

# National Spanish Examinations

## Practice Proficiency Exam – Level 1 – 2015

### Part One. Reading Comprehension.

This section will measure your proficiency in reading Spanish and contains 14 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. You are helping a friend shop for items on his brother's gift list.

**Regalos para mi hermano:**

2 bolígrafos  
5 lápices  
1 caja de tiza  
1 borrador  
2 cuadernos

To what section of the department store should you go to find these items?

- Clothing.
- Housewares.
- Sporting goods.
- School supplies.
2. You are planning your summer vacation and read this advertisement in a magazine.



En el verano el ciclismo es un deporte favorito. Hay varios lugares donde es posible montar. Si te gustan las competencias, puedes montar en las pistas o en las montañas. Si prefieres algo más fácil, considera los caminos en el parque, en el

campo o a lo largo del lago. Nuestras máquinas son de aluminio, titanio, carbono y otros metales lo más ligeros posibles.

What activity is this advertisement about?

- Fishing.
- Horseback riding.
- Swimming.
- Bicycling.

3. After Ryan turned on his computer monitor, he saw this weather forecast.



What day of the week was this weather forecast posted to the Internet?

- Thursday.
- Friday.

- Tuesday.
- Wednesday.

4. John reads this article about tips for organizing groups.

La señora Neruda es profesora de una escuela infantil. Para organizar las muchas cosas que hay en la clase, la Sra. Neruda las pone en cajas de diferentes colores para los seis estudiantes de la clase. Las cosas de Felipe están en una caja roja y las de Isabel están en una caja anaranjada. Meche pone sus cosas en una caja amarilla y la caja de Osvaldo es verde. La caja de Roberto es azul y la de Sofía es morada.

According to this paragraph, whose belongings are in a purple box?

- Isabel.
- Osvaldo.
- Sofía.
- Felipe.

5. You have just received this text from Juan Pablo who is talking about his plans for this afternoon.

Necesito hacer algunas cosas para mis padres, pero primero quiero ir a la biblioteca para devolver un libro y buscar una revista de deportes. Entonces puedo pasar por el supermercado porque la biblioteca está al lado del supermercado. Necesito comprar leche y azúcar para mamá y un periódico para papá. ¡Ay! Se me olvidó. El supermercado no tiene cajero automático y por eso debo pasar por el banco antes de ir al supermercado y a la biblioteca. Al final paso por el teatro para comprar entradas.

Which place will Juan Pablo visit first?

- The library.
- The supermarket.
- The theater.
- The bank.

6. Brooke handed in the following picture and short paragraph for an assignment in Spanish class.



Esta es mi perra Alba. Es una perra salchicha de color rojizo. Alba tiene 4 años que corresponden a 28 años en humanos. Tiene los ojos pardos, el pelo corto y patas muy cortas. También lleva un collar rosado. Es una perra muy preciosa y cariñosa pero es bastante tímida si no conoce a la gente. Le gusta jugar con su pelota de tenis por horas y horas. Además le gusta robar calcetines y ponerlos debajo de la cama.

According to the paragraph, what statement about the dog is true?

- She prefers to spend hours and hours running.
  - She hides tennis balls in odd places.
  - She likes to sleep under the bed at night.
  - She is shy until she gets to know people.
7. While researching aerobic exercises, you find this list of activities suggested by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

La actividad física es todo movimiento del cuerpo que hace trabajar los músculos y requiere más energía que estar en reposo y es importante para mantenerse sano. A continuación hay varios ejemplos de actividades aeróbicas.

- Caminar, trotar y correr.
- Hacer ejercicios aeróbicos acuáticos o nadar en la piscina.
- Montar en patineta, patinar y saltar la cuerda.

- Practicar el baile y la danza aeróbica.
- Jugar al tenis, al fútbol, al hockey y al básquetbol.

Which activity is **NOT** mentioned in this text?

- Swimming.
  - Biking.
  - Playing sports.
  - Dancing.
8. Morgan's school has a writing exchange with a school in Venezuela and is reading an introductory paragraph from Ana Maria.

Me llamo Ana María Orozco. Carmen Martínez y yo somos amigas y alumnas del colegio. Todos los sábados por la mañana vamos a la biblioteca. Por la tarde invitamos a un grupo de nuestros amigos para ver una película en casa. Llegan cinco o seis. Generalmente, invitamos a Juan Carlos Ribera porque él es muy cómico. Juan Carlos es muy buen amigo de Carmen. Es muy inteligente y buen estudiante de historia. Sabe mucho de películas. Hoy no puede ir a nuestra casa porque está ocupado con su padre. Por eso Carmen y yo decidimos no invitar al grupo para ver la película. Ella y yo vamos al centro comercial.

Why did Ana Maria and Carmen decide not to invite the group over to watch movies?

- The whole group is planning an outing to the mall instead.
  - Ana Maria is going to be busy helping her father.
  - Carmen and Ana Maria have to study at the library.
  - One of the friends whom they usually invite can't make it.
9. While reading an online blog, you see the following description posted on a school website.

Los alumnos regresan a su clase a la una y media de la tarde después de comer en la cafetería. La profesora es la Sra. Colón. Su clase es un poco difícil pero interesante y ella es muy simpática. Los alumnos toman apuntes en la clase y estudian las propiedades y relaciones entre números. A veces necesitan las calculadoras. A José le gusta sumar y restar, pero Juan prefiere multiplicar y dividir. La tarea para mañana es aprender las fórmulas en la página ochenta.

What type of class is being described in this paragraph?

- Science.
- Cooking.
- Mathematics.
- Social Studies.

10. Sra. Cano is traveling with students from Spain to the United States and is making roommate assignments based on their similar interests.

**Francisco** quiere ser actor y a él le gusta mucho el teatro. **Javier** es nadador y también participa en un equipo de fútbol. **Lucas** es callado y prefiere leer en su tiempo libre. A **Rodrigo** le encanta estudiar los artículos en los periódicos y pasar tiempo en la biblioteca. **Víctor** es social y deportista.

Who would likely get along well as roommates?

- Javier and Francisco.
- Victor and Lucas.
- Javier and Víctor.
- Rodrigo and Francisco.
11. While surfing Internet sports sites, the following advertisement pops up in a new window.

¿Te gusta el fútbol? ¿Quieres ver un buen partido?  
**¡Puedes ganar!**

SORTEO DE DOS ENTRADAS PARA VER EL PARTIDO MÁLAGA C.F. - SEVILLA F.C.  
ESTADIO DE LA ROSALEDA - FECHA: 02/05/2015 - HORA: 20:00  
FIN SORTEO: SÁBADO - 02/05/2015 (12:00 HORAS)

iiiANIMA A TU EQUIPO!!!

Si quieres participar en el sorteo, envía un correo electrónico indicando lo siguiente:

- A) Tu nombre y número de teléfono  
B) Tu jugador favorito y ¿por qué?

Envía las respuestas a:  
websorteo@gmail.com

**Indicando el asunto: Sorteo Entrada Málaga C.F.**

**¡SUERTE!**

What is the purpose of this advertisement?

- To provide the date and time of the grand opening of a new store.
- To promote an important soccer game this coming Saturday.
- To publicize a contest to win two free soccer tickets.
- To advertise a club where soccer matches are held.
12. You are browsing online when you see this advertisement posted by a car dealership.

**¡COMPRE SU COCHE A PRECIOS POR DEBAJO DEL PRECIO DE FACTURA!**

Liquidación de todos los modelos 2014.  
¡Grandes ahorros de fin de año!  
Haga click aquí para ver precios de liquidación y ofertas cerca de



usted.

**Liquidación de Fin de Año**

¡Recibe precios de liquidación ahora!

What can be inferred from this advertisement?

- The dealer is selling cars at bargain prices to make way for newer models.
  - In order to receive bargain prices, the buyer must purchase through the Internet.
  - The car being sold is used but in excellent condition for the price.
  - The manufacturer is promoting the sale of car seats for children.
13. While studying literary devices, you read the following text by Federico Garcia Lorca in which he presents several metaphors.

Sus cabellos son oro, su frente campos elíseos,  
sus cejas arcos del cielo, sus ojos soles,  
sus mejillas rosas, sus labios corales,  
perlas sus dientes, alabastro su cuello,  
mármol su pecho, marfil sus manos,  
su blancura nieve.

To what does Garcia Lorca compare the objects?

- Daily chores.
- Parts of the body.
- Parts of a city.

- Articles of clothing.

14. A friend in Spain has sent you a link to a blog that contains this posting.



Practicar algún tipo de deporte es una actividad muy popular entre los jóvenes. La gran mayoría de los adolescentes hacen deporte sólo por el sencillo hecho de divertirse un poco. En algunas ocasiones esta diversión se convierte en discusiones o en peleas. Sin embargo, hay jóvenes que utilizan el deporte como medio para tener una buena salud física mientras otros sólo pretenden lograr una figura escultural para poder sentirse a gusto con sus cuerpos.

According to the author of this text, what is the main reason why teenagers participate in sports?

- To get healthy.
- To compete against others.
- To build a good physique.
- To have fun.

## Part Two. Listening Comprehension.

This section will measure your proficiency in listening to spoken Spanish and contains 14 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, please log onto [www.naitonalspanishexam.org](http://www.naitonalspanishexam.org).

15. Isabel and Gabriela are in the train station awaiting their mother's arrival.



At what time are Isabel and Gabriela expecting their mother to arrive?

- At 6:56.



- At 6:45.
- At 6:15.
- At 6:30.

16. A teacher is quizzing a student on some aspects of the Spanish language.



What is the quiz primarily about?

- Spelling.
- Accent marks.
- Pronunciation.
- Geography.

17. Two people are looking at and discussing a map of Central America.



Why did this conversation take place?

- The man was looking for a specific country on the map.
- The woman is teaching a lesson to her geography class.
- The man wants information for his trip to Central America.

- The two people are students and are studying for a geography quiz.
18. It's near the beginning of the school year, and Lorenzo is talking with his mother about school supplies.



What item does Lorenzo still need for school?

- A calculator.
- Clothing.
- Paper.
- A notebook.
19. You are listening to the radio podcast discussing aspects of Panamanian culture.



- What statement best summarizes the purpose of this text?
- It gives a description of Panama's flag.
- It tells what symbols are important to Panama.
- It explains the significance of the two five-point stars.
- It describes the meanings of the different colors of the flag.
20. Alejandro and Valentina are talking about their plans for the day.



To where will Alejandro and Valentina most likely go together?

- The pool.

- The library.
- Downtown.
- The post office.

21. Elena and Carlos are walking down the street and decide to stop into a small shop that serves drinks.



What does Carlos decide to order?

- Water.
- Soda / pop.
- Tea.
- Coffee.

22. A teacher in Madrid is speaking with her class about an upcoming excursion to the city's downtown area.



How long will the trip to the city last?

- About six hours.
- Until right after lunch.
- One week.
- Until 1:30.

23. You are in a clothing store and overhear the following conversation.



Who are these people?

- A male clerk and a female customer.
- A husband and wife out shopping.
- Two friends buying an outfit as a gift.
- An employee and his manager.

24. After school, Lucas telephones Daniela to find out some information.



What does Lucas want Daniela to do?

- Fix dinner tonight.
- Pick up some groceries.
- Clean the house.
- Arrive home early.

25. You are in the cafeteria of an office building when a man walks up and begins talking to the woman at the next table.



What can you infer from this conversation?

- The man and the woman have just met.
- The woman already knows the man but didn't recognize him at first.
- The man and the woman are good friends but have not seen each other for some time.
- The woman is the man's boss.

26. Juan's mom has asked him to help with a few chores around the house.



What statement best summarizes the conversation?

- Juan has used the vacuum cleaner in both the hallway and in the living room.
- The vacuum cleaner is broken and Juan's mom wants him to take it into the shop.
- Juan is trying to get out of his chores by claiming that the vacuum cleaner is not working.
- Something strange happened to the vacuum cleaner when Juan plugged it in.

27. Mr. Alvarez is shopping for a new winter coat.



Why doesn't Sr. Alvarez purchase the navy blue coat?

- He does not like the color.
- It doesn't fit him well.
- He already has one that is similar.
- It's too expensive.

28. Federico is visiting a museum with his nephew and reads the following information posted on a sign in front of one of the exhibits.



What question would the nephew most likely ask after hearing his uncle read this sign?

- What materials are used in the pigments of watercolors?
- Which are bigger, older or smaller stars?
- Where does hydroelectric energy come from?
- How do the eyes in the human body work?



Version A

**Answer Sheet**

### **Practice Exam - National Spanish Examination - Proficiency - Level 1**

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This test measures proficiency in Spanish reading and listening comprehension.

1. School supplies.
2. Bicycling.
3. Wednesday.
4. Sofía.
5. The bank.
6. She is shy until she gets to know people.
7. Biking.
8. One of the friends whom they usually invite can't make it.
9. Mathematics.
10. Javier and Victor.
11. To publicize a contest to win two free soccer tickets.
12. The dealer is selling cars at bargain prices to make way for newer models.
13. Parts of the body.
14. To have fun.
15. At 6:45.

16. Spelling.
17. The man was looking for a specific country on the map.
18. A notebook.
19. It gives a description of Panama's flag.
20. The pool.
21. Tea.
22. About six hours.
23. A male clerk and a female customer.
24. Pick up some groceries.
25. The man and the woman have just met.
26. Juan is trying to get out of his chores by claiming that the vacuum cleaner is not working.
27. It's too expensive.
28. Which are bigger, older or smaller stars?