National Spanish Challenge
Specifications

FLES programs across the country vary widely. Consequently, no contest can accurately reflect the specific content of every individual class. The basic communicative functions and basic content listed below are a guideline to items on the National Spanish Challenge.

Basic Content

**Divisions A, B, C, D, E:**

Given an authentic text in which a native speaker asks a basic question or makes a general comment, the student will be able to correctly identify:

1. a number between 1-31 on a calendar
2. weather expressions
3. seasons of the year
4. telling time on analog and digital clocks
5. simple pastimes (leer, caminar, jugar, tocar un instrumento, montar en bicicleta, etc.)
6. basic sports (jugar al fútbol, tenis, béisbol, etc.)
7. members of the family (madre, padre, hermano, abuelo, tía, etc.)
8. domesticated animals commonly kept in homes and on farms (perro, gato, caballo, etc.)
9. common items in a classroom (lápiz, pupitre, libro, profesor, estudiante, etc.)
10. basic nouns referring to people (persona, hombre, mujer, chico, chica, amigo, etc.)
11. a person’s physical description (moreno, rubio, alto, etc.)
12. a person’s name and age
13. basic colors
14. basic shapes (círculo, triángulo, rectángulo)
15. common places (casa, escuela, biblioteca, banco, mercado, etc.)
16. common furniture (mesa, silla, cama)
17. methods of transportation (coche, autobús, tren, avión)
18. directions, locations of position (a la derecha, a la izquierda, delante, detrás)
19. basic foods (manzana, fresa, verduras, carne, pescado)
20. articles of clothing (pantalones, vestido, camisa, blusa)
21. parts of the body (cabeza, mano, pie)

Communicative Functions

**Divisions B, C, D, E:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Stimulus</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asking and giving names</td>
<td>¿Cómo te llamas?</td>
<td>Me llamo ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¿Cómo se llama usted?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¿Cómo se llama él?</td>
<td>Él se llama ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¿Cómo se llama ella?</td>
<td>Ella se llama ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeting people</td>
<td>Buenos días.</td>
<td>Hola.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buenas tardes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buenas noches.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Interpretive Viewing

**Divisions C, D and E**

*Everything from the Basic Content and Communicative Functions plus:*

1. general places in nature (playa, campo, lago, montaña)
2. expressing quantity (¿cuántos?)
3. describing temporary states (contento, triste, ausente, presente, enfermo, etc.)
4. common family activities (comer, beber, lavar, cocinar, etc.)
5. names of common wild animals (conejo, pájaro, serpiente, pez, etc.)
6. pastimes expanded
7. sports expanded
8. clothing expanded items found around the house (cuchillo, tenedor, vaso, plato)
9. foods expanded from above (jugo, sopa, ensalada, té)
10. musical instruments (guitarra, violín, flauta)
Interpretive Reading - Sentences

*Divisions C, D and E*

Everything from the Basic Content, Communicative Functions, and Interpretive Viewing *plus*:

1. understanding the meaning of the present tense (canta, come, escribe)
2. understanding the meaning of the present progressive (estoy cantando, está comiendo)
3. prepositions of location (debajo de, lejos de, cerca de)
4. a basic understanding of grammatical gender:
   a. Nouns ending in -o and -a
   b. Nouns referring to males / females (hombre, mujer)
   c. Definite articles (el, la, los, las)
   d. Indefinite articles (un, una)
   e. Agreement of adjectives with what is being described

Interpretive Reading - Texts

*Divisions C and E*

*This section assesses the basic concepts of reading comprehension at the novice level.*

Students should be able to interpret a novice level text and:

1. Identify the main idea
2. Extract a specific detail

Reading texts are generally taken from the following topics:

1. Description of the family and the home
2. Popular pastimes and sports
3. Life at school
4. Description of the weather