

SPECIFICATIONS BOOKLET

For the 2024-25 National Spanish Assessment (NSA)

Format & Length

Updated for the 2024-2025 exam cycle.

Specifications by Level

Includes Grammar and Vocabulary specifications by level.





Registration Tutorial



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About Us



The **AATSP Exams** (a.k.a. "NSE") office is a branch of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

Our mission is to recognize student achievement and to promote language proficiency in the studies of Spanish & Portuguese. To this end, the AATSP Exams office is committed to providing Teachers with assessment tools and offering Students opportunities to know their language skill ratings in vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, and listening comprehension.

About The National Spanish Assessment (NSA)

The <u>National Spanish Assessment (NSA)</u> is formative assessment tool that can be administered up to three times throughout the year to measure students' progress and track their growth.

It can be used as a diagnostic, placement, or benchmark test, and as a stepping stone to the National Spanish Exam (NSE), or other upper-level testing examinations. The NSA is an online, standardized, computer-graded assessment that measures content (what a student knows) and performance standards (what a student can do).

Additionally, the NSA provides detailed feedback that helps educators tailor instruction to meet individual student needs, and supports targeted learning strategies for improved language proficiency.

Each assessment attempt includes four modules that may also be administered separately:

- Vocabulary in Context
- Grammar in Action
- Reading/Interpretive Communication
- Listening/Interpretive Communication

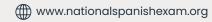
About This Booklet

In this booklet, you will find the updated Format & Length chart, and the updated Grammar and Vocabulary specifications of the 2024-25 <u>National Spanish Assessment</u>.











NATIONAL SPANISH ASSESSMENT

Format and Length

Updated for 2024-25

Each level of the NATIONAL SPANISH ASSESSMENT has 4 sections or modules of tests:

Vocabulary in context, Grammar in action, Reading/Interpretive Communication, and Listening/Interpretive Communication.

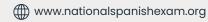
LEVELS	VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT	GRAMMAR IN ACTION	READING INTERPRETIVE COMMUNICATION	LISTENING INTERPRETIVE COMMUNICATION	TOTAL QUESTIONS AND POINTS
Level 01 Novice low/mid <al< td=""><td>20 Questions 25 points</td><td>20 Questions 25 points</td><td>20 Questions 25 points</td><td>20 Questions 25 points</td><td>20 Questions 25 points</td></al<>	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points
Level 1 Novice mid/high Al	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points
Level 2 Novice high/Int. Low A1/A2	20 Questions25 points	20 Questions25 points	20 Questions25 points	20 Questions25 points	20 Questions25 points
Level 3 Intermediate Iow/mid A2/B1	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points
Level 4 Intermediate mid/high B1/B2	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points
Level 5 Intermediate highAdvanced low B2	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points
Level 6 Advanced Iow/mid/high B2/C1	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points	20 Questions 25 points

Last updated: 8/13/2024









Level Placement Guide



Updated for 2024-25

For the National Spanish Assessment (NSA), level placement is at the instructor's discretion. Students may take multiple levels if desired. Determining the appropriate assessment module to administer should be decided by the teacher and the student. Please use the following chart as a guideline:

Level 01	Recommended for entry-level beginners The course content is equivalent to the first half of the Spanish 1 syllabus. (Novice low/mid ; <a1)< th=""></a1)<>
Level 1	Students whose course content is equivalent to the second-half of the Spanish 1 syllabus or entry-level for any program where the course content is equivalent to a full year of Spanish 1. (Novice mid/high; A1)
Level 2	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 2 syllabus. (Novice high/Int. Low; A1/A2)
Level 3	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 3 syllabus. (Intermediate low/mid; A2/B1)
Level 4	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 4 syllabus. (Intermediate mid/high; B1/B2)
Level 5	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 5 or AP Spanish syllabuses. (Intermediate high/Advanced low; B2)
Level 6	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 6 or AP Literature syllabuses. (Advanced low/mid/high; B2/C1)
AP Language / IB-SL	Students enrolled in a course labeled AP Language or IB-SL should be registered to take the current year's NSE at one level higher than the course in which they were enrolled the previous year. For example, an AP Language/IB-SL student who sat for the exam at Level 4 in 2023-2024 should be placed in Level 5 in 2024-2025. Under no circumstance should an AP Language/IB-SL student take the NSE at lower than Level 4.
AP Literature / IB-HL	Students enrolled in a course labeled AP Literature or IB-HL must take the NSE at either Level 5 or 6. These students should be enrolled to take the current year's NSE at one level higher than the course in which they were enrolled the previous year. Under no circumstance should an AP Literature/IB-HL student take the NSE at lower than Level 5.







National Spanish Assessment

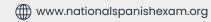
Specifications for Grammar

For Exam Years 2024 And After









For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 01

Nouns and Articles	 Gender of nouns ending in -o, -a Plural of nouns Possession of nouns (use of de + noun to express 's) Definite articles (el, la, de, los) Contractions with "al" and "del" Indefinite articles (un, una, unos, unas)
Verbs	 Subject-verb agreement Present tense of regular -ar, -er, and -ir verbs Basic irregular verbs (ser, estar, ir, tener) Simple idiomatic uses of tener = to be (calor, hambre, años)
Adjectives	 Agreement Cardinal numbers 1 - 100
Pronouns	SubjectIndirect object (used with <i>gustar</i>)
Conjunctions	Simple conjunctions (y, o)
Other	 Simple question words (dónde, cómo, qué, por qué, cuándo) Word order of yes/no questions

For Exam Years 2024 And After



Includes everything from Level 01 plus the following:

Nouns and Articles	 Gender of nouns ending in -o, -a Plural of nouns Possession of nouns (use of de + noun to express 's) Definite articles (el, la, de, los) Use of definite article with a title Indefinite articles (un, una, unos, unas)
Verbs	 Subject-verb agreement Present tense - formation and basic uses Negation Ser vs. Estar Simple idiomatic uses of tener = to be (calor, hambre, años) Helping verbs: tener que, poder, querer, necesitar Hacer used in weather expressions Present progressive (with regular present participles) Immediate future ("ir + a + infinitive") Vosotros Present tense - stem changers
Adjectives	 Agreement and position Short form possessive Ordinal numbers 1st - 10th Cardinal numbers 1 - 100
Pronouns	SubjectIndirect object (used with gustar)
Prepositions	 Simple prepositions (de, a, en , con, para, sin, según, entre) Personal a (plus "al" and "del")
Other	 Question words Word order of questions Adverbs Conjunctions

For Exam Years 2024 And After



Includes everything from Level 01 - 1 plus the following:

Nouns and Articles	 Gender of nouns ending in -dad, -ción, -ma, -pa Use of the definite article Use of <i>ningún</i> and <i>algún</i>, and their forms
Verbs	 Preterit - formation and basic uses Imperfect - formation and basic uses Future - formation (regular verbs) Commands Helping verbs: acabar de, pensar, deber, aprender a, tratar de Conocer vs. Saber Reflexive verbs Common irregular verbs - present tense Stem changing verbs - present tense
Adverbs	 Adverbs of time (ayer, pasado mañana, etc.) Adverbs of order (después, próximo, etc.) Adverbs of quantity (bastante, apenas, etc.) Adverbs of manner (desprecio, apenas, etc.) The suffix -mente Position of negative words (nada, nunca, jamás, etc.)
Pronouns	Indirect objectReflexivePrepositional
Prepositions and Conjunctions	 Simple prepositions (contra, desde, durante, entre, menos) Compound prepositions (antes de, cerca de, debajo de, etc.) Conjunctions - use of e instead of y Use of u instead of o Pero vs. Sino

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Specifications for *Grammar*

For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 3

Includes everything from Level 01 - 2 plus the following:

Nouns and Articles	• Everything from Levels 01 - 2
Adjectives	Adjectives used as nounsPast participle used as an adjective
Verbs	 Verbs with a special meaning in the preterit (saber, querer, etc) Imperfect vs. preterit Future - formation (irregular verbs) Present perfect - formation and uses Conditional - formation and basic uses Past perfect - formation and uses Use of subjunctive Use of infinitive after prepositions Indirect commands Verbs that use indirect object pronouns (faltar, quedar, etc) Passive voice
Adverbs	Adverbs of degree (bastante, demasiado, etc.)Comparison
Pronouns	 Indirect and direct object pronouns used together Possessive Impersonal se
Prepositions and Conjunctions	 Para vs. Por Correlative conjunctions (oo,nini, etc.)

For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 4

Includes everything from Levels 01 - 3 plus the following:

Verbs

- Present tense verbs with spelling changes (-cer/cir, -ger/gir, -guir)
- Present tense verbs requiring accent changes (reír enviar, actuar)
- Future to express probability in the present
- Conditional to express probability in the past
- Formation and uses of the conditional perfect
 - Example: Si me hubieras llamado **te habría** llevado a la reunión. ¿Por qué no me llamaste?
- Formation of the present subjunctive
- Use of the present subjunctive
 - Example: Es muy importante que tengas cuidado con las redes sociales.
- Formation of the imperfect subjunctive
 - Examples: tuviera, encontrara
- Use of the imperfect subjunctive in noun clauses
 - Example: Esperaba que la profesora **escuchara** mi pregunta.
- Use of quisiera as the conditional use of desire
- If clauses: Imperfect subjunctive, conditional
 - Hypothetical situation. Example: Si **encontrara** dinero en la calle lo devolvería.
- If clauses: Present indicative, future
 - o Possible situation. Example: Está nublado. Si llueve no iré a mi práctica de golf.
- Formation of the present perfect subjunctive
 - Example: hayan alcanzado
- Use of the present perfect subjunctive
 - Example: ¡Qué tarde salieron para el aeropuerto! Espero que tu hermana haya
 Ilegado a tiempo para tomar el avión.
- Short forms of adjectives
 - Examples: gran, tercer, buen, mal, ningún, etc.

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Nouns and Articles	 Use of the definite article with proper nouns modified by adjectives Use of the neuter article to normalize adjectives and past participles
Adjectives	Normalization of adjectives (el verde, las rojas)
Pronouns	 Relative pronouns (introduction and basic uses) Reciprocal reflexives (Example: Nos abrazamos)
Prepositions	Verbs (not) requiring prepositions before a noun



For Exam Years 2024 And After



Includes everything from Levels 01 - 4 plus the following:

Nouns and Articles	 Nouns whose meaning is determined by gender (el/la capital) Use of infinitive as a noun Example: Caminar hace bien a la salud
Verbs	 Use of the past perfect subjunctive in if clauses Examples: Si hubiera estudiado más habría obtenido una A en mi examen de Ciencia. / Si me hubieras llamado te habría ayudado. ¿Por qué no me llamaste? Sequence of tenses Formation of future perfect Sequence of tenses Passive voice
Adjectives	Changes of adjective position which influence meaning
Pronouns	Relative pronouns (introduction)
Prepositions	 Verbs requiring preposition before an infinitive (empezar a, cesar de, pensar en)

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For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 6

Includes everything from Levels 01 - 5 plus the following:

Nouns and Articles	Nouns whose meaning is determined by gender (el/la capital)
Verbs	 The imperfect subjunctive Example: tuviera, encontrara Use of the imperfect subjunctive in adverbial clauses, after a negative antecedent, after an indefinite antecedent Example: Estuve feliz de que me dieran la oportunidad. The past perfect subjunctive Examples: hubiera ido, hubiese estudiado Use of the past perfect subjunctive Examples: Si hubiera estudiado más habría obtenido una A en mi examen de Ciencia. Si me hubieras llamado te habría ayudado. ¿Por qué no me llamaste?
Adjectives	 Changes of adjective position which influence meaning Forms of special ordinal numbers above 10th (undécimo, vigésimo)
Pronouns	Relative pronouns (mastery and advanced uses)
Prepositions	 Verbs requiring preposition before an infinitive (empezar a, cesar de, pensar en)
Conjunctions	Subordinating conjunctions (<i>mientras, como,</i> etc.)



National Spanish Assessment

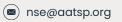
Specifications for Vocabulary

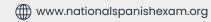
For Exam Years 2024 And After

Vocabulary in the exams and assessments will always appear in real world contexts. The learner will integrate linguistic competence into meaningful communication. It is crucial to cultivate critical thinking in recognizing cognate words, as they are often easily identifiable due to their similarities with the students' native language.











NATIONAL SPANISH ASSESSMENT

Specifications for *Vocabulary*

For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 01

Basic Everyday Communication	 Common greetings Basic expressions of courtesy Basic introductions Basic weather expressions Telling the time (am/pm/24 hour time in Spain and Hispanic countries) Parts of day Cardinal numbers 1-100
People, Family and Home	 Simple description of people Simple physical characteristics Basic personality traits Simple description of things Basic colors Immediate family Basic professions
School, Classes, and Scheduling Needs	 Basic items found in the classroom Days of the week Months of the year Dates
Meeting Personal Needs & Leisure Time	 Expressing likes and dislikes with gustar and encantar. Basic food vocabulary and expressions Basic pastimes and sports



For Exam Years 2024 And After



Includes everything from Level 01 plus the following:

World	 Simple geographical terms Names of 21 Spanish-speaking countries and their capitals Nature and the environment (basic words for plants and animals)
Leisure Time	 Days of the week, months of the year and dates Basic weather expressions Telling time and basic time divisions Simple past times and basic sports
Family and Home	 Simple description of things and people Immediate family Basic parts of the house
School and Education	 Basic educational words Basic items found in a classroom Basic words associated with language Basic mathematical operations
Travel and Transportation	 Simple places in a city The airport Modes of transport

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Meeting Personal Needs	 Common greetings and farewells Basic introductions and expressions Basic food and expressions Basic parts of the body Basic food and basic expressions at a restaurant Basic clothing and shopping for clothes
World of Work	 Professions (expanded) Computer hardware and basic computer operating terms Basic computer vocabulary
Art and Fine Arts	ColorsBasic fine arts

NATIONAL SPANISH ASSESSMENT

Specifications for *Vocabulary*

For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 2

Includes everything from Levels 01 - 1 plus the following:

World	 Geographic terms (expanded) The seven continents Nature and the environment (plant and animal kingdoms)
Leisure Time	Weather (expanded)Pastimes (expanded)Sports (expanded)
Family and Home	 Description (expanded) Temporary states (expanded) Physical characteristics and personality traits (expanded) Description of things (expanded) Nationalities of major Spanish-speaking countries Extended family Parts of a home, basic furniture Simple daily chores
School and Education	 Items found in a classroom (expanded) Names of school subjects Words associated with language (expanded) Basic words associated with mathematics and measurements

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Travel and Transportation	 Buildings in a city(expanded) and modes of transportation Directions (expanded) Basic travel expressions The hotel
Meeting Personal Needs	 Food groups: vegetables, fruit, meat Buying food and preparing food Clothing (expanded) The body and the five senses Items for personal use
World of Work	 Professions (expanded) Computer hardware and basic computer operating terms



For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 3

Includes everything from Levels 01 - 2 plus the following:

World	 Geographical words The universe (basic astronomy terms)
Leisure Time	Sports (intermediate)
Family and Home	 Basic terms associated with religions Human life cycle and its ceremonies Holidays and holy days
School and Education	 Basic expressions for fractions Basic expressions for algebra Basic expressions for geometry
Travel and Transportation	The airport (intermediate)
Meeting Personal Needs	 Doctor visit Parts of clothing and types of fabric Parts of the body (intermediate)
World of Work	 Professions (intermediate) Communication media Work expressions (intermediate)
Arts and Fine Arts	Art (intermediate)



For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 4

Includes everything from Levels 01 - 3 plus the following:

World	 Nature and the environment (animals, plants) Universe (astronomy terms, planets, and basic constellations)
Meeting Personal Needs	 Food (advanced descriptions) Health care professions/specialists
World of Work	BankingComputer termsEconomics
History, Politics, and Social Issues	 History and historical terms (expanded) Government and politics Global issues
Fine Arts	 Architecture Periods of art history Musical instruments (advanced) Elements of literature



For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 5

Includes everything from Levels 01 - 4 plus the following:

World	EcosystemBasic biology terms
Leisure Time	CampingTheatre (advanced)
Meeting Personal Needs	 The body (advanced) Hospital Pharmacy (basic expressions)
World of Work	The economy
History, Politics and Social Issues	 Elections Government and politics

For Exam Years 2024 And After



Includes everything from Levels 01 - 5 plus the following:

World	 Basic chemistry terms Basic physics terms
World of Work	 Journalism / Communication media (expanded) Employment vs. Unemployment
History, Politics and Social Issues	Law and justice War and peace





RESOURCES

For the 2024-25 National Spanish Assessment (NSA)



Registration Tutorial

Scan the code for a step-by-step video on **how to sign up** for the National Spanish Assessment (NSA).



Help Center

Scan the code to access our <u>Help Center</u>, complete with tutorials, F.A.Q.'s, and the AATSP Exams calendar.



Frequently Asked Questions

Scan the code to gather quick answers to <u>frequently asked</u> <u>questions</u> about our organization, payment, and more.



K.W.L. Chart

Scan the code to download an optional **K.W.L. sheet** for classroom use (PDF).



Webinar

Join AATSP Executive Director Maria Carreira in this **short webinar** on the formative assessment value of the NSA.