailors with a safe refuge from pirates.
- To honor the patron saint of Buenos Aires.
- To provide for the spiritual needs of the settlers.
- To serve as a hospital during the British invasions.

17. While entering an apartment building in Lima, Peru, you notice the following poster and note.

MARTES 29 de noviembre
11:00 a.m.

S **IMULACRO**
NACIONAL
de SISMO

ZONA SEGURA
EN CASOS
DE SISMOS

1 **PREPÁRATE**
• Elabora tu Plan de Evacuación.
• Ten lista tu "Mochila para Emergencias".

2 **UBÍCATE**
• En la Zona de Seguridad Interna.

3 **EVACÚA**
• Por la Ruta de Evacuación
hacia la Zona de Seguridad Externa.

¡Prepárate y participa!
"Defensa Civil, Tarea de Todos"

El martes, 29 de noviembre, a las 11 de la mañana, se observará un simulacro en toda la ciudad. En caso de que haya un terremoto queremos que todos estén preparados y fuera de peligro. Lo más importante es saber de antemano qué hacer para proteger a su familia y a uno mismo.

For what type of disaster does this poster encourage people to prepare?

- Fire.
- Tsunami.
- Earthquake.
- Hurricane.

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.

To access the following audio files, visit: www.nationalspanishexam.org.

18. 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 have just met.
 - They are classmates.
 - Guillermo knows Martina's brother.
 - They live in different cities.
19. 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.



What is the opinion of the speaker?

- The roads in the city need to be improved.
 - Automobiles have created some problems.
 - Tourists have trouble navigating the city's streets.
 - Having good roads is necessary for economic growth.
20. You hear two people discussing a person in a picture.





How is Ana related to the woman who is speaking?

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

21. 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?

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

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





What aspect of geography is the class most likely studying?

- The role of rivers in transporting goods to the east and north of Madrid.
- The location of Madrid in relation to other cities in Spain.
- Avila's strategic position near the Henares River.
- Guadalajara's importance as Spain's ancient capital.

23. You received the following voice mail from your friend Antonio who is explaining why he is going to be late in arriving to your house.



What statement best summarizes the message?

- Antonio's brother got stranded at the train station.
- There was a miscommunication between Antonio and his father.
- Antonio's parents arrived late because of a flight delay.
- Antonio's dad sent him incorrect information through an email.

24. Mr. Alvarez is asking a travel agent about train travel in Peru.



What information does Mr. Alvarez learn about train travel in Peru?

- They are adding concession stands in the train stations.
- They are remodeling only the seats.

- They are building new train stations.
 - They are making changes to accommodate people with special needs.
25. You are in front of a theater and hear the two people in front of you discussing times of the performances.



According to what you hear, when might you attend a marionette show?

- On Tuesday.
 - Any weekday at 8:00.
 - On Thursday evening.
 - Only Saturday or Sunday afternoons.
26. Sandra hears a radio announcement for a sale at her favorite store.



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

- Summer.
 - Spring.
 - Fall.
 - Winter.
27. A man who had to leave a soccer game early is questioning a woman about its outcome.



What happened after the man left?

- The game got postponed.
 - The game ended in a tie.
 - The French won.
 - The Italians won.
28. 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?

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

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

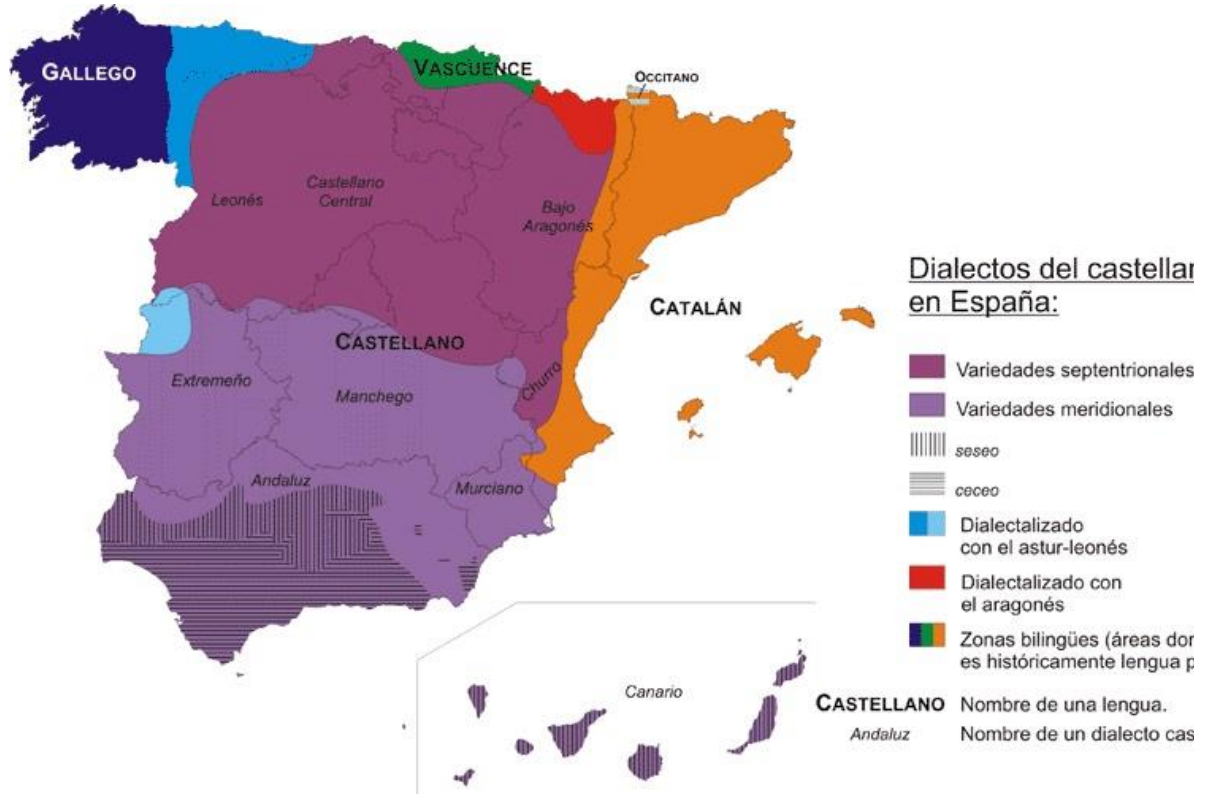


What statement best summarizes the conversation?

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

30. You are researching world languages when you come across this linguistic map of Spain and accompanying conversation.





After listening to this conversation, what can you infer about what is most surprising to the woman?

- She didn't realize that Spain has four official languages.
- She was astonished that most people in Spain speak only one language
- She was amazed that so many students study world languages in Spain.
- She found it hard to believe that Spanish is spoken in 19 countries.

31. You are listening to a podcast about customs among people living in small towns in Spain.





According to this passage, what is the purpose of a horseshoe hanging on a door?

- The farm has work horses for hire.
- The house was once occupied by slaves.
- The family living there is hoping for good luck.
- A person in that household is a soldier who has gone to war.

32. A teacher is quizzing her student on some aspects of the geography of Argentina.



What has the teacher asked the student to define in depth?

- What countries lie to the north, south, east and west.
- The different mountain ranges found within the country's borders.
- The geographical regions of the country.
- What geographical features divide Argentina from neighboring nations.

33. Elena is taking a conversation class at the university and is listening to her professor's introduction on the first day of class.

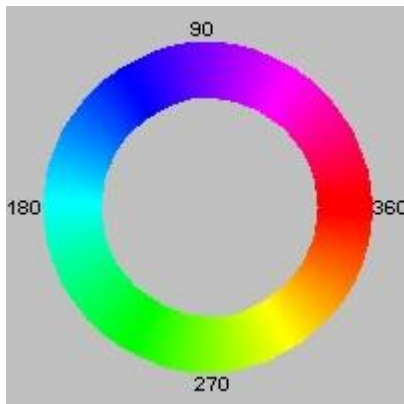
 **Escuche**

According to Elena's professor, what is the most important language skill?

- To be able to pronounce correctly in order to be understood by others.
- To be able to read and write in another language.
- To be able to exchange information, thoughts and ideas with others in another language.
- To be able to listen and understand adequately.

34. During a visit to an online museum, an art student listens to the following excerpt.

 **Escuche**



What is the primary purpose of this passage?

- It offers suggestions for using color in home design.
- It offers examples for using different shades to accent dress.
- It's a description of how colors affect one's personality.
- It's an explanation of the organization of the color wheel.

Version A

Practice Exam - National Spanish Examination - Proficiency - Level 2

This test measures proficiency in Spanish reading and listening comprehension.

1. Camila.
2. That the majority of people who speak Spanish in New York are Puerto Rican.

3. Problems resulting from getting too little sleep.
4. How to prepare a classic Spanish tortilla.
5. David is more studious than Amelia.
6. Its fast download speeds for both audio and video.
7. The park.
8. Creating a new type of shoe.
9. Make the bed.
10. A three-bedroom house in the suburbs.
11. That the Spanish language has been influenced by the Arabic language.
12. An animal that is a cross between a male lion and a female tiger.
13. Wednesday afternoon at 1:00.
14. Implementing dress code regulations.
15. Educating people about HIV/AIDS.
16. To provide for the spiritual needs of the settlers.
17. Earthquake.
18. They have just met.
19. Having good roads is necessary for economic growth.
20. She is the wife of her mother's brother.
21. What sports does he play?
22. The location of Madrid in relation to other cities in Spain.
23. There was a miscommunication between Antonio and his father.
24. They are making changes to accommodate people with special needs.
25. On Thursday evening.
26. Summer.
27. The Italians won.
28. European.

29. They have just found out that they have a snow day.
30. She didn't realize that Spain has four official languages.
31. The family living there is hoping for good luck.
32. The geographical regions of the country.
33. To be able to exchange information, thoughts and ideas with others in another language.
34. It's an explanation of the organization of the color wheel.