

National Spanish Examinations

Practice Proficiency Exam – Level 3 - 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. 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 possibility of downloading podcasts at any time of day or night.
 - The opportunity to watch Disney movies at home.
2. Kara reads this article in the zoology section of on 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?

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

- The biggest animal in the world.
3. 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 Arab people also have names like Martínez and Rodríguez.
- That words like "alcalde" and "almohada" were exported from Spanish into Arabic.
- That the Spanish language has been influenced by the Arabic language.
4. 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?

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

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

6. 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 serve as a hospital during the British invasions.
- To provide for the spiritual needs of the settlers.
- To honor the patron saint of Buenos Aires.

7. While doing research on the origin of symbols, Alejandro found this article posted on a technology website.

¿Cuál es el origen del signo @ que utilizamos cotidianamente para enviar un correo electrónico o en redes sociales como Twitter? Pues, en otros tiempos y más precisamente en España, la arroba designaba una medida de peso utilizada fundamentalmente para transacciones comerciales. Este tipo de medición comenzó a usarse a partir de la llegada de los árabes a la península ibérica y resultó ser una forma de medición en común entre pobladores locales y los árabes. Pues, la arroba proviene del árabe arba, que significa cuatro, porque la arroba equivale a un cuarto de quintal, o sea unos once o doce kilos.

According to the article, what did @ originally refer to?

- An Arab measurement.
 - A symbol for the price of an item.
 - A pharmaceutical symbol in early Spain.
 - A mathematical sign to represent a constant.
8. 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.
 - Permitting self-expression in choice of uniform.
 - Requiring more time at home studying.
 - Allowing sufficient recreation time.
9. Roberto reads the following information on a bulletin board while waiting in line at the post office.

ABOGADOS---Se habla español

- Tarjeta verde / Residencia permanente
- Asilo político
- Visas de estudiantes
- Visas de comerciantes
- Defensa contra deportación

Who might respond to this information?

- A person looking to buy a house or condominium.
- An immigrant wanting to live in the United States.
- A political science student seeking a scholarship.
- A business person looking for Spanish-speaking clients.

10. As Reynaldo reads the newspaper, he comes across this advertisement.

Características Técnicas: El Solac

Es liviana.
Regulación de potencia escalonada.
Incluye dos cepillos de pelo suave para cualquier mueble.
Un tubo telescópico con accesorios.
Protege, no destruye.
Parachoques y ruedas de goma para que no destruya las maderas.
Uso para todos tipos de suelos y muebles.
Capacidad de la bolsa es 3.4 L.
El producto es limitado.
71,00 €
¡Cómprala hoy!

What kind of product is offered in this advertisement?

- A telescope.
- A vacuum.
- A toddler's bicycle.
- A pair of hairbrushes.

11. Jeremy reads this article online about a photo app.

Snapchat es una aplicación para dispositivos IOS que permite enviar imágenes a otros usuarios con fecha de caducidad. Es decir, que se pueden visualizar durante un tiempo determinado. Cuando se cumple, se autodestruyen. Snapchat ofrece la posibilidad al usuario de establecer un tiempo de vida limitado para las fotos que va de 1 a 10 segundos. Las imágenes no se almacenan en ningún servidor una vez que pasa su tiempo de vida. Es el propio usuario quien decide antes de enviar la instantánea cuánto tiempo se podrá ver. Se dice que el secreto del éxito de Snapchat es la caducidad de la foto, que anima a los usuarios a enviar más.

How does this article describe pictures sent on Snapchat?

- As being part of one of the most successful social media.
- As self destructing before a screenshot can be taken.

- As having a guarantee that they can't be saved.
- As having an expiration date.

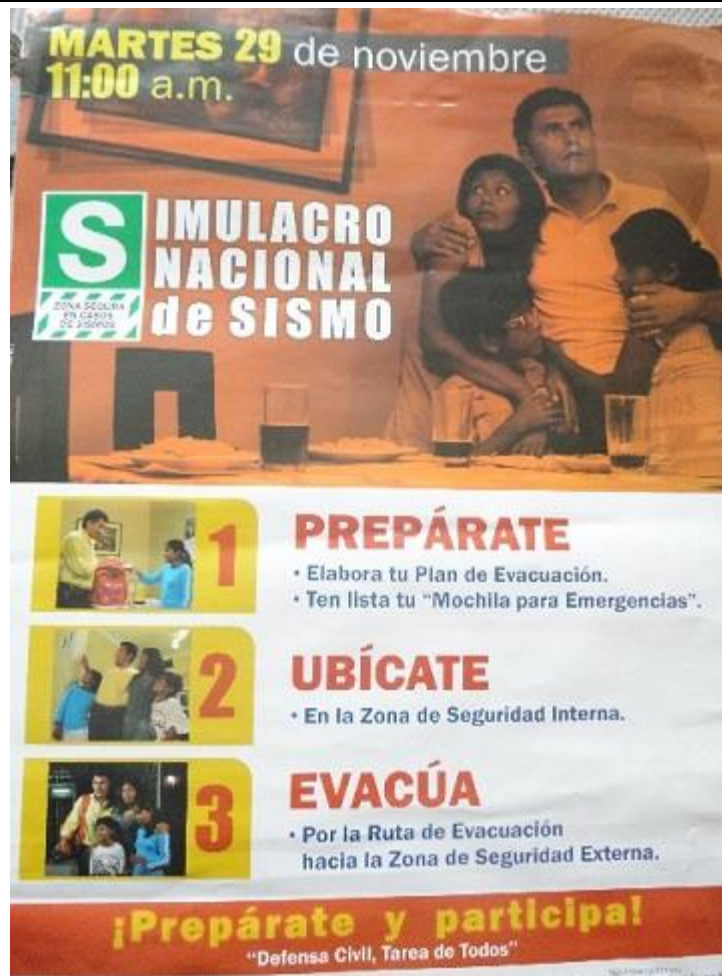
12. Ana has just opened a medical website on the Internet and has found this text.

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.
- Informing the public about the number of deaths.
- Treating people with HIV/AIDS.

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



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?

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

14. Hailey saw this write-up in an entertainment magazine.

El tatuador fue entrevistado por varias revistas para saber la verdad sobre los tatuajes de Zayn Malik y Louis Tomlinson de la banda *One Direction* y su experiencia tatuándoles. "Los miembros del grupo llegaron con ideas de lo que querían, pero estaban abiertos a las ideas de los artistas," dijo el tatuador. Al contrario de los

reportajes, el tatuaje de Zayn no es de su novia, Perrie Edwards, sino que fue parcialmente inspirado en ella. Zayn dibujó el esbozo inicial de "una chica con un gorro de lana" que se convirtió en su tatuaje. Louis consiguió los garabatos de una tela de araña y una bomba. También le dibujó una cuerda que pasa alrededor de su muñeca que forma un nudo al estilo marinero. Después de tatuarse, los músicos comieron sándwiches de pollo de KFC y comentaron que la comida en los Estados Unidos es mucho más dulce de lo que están acostumbrados; incluso el pan es más dulce.

What misconception about a band member's tattoo is clarified by his tattoo artist in this paragraph?

- That Zayn's tattoo is of his girlfriend.
 - That the band is looking for a logo for *One Direction* for a common tattoo for all members.
 - That the girl with the woolen cap has a tattoo of a spider web.
 - That Louis has a tattoo of the Kentucky Fried Chicken logo on his wrist.
15. While doing research for your economics class, you find this article about recycling posted on an online encyclopedia.

El **reciclaje** consiste en someter de nuevo una materia o un producto ya utilizado a un ciclo de tratamiento total o parcial para obtener una materia prima o un nuevo producto, útil a la comunidad.

Razones para reciclar

- El costo de recogida y eliminación de una tonelada de basura es de entre 46 y 120€ en España.
- En España se tiran al año más de 300.000 toneladas de metales. Esto es un despilfarro de material.
- Si se recicla el vidrio se ahorra un 40% de energía y por cada tonelada reciclada se ahorran 1.2 toneladas de materias primas.
- Recuperar dos toneladas de plástico equivale a ahorrar una tonelada de petróleo.
- Por cada tonelada de aluminio tirada al vertedero hay que extraer cuatro toneladas de bauxita (que es el mineral del que se obtiene). Durante la fabricación se producen dos toneladas de residuos muy contaminantes y difíciles de eliminar.
- Al reciclar una tonelada de papel se salvan 17 árboles.

Which one of the following philosophies is addressed in **THIS** article?

- Government mandated recycling is more expensive than putting the garbage into landfills.
- Recycling creates jobs and boosts local and domestic economies.
- Recycling saves money, energy, raw materials and eliminates waste.
- The amount of money actually saved through recycling depends on the efficiency of the recycling program used to do it.

16. Josue is reading an article about Venezuela in his world history class and comes across the following passage.

La expresión «*Tierra de Gracia*» dada por Colón a Venezuela, ha prevalecido hasta el día de hoy como seudónimo del país. En otra travesía, la tripulación observó las viviendas construidas por los indígenas añú, construidas sobre plataformas de madera que sobresalían del agua. Dichas plataformas le recordaron a Américo Vespucio a la ciudad de Venecia, o sea, *Venezia*, en italiano. Y así se derivó el nombre de *Venezziola* o Venezuela —Pequeña Venecia— a la región y al golfo de Maracaibo. El nombre acuñado por el explorador envolvería luego a todo el territorio. Otras versiones menos probables aluden a la noción que el nombre de Venezuela es autóctono, proveniente de una palabra indígena, y no a un diminutivo veneciano.

According to this article, from what was the name “Venezuela” most likely derived?

- From a Spanish explorer.
 - From a Venetian boat.
 - From an Italian city.
 - From a native tribe.
17. Jaime is Reading a blog about genetics and comes across the following entry.

Un gen es un segmento corto de ADN, que le dice al cuerpo cómo producir una proteína específica. Los rasgos genéticos, como el color de los ojos, se describen como dominantes o recesivos. Los rasgos dominantes son controlados por un gen en el par. Los rasgos recesivos requieren que ambos genes en el par de genes trabajen juntos para controlar el rasgo. Muchas características personales, como la estatura, son determinadas por más de un gen. Sin embargo, algunas enfermedades, como la anemia, pueden ser ocasionadas por un cambio en un solo gen.

What is the purpose of this paragraph?

- It defines the connection between genetics and illness.
- It describes how proteins affect cellular development.
- It explains how gene pairs control personal characteristics.
- It clarifies how sex chromosomes determine gender.

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. 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 remodeling only the seats.
 - They are making changes to accommodate people with special needs.
 - They are building new train stations.
 - They are adding concession stands in the train stations.
19. 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.
- Spanish.
- Argentine.
- European.

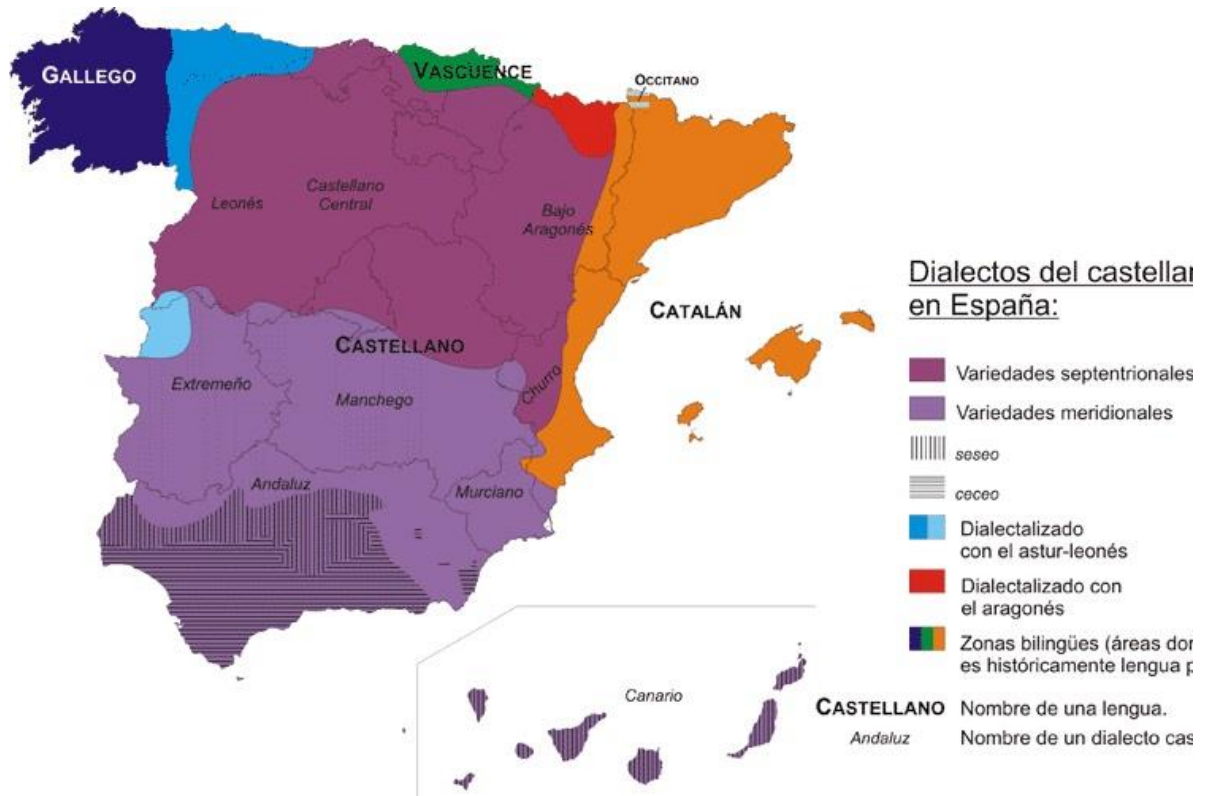
20. You are in front of a theater and hear the two people in front of you discussing times of the performances.



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

- Only Saturday or Sunday afternoons.
- On Thursday evening.
- Any weekday at 8:00.
- On Tuesday.

21. 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 found it hard to believe that Spanish is spoken in 19 countries.
- She was amazed that so many students study world languages in Spain.

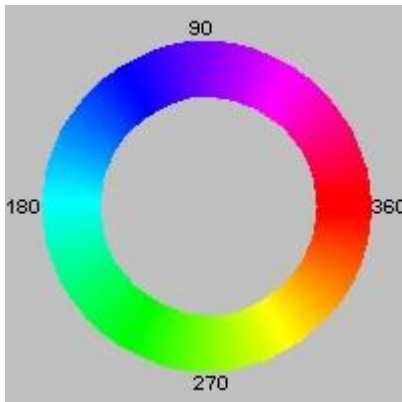
22. You received the following voice mail from your friend Antonio who is explaining why he is going to be late in arriving to your house.



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 dad sent him incorrect information through an email.
- Antonio's parents arrived late because of a flight delay.

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



What is the primary purpose of this passage?

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

24. Alicia is sitting in the Plaza Mayor in Madrid when she strikes up a conversation with the man seated next to her.



What has Alicia discovered from her conversation with the man?

- How to get to the Prado Museum.
- Where to buy a lace handkerchief.
- That they are both from the Montevideo.
- That they are near an interesting cemetery.

25. You are listening to Maria Luisa recount a story about a new biology course in which she has enrolled.



Why was María Luisa initially excited about the new course?

- She had become tired of reading literature.
- The teacher was supposed to be exceptional.
- The class used a modern online textbook.
- She thought it would be very interesting.

26. 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?

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

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



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

- To be able to listen and understand adequately.
- 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 pronounce correctly in order to be understood by others.

28. You are listening to a sports broadcast and hear this person's opinion about salaries of professional athletes.

 **Escuche**

Why does the speaker think that professional athletes are paid so much?

- Because athletes, actors, and musicians are compensated for their difficulty with fame and popularity.
- Because they are a product that generates income.
- Because not many people have their exceptional athletic abilities.
- Because of the possibility of athlete product endorsements.

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

 **Escuche**

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

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

30. Angelina hears this interview on a website about visual arts.

 **Escuche**

What topic is the main point of this discussion?

- The aftermath of the revolution in Cuba.
- Cuban nominees at the Cannes film festival.
- The Latin American filmmaking industry.
- The quality of Cuban movies.

31. You're listening to a podcast from Spain about the history of national ID cards and hear the following segment.

 **Escuche**

To whom was the first ID issued according to this selection?

- An unidentified male prisoner.
- King Juan Carlos.

- Queen Sofia.
- Francisco Franco.

32. Alicia hears this passage on an internet website about homelessness.



What is the speaker's attitude toward political rhetoric about the homeless?

- That comparisons of poverty among different districts are unfair.
- That the true reasons for poverty are not addressed.
- That quantity is better than quality.
- That poor living conditions are the government's fault.

33. Elena is listening to a podcast about the history and culture of western civilization.



What statement best summarizes the purpose of the passage?

- It presents the origin of Valentine's Day.
- It gives insight into religious beliefs of the third century.
- It offers ideas for sweethearts to use in writing love notes.
- It provides the military history of the Emperor Claudius II.

34. You're listening to a presentation by a psychologist speaking to a group of students.



Which statement best describes the psychologist's viewpoint regarding the internet?

- Children should be closely monitored when using the internet whether at school or at home.
- Dependency on the internet has diminished the personal touch of communication among frequent users.
- The internet should be used in moderation; otherwise it can become an addiction.
- The internet is an endless source of information but can have harmful effects if used in excess.

Version A



Answer Sheet

This test measures proficiency in Spanish reading and listening comprehension.

1. Its fast download speeds for both audio and video.
2. An animal that is a cross between a male lion and a female tiger.
3. That the Spanish language has been influenced by the Arabic language.
4. Creating a new type of shoe.
5. A three-bedroom house in the suburbs.
6. To provide for the spiritual needs of the settlers.
7. An Arab measurement.
8. Implementing dress code regulations.
9. An immigrant wanting to live in the United States.
10. A vacuum.
11. As having an expiration date.
12. Educating people about HIV/AIDS.
13. Earthquake.
14. That Zayn's tattoo is of his girlfriend.
15. Recycling saves money, energy, raw materials and eliminates waste.
16. From an Italian city.
17. It explains how gene pairs control personal characteristics.
18. They are making changes to accommodate people with special needs.
19. European.
20. On Thursday evening.
21. She didn't realize that Spain has four official languages.
22. There was a miscommunication between Antonio and his father.
23. It's an explanation of the organization of the color wheel.
24. That they are both from the Montevideo.
25. She thought it would be very interesting.

26. The family living there is hoping for good luck.
27. To be able to exchange information, thoughts and ideas with others in another language.
28. Because they are a product that generates income.
29. The geographical regions of the country.
30. The quality of Cuban movies.
31. Francisco Franco.
32. That the true reasons for poverty are not addressed.
33. It presents the origin of Valentine's Day.
34. The internet is an endless source of information but can have harmful effects if used in excess.