

# National Spanish Examinations

## Practice Proficiency Exam – Level 3 - 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. Camila is studying to become a flight attendant and is reading examples of the different announcements that she will have to make when she is aboard the aircraft someday.

El comandante y todos nosotros les damos las gracias por elegir este vuelo con destino a Madrid. La duración estimada del vuelo será de una hora y diez minutos. Por motivos de seguridad y para evitar interferencias con los instrumentos de vuelo, les recordamos que los teléfonos móviles deberán permanecer desconectados desde el cierre de puertas y hasta su apertura en el aeropuerto de destino. Favor de guardar todo su equipaje de mano en los compartimentos superiores o debajo del asiento delantero, dejando despejados el pasillo y las salidas de emergencia. Ahora abróchense el cinturón de seguridad, mantengan el respaldo de su asiento en posición vertical y su mesita plegada. Estamos a punto de despegar. Gracias por su atención y feliz vuelo.

During which part of the trip would this announcement be made?

- At takeoff.
  - During turbulence in the air.
  - During an emergency.
  - At landing.
2. A friend in Spain has sent you a link to a blog that contains this posting.



La gran mayoría de los jóvenes pasamos gran parte de nuestro tiempo en las redes sociales. Esto es algo asociado a la necesidad de poder expresar nuestras opiniones, pensamientos y (o) comentarios por medio de textos o con simples imágenes asociadas con esta. Podemos interactuar con demás personas de otros lugares del mundo por medio de fotos, comentarios, por vídeo chat o simplemente chat (que significa charla). Los jóvenes del siglo 21 encontramos cierto tipo de diversión o entretenimiento en estas bien llamadas redes sociales (Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, YouTube, Badoo, etc...). Es por eso que este pasatiempo es uno de los mejores que existe en la actualidad para los jóvenes.

What is the opinion of this author?

- The great majority of young people spend too much time using social media.
- Spending time using social media is a great way for young people to spend their leisure time.
- Expressing one's opinion on social media can have negative consequences.
- Some social networking sites do not have appropriate names.

3. Miguel sees the following article on a health website.

Algunos alimentos que consumimos contribuyen a la formación de caries y a la formación de bacterias. Para prevenir esto es bueno evitar el excesivo consumo de los siguientes alimentos: frutas cítricas, caramelos masticables o duros, bebidas gaseosas, vino, café y té. Los alimentos que pueden prevenir o incluso revertir el daño de nuestros dientes son los siguientes: chicles sin azúcar, agua, lácteos como la leche y el queso, fresas y comidas altas en fibras. Ahora ya sabes qué alimentos dañan tus dientes y cuáles ayudan a revertir el daño. No tienes excusas para no cuidar tus dientes y mantenerlos saludables.

What is the purpose of this text?

- It identifies ways to remove food from teeth without brushing.
- It explains how bacteria can cause dental cavities.
- It lists foods that are both good and bad for dental health.

It describes when to eat certain foods during the day.

4. The following notice is posted on a website that advertises homes and apartments for rent.



**Piso en el centro de Madrid.** El piso tiene un ambiente agradable junto a los famosos bares de tapeo en la Plaza Mayor y la Puerta del Sol. Es muy grande y está completamente reformado. Además está bien comunicado con las estaciones de Metro. Cuenta con una gran cocina equipada con todos los electrodomésticos necesarios. Tiene dos baños y una habitación completamente amueblada con cama, armario, mesa de estudio y silla. Hay una terraza enorme. El precio que paga incluye Internet wi-fi, agua y limpieza semanal. Los gastos de electricidad y gas no están incluidos pero son de sólo 30 € al mes.

What type of person would be interested in this posting?

- A person who travels by subway often.
- A single person who enjoys living in the countryside.
- Someone who doesn't mind paying extra for expensive luxuries.
- Someone with a large family and several pets.

5. While hiking through a park in Uruguay, you come across the following sign.



Mantengamos limpio nuestro parque, bosque, playa, y así estaremos colaborando con la hermosa naturaleza que nos rodea, evitando con cada desperdicio que arrojamos destruir la ecología que tanto intentamos preservar.

What is the purpose of the sign?

- To explain what parts of the park are closed due to recent storm damage.
  - To warn of the dangers that might be encountered while hiking in the park.
  - To ask hikers to preserve the natural ecological balance by picking up after pets.
  - To request that visitors respect the environment while using the park.
6. Rodrigo is browsing a technology website and comes across the following excerpt.



Aunque las redes inalámbricas para conectarse a Internet son comunes en la mayoría de las ciudades del planeta, existen lugares extraños en los que se puede encontrar conexiones WiFi. Por ejemplo, un cementerio en Kentucky puede ser el único en el mundo en ofrecer conexión WiFi. El servicio fue establecido para ayudar a los visitantes con sus investigaciones genealógicas. Como otro ejemplo, una empresa de telefonía sueca instaló puntos de acceso a Internet WiFi a lo largo de la montaña más alta de la Tierra: el monte Everest. También, los primeros turistas espaciales que

viajen con la compañía Virgin Galactic pueden sumar a la experiencia de la gravedad cero, la de navegar por Internet desde sus naves espaciales.

What is the main point of the article?

- That Virgin Galactic intends to provide tours to outer space.
- That WiFi access is available in some very unusual and unexpected places.
- That it is possible to use wireless Internet all over the world.
- That Mount Everest is the only mountain in the world with WiFi.

7. You have received this offer in the mail from a national cell phone company.

Escribe tu código postal abajo y obtén 500 minutos a toda hora. Si te inscribes ahora, además recibirás llamadas ilimitadas, así como minutos de noche y fin de semana. El pago será sólo de \$39.99 mensual con un contrato nuevo de 2 años.

According to this advertisement, what is **NOT** included in this monthly package?

- Unlimited text messages.
- Unlimited nighttime calls.
- 500 anytime minutes.
- Unlimited weekend calls.

8. Chloe sees this entry posted on a news website.

Paleontólogos mexicanos anunciaron el descubrimiento en el desierto del estado de Coahuila de 50 vértebras que se piensa son la cola de un dinosaurio. El Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia indicó que la cola mide cinco metros (16 pies) y parece ser la de un hadrosáurido. Aunque no es posible confirmar la especie, sería la primera cola completa de ese tipo hallada en México. La paleontóloga Felisa Aguilar dijo que descubrieron casi la mitad del dinosaurio, que medía unos 12 metros (36 pies) y que vivió hace unos 72 millones de años. La excavación duró 20 días en la municipalidad de General Cepeda en el estado nortero, fronterizo con Estados Unidos. Los paleontólogos, que trabajaron en conjunto con la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, hallaron además huesos de la cadera.

What is the main point of the article?

- That paleontologists identified a find in Mexico as a hadrosaur.
- That dinosaurs in Mexico are thought to have had very long tails.
- That dinosaur bones cannot last for more than 72 million years.
- That archaeologists don't usually dig in the Mexican desert.

9. Juan Luis is conducting some genealogy research when he comes across this posting on a family history site originating in Argentina.

La palabra genealogía proviene del griego, "genos" (raza) y "logos" (ciencia), y consiste en la enumeración de los antepasados de una persona. Es una de las ciencias auxiliares de la historia (1) que trata del origen y descendencia de las familias (o de un linaje) a través de una realidad documental y (2) que por medio del estudio de documentos fidedignos se ocupa en establecer el parentesco entre personas y familias y el origen, descendencia y alianzas de las mismas. La genealogía se nutre de diversas fuentes de información escritas, pero siempre se debe comenzar por la tradición.

What statement best summarizes this posting?

- It classifies the steps in researching one's ancestry.
  - It describes why genealogy is of historical importance to society.
  - It defines genealogy as a subcategory of history in which a person traces his/her lineage.
  - It explains the importance of oral tradition and legal documents in doing genealogical research.
10. Matilda sees this posting about vacation packages on her way into the grocery store.

¿Te gusta nadar y broncearte? ¿Te gusta pasar el día relajándote en la arena o jugando al volibol? Si te gustan estas actividades, ven a nuestra reunión para familiarizarte con la información de viajes que ofrecemos en la Oficina del Sol. Ofrecemos varios paquetes vacacionales de diferentes actividades. Tenemos paquetes para cualquier afición. También ofrecemos paquetes turísticos de muchos lugares. Si necesitas alejarte de la tensión del trabajo o de los estudios, ven para descubrir las vacaciones perfectas para ti.

What does this advertisement offer to a prospective traveler?

- A comparison of the different tourist themes of different travel agencies.
  - A seminar about various travel packages.
  - A price list of activities that are included in various vacation packages.
  - A description of the psychological benefits of taking a vacation.
11. Valentina is taking a cooking class and is assigned the following article in a culinary arts magazine.



La quinua es un cereal muy antiguo endémica a las culturas andinas. Los españoles, desconociendo el poder nutritivo de la quinua y recelosos de su costado religioso, lo descartaron y reemplazaron por otros alimentos. Se cultiva desde hace más de cinco mil años en toda la región del altiplano andino en América del Sur a más de 3.000 metros de altura sobre el nivel del mar. Los antiguos incas la llamaban el Grano Madre y la veneraban como planta sagrada. Muchos estudios recientes dicen que el valor nutritivo de la quinua es sólo comparable con la leche materna, lo que la convierte en uno de los alimentos más completos y balanceados. Por eso la NASA la incluyó en los menús de los astronautas para los viajes espaciales de larga duración. Su aspecto es similar al cuscús y su sabor cercano al arroz integral.

What example is given as evidence of quinoa's nutritional value?

- That Spanish conquerors likened it to brown rice.
- That the Incas used it as a holistic remedy.
- That astronauts use it in long space flights.
- That it is recommended for pregnant women.

12. Megan sees this article in the entertainment section of an online magazine.

La palabra "paparazzi" surge de una deformación de "pappataci", palabra que en el idioma italiano se utiliza generalmente para designar a un grupo de insectos zumbadores tales como la mosca o los jejenes, los cuales son temidos por su picadura. Por analogía, los italianos la aplicaron a los fotógrafos, quienes solos o en enjambre acechan a diario a los ricos y famosos del mundo entero para obtener una imagen de su vida privada.

According to the article, where does the word "paparazzi" come from?



- From a word that is usually used to describe people who snoop or pry.
- From an Italian word for predator of the rich and famous.
- From a corrupt form of a word that means buzzing insects.
- From an Italian expression that refers to the sting of a bee.

13. Juanita reads this article in a cooking magazine while looking for an interesting recipe.



Desde los albores de la cocina, nacieron las especias, las hierbas y los condimentos y, desde entonces, han acompañado todo platillo preparado por la especie humana. Durante mucho tiempo, algunos condimentos, como por ejemplo la sal, fueron los únicos recursos de los que se disponía para la conservación de los alimentos. También han sido utilizadas para dar sabor y color a los alimentos, pero aparte de sus usos culinarios la humanidad ha utilizado hierbas, especias y condimentos muy diversos para numerosos fines. Desde tiempos muy remotos varias culturas han utilizado hierbas para elaborar infusiones mitigadoras de dolores e incluso para la preparación de pociones mágicas por sus propiedades curativas. De todos modos, se destaca más el uso gastronómico--para dar sabor a los alimentos.

According to this article, which is the most common use of herbs and spices?

- To add flavor to foods.
- To add color to foods.
- To cure the sick.
- To preserve food.

14. While browsing a website originating in the Dominican Republic, you come across this text about sugar cane.





La caña es originaria de Nueva Guinea, de donde pasó a la India y de allí a China. Con la expansión musulmana, los árabes la introdujeron por el Mediterráneo hasta la Península Ibérica, de donde pasó a las islas atlánticas próximas (Azores, Madeira, Canarias). Cristóbal Colón introdujo a La Española la caña de azúcar durante su segundo viaje en 1493, pero no fue hasta el año 1501, después de varios intentos, cuando se logró prender la planta que procedía de las Islas Canarias. Desde La Española fue extendida hacia Cuba, Puerto Rico y toda América, convirtiéndose el continente americano en el mayor productor de azúcar de caña del mundo.

According to the text, what is the origin of the sugar cane which finally took root in Hispaniola?

- Cuba.
- New Guinea.
- The Canary Islands.
- The Iberian Peninsula.

## 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.

15. Arturo is out of town visiting his cousin and would like to exercise at her gym.



What will Arturo need to get into his cousin's gym?

- A credit card.
- His school identification card.
- His driver's license.
- A parent signature.

16. Lauren hears this conversation on a TV talk show.



What is the woman describing?

- A fashion show.
- A colorful fall parade.
- An exhibit at the zoo.
- Winter decorations.

17. Paco has asked what he might contribute to Manuela's saint's day party. Manuela has left the following message in Paco's voicemail letting him know what everyone else is bringing.



What might Paco bring to the party that someone else is not already bringing?

- Napkins.
- Paper plates.
- Cheese and crackers.
- Soft drinks.

18. You are standing in line at the ticket counter at the Miami airport and overhear the following conversation between the passenger in front of you and the ticket agent.



What is the passenger's main concern?

- That her carry-on luggage won't fit in the overhead compartment.
- That her luggage weighs too much.
- That her luggage will not get on her flight.
- That she is going to miss her connecting flight.

19. While watching a popular cooking show, you hear the participants discussing this dish.

 **Escuche**



What ingredients are mentioned in preparing the dish?

- Fillet of fish.
- Two pieces of pork.
- Melted cheese.
- Breadcrumbs and eggs.

20. Alejandra is talking with her doctor about a recent basketball injury.

 **Escuche**

What diagnosis did Alejandra receive from her doctor?

- She has sprained her ankle.
- She has broken a bone in her leg.
- She has dislocated her knee.
- She has injured tendons in her arm.

21. You are listening to a person talk about smoking.

 **Escuche**

What is the man saying about smoking in Spain?

- That Spain restricts the growing of tobacco.
- That Spanish legislators research the effects of smoking on health.
- That smokers should be courteous when smoking around others.
- That it is illegal to smoke in public places.

22. Raul is questioning Marisa about what she did last weekend.



How did Marisa spend last Saturday?

- Taking pictures of celebrities.
- Writing an essay at her aunt's house.
- With an actress in a theater.
- With her aunt at the movies.

23. You hear this explanation on a TV food show.



Which area's cuisine is **NOT** mentioned as an influence on Cuban cooking?

- Hawaii.
- Spain.
- Caribbean countries.
- Africa.

24. You and some friends are visiting a zoo and are in the aviary when you hear the guide talking about hummingbirds.



To what does the speaker say that the sudden appearance of a hummingbird is similar?

- A magical force of nature.
- The blink of an eye.
- A rush of wind.
- A hallucination.

25. You are listening to a report on school safety when you hear this account of a recent school visit by the local fire chief.



What do you think the fire chief reported to the principal the day after the fire drill?

- That he was satisfied with how quickly the students left the building.
- That the students should be able to evacuate the building more quickly.
- That there were a few problems which prevented a timely evacuation.
- That the principal should conduct fire drills more often.

26. While trying to solve a crime, Detective López listens to the following recording as a piece of evidence.



According to this recording, why did the woman call the emergency number?

- Her son was assaulted in the park, and his bike was stolen.
- Her employer was robbed 15 minutes before she got to work.
- She saw two teenagers beating up an elderly man.
- She was approached by two suspicious-looking men, one with a moustache.

27. You are listening to a talk show discussing smoking and hear a woman voice her opinion.



What statement best summarizes this woman's opinion about smoking?

- Each person has the right to smoke as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others.
- Although not very popular in today's culture, smoking is a way that some people socialize.
- Smoking is a rude habit that has no place in modern society.
- It is the responsibility of educated people to fight for a smoke-free society.

28. While listening to a radio program concerning the environment, you hear the following clip about glaciers.



According to this clip, what aspect of glaciers is most significant?

- The immense amount of snow that they are made up of.
- The destructive flooding that is caused when they melt.
- The great density of the ice.
- The long amount of time that it takes for them to be formed.

**Practice Exam - National Spanish Examination - Proficiency - Level 3**

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This test measures proficiency in Spanish reading and listening comprehension.

1. At takeoff.
2. Spending time using social media is a great way for young people to spend their leisure time.
3. It lists foods that are both good and bad for dental health.
4. A person who travels by subway often.
5. To request that visitors respect the environment while using the park.
6. That WiFi access is available in some very unusual and unexpected places.
7. Unlimited text messages.
8. That paleontologists identified a find in Mexico as a hadrosaur.
9. It defines genealogy as a subcategory of history in which a person traces his/her lineage.
10. A seminar about various travel packages.
11. That astronauts use it in long space flights.
12. From a corrupt form of a word that means buzzing insects.
13. To add flavor to foods.
14. The Canary Islands.
15. His driver's license.
16. A fashion show.
17. Paper plates.
18. That her luggage will not get on her flight.
19. Breadcrumbs and eggs.
20. She has broken a bone in her leg.

21. That smokers should be courteous when smoking around others.
22. With an actress in a theater.
23. Hawaii.
24. A hallucination.
25. That the students should be able to evacuate the building more quickly.
26. Her son was assaulted in the park, and his bike was stolen.
27. Each person has the right to smoke as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others.
28. The destructive flooding that is caused when they melt.