

SPECIFICATIONS BOOKLET

For the 2024-25 National Spanish Exam (NSE)

Format & Length

Updated for the 2024-2025 exam cycle.

Specifications by Level

Includes Grammar and Vocabulary specifications by level.







About Us

The AATSP Exams (formerly known as "National Spanish Examinations" or "NSE") is a program of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).



Founded in 1917, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) is the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive language-specific professional association in the United States. Our nearly 10,000 members are educators from PreK-12 through graduate school who endorse our mission to promote, develop, and advance the teaching of Spanish and Portuguese worldwide.

The mission of the AATSP Exams program 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 Exam (NSE)

The National Spanish Exam (NSE) is an online, motivational competition that recognizes, stimulates, and promotes students' linguistic competence and proficiency in Spanish. In addition to the contest, the NSE is a standardized online assessment for grades 6-12, that measures both content standards (vocabulary and grammar) and performance standards (reading and listening comprehension). This tool provides valuable feedback on the students' proficiency, monitoring and tracking their progress and development each year.

Individual results are available immediately, and national results are usually released during the first week of May. Students who place above the 75th percentile at the national level are able to receive medals (gold, silver, bronze, honorable mention) and are eligible to apply for several types of scholarships. Medals are shipped directly to schools at no additional cost, and usually arrive within 4-8 weeks after national results are released.

Teachers receive individual reports for each student disaggregating data in various ways so that they may identify strengths and weaknesses of individual students for specific standards, measurement categories, learner outcomes, show growth from one year to the next, and/or report other variables as needed. Teachers who administer the NSE are also eligible to apply for a variety of awards and scholarships.

Registration Dates:

November 1, 2024 - February 7, 2025

Examination Window:

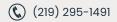


March 3 - April 14, 2025

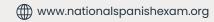
About This Booklet

In this booklet, you will find the updated Format & Length chart, the updated Grammar and Vocabulary specifications of the 2024-25 National Spanish Exam (NSE), and access to other resources related to exam registration and administration.









Exam Format and Length



Updated for 2025

Each level has two sections of tests: (1) Achievement is 40 minutes total and includes two subsections: Vocabulary and Grammar. (2) Proficiency is 40 minutes total and includes two subsections of reading and listening.

Test 1 CONTENT (40% of Total)	Test 2 PERFORMANCE (60% of Total)
Time: 40 minutes	Time: 40 minutes
Questions: 38	Questions: 28
Points: 40	Points: 60

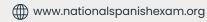
	Vocab	ulary	Gram	mar	Read	ling	Liste	ning	То	tal
Proficiency Level	Questions	Points								
Level 01 Novice Low/Mid	20	20	18	20	14	30	14	30	68	100
Level 1 Novice Mid/High	20	20	18	20	14	30	14	30	68	100
Level 2 Novice Mid/High	20	20	18	20	14	30	14	30	68	100
Level 3 Intermediate Low/Mid	20	20	18	20	14	30	14	30	68	100
Level 4 Intermediate Mid/High	20	20	18	20	14	30	14	30	68	100
Level 5 Intermediate High/Adv. Low	20	20	18	20	14	30	14	30	68	100
Level 6 Advanced Low/Mid/High	20	20	18	20	14	30	14	30	68	100

Last updated: 10/17/2024









Proficiency Levels Chart

Updated for 2024-25

For the National Spanish Exam (NSE), level placement is at the instructor's discretion. Students are not allowed to repeat Levels. Determining the appropriate LEVEL to administer the NSE should be decided by the teacher.

Please use the following chart as a tentative comparison guideline:

AATSP Exams	ACTFL	CEFR	DESCRIPTION
Level 01	Novice Low/Mid	<a1< th=""><th>Recommended for entry-level beginners The course content is equivalent to the first half of the Spanish 1 syllabus.</th></a1<>	Recommended for entry-level beginners The course content is equivalent to the first half of the Spanish 1 syllabus.
Level 1	Novice Mid/High	Al	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.
Level 2	Novice High/Inter. Low	A1/A2	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 2 syllabus.
Level 3	Intermediate Low/Mid	A2/B1	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 3 syllabus.
Level 4	Intermediate Mid/High	B1/B2	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 4 syllabus.
Level 5	Intermediate High/Adv. Low	B2	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 5 or AP Spanish* syllabuses.
Level 6	Advanced Low/Mid/High	B2/C1	Students whose course content is equivalent to the Spanish 6 or AP Literature* syllabuses.

*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 EXAM

Category Placement

Updated for 2024-25

The National Spanish Exam (NSE) is used to measure the performance and achievement of students who are studying the Spanish language in the United States. In order to allow students with like-exposure to compete against one another at the national level, **three** categories of exam competition have been defined.

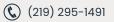
Classroom Experience	A student whose only (or main) contact with Spanish is in a classroom setting.
Outside Experience	 A student who has had specific experiences with Spanish beyond the classroom, for example: The student's native language is a romance language (Catalan, French, Galician, Italian, Sicilian, Portuguese, Rumanian, etc.) The student has been enrolled in a Spanish immersion or dual language program for the prior 3 years or more. The student is a heritage speaker who has had exposure to Spanish but limited practice in their home environment. The student may hear or speak some Spanish at home.
Bilingual	A student who comes from a home where Spanish is the primary language, and the student can communicate in both Spanish and English fluently and quite accurately.

More Information

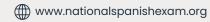


Each instructor should use discretion when making a decision as to which category is appropriate for their student(s). Scan the code to learn more about categories, or <u>click here to visit our website</u>.











National Spanish Exam

Specifications for Grammar

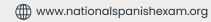
For Exam Years 2024 And After

Since the exam is proficiency-based, students are not expected to know grammar rules or terminology, but rather demonstrate their ability to use the language naturally in real-world communication contexts and settings.









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

Specifications for *Grammar*

For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 2

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

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 nouns Past 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



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Specifications for *Grammar*

For Exam Years 2024 And After

Level 5

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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Specifications for *Grammar*

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 Exam

Specifications for Vocabulary

For Exam Years 2024 And After

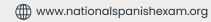
Vocabulary in the exams and assessments will always appear in real world contexts. The learner will integrate linguistic competence into meaningful communication. It is crucial to cultivate critical thinking in recognizing cognate words, as they are often easily identifiable due to their similarities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

Since the exam is proficiency-based, students are not expected to memorize vocabulary, but rather to recognize and apply it in context.











NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM

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



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 Exam (NSE)



Registration Information



How to Register

To begin your registration, visit **www.nationalspanishexam.org** on a desktop computer or **click here**.



Video Tutorials

Scan the code to learn more about the registration process or <u>click here</u> to view.

Information For Proctors



Student Modifications

Scan the code to learn how to request a special modification for a student, or **click here**.



Technical Requirements

Scan the code to learn about **technical requirements** and how to **disable translation features**.



Scores vs. Percentiles

Scan the code to read about the difference between <u>individual scores</u> and national results.



Student Report Cards

Scan the code to take a look at a sample **student report card** and find out what it means.



Prizes and Certificates

Scan the code to learn more about NSE about **medals and certificates**.



Teacher & Student Awards

Scan the code to learn more about **scholarship opportunities** for teachers and students.

Help Guides and Assistance



Help Center

Scan the code to access our <u>Help</u>
<u>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 questions</u> about our organization, payment, and more.



Live Chat Available

Need help with Lingco? Click on the question mark button at the bottom-right corner of the screen to start a live chat with tech support (WEEKDAYS 8AM-4PM CT).