
Diagnostic Test

Spanish

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Testing Tips

1. **Do not read anything into the question.** Do not assume that the test writer is looking for something else than what is asked. Stick to the question as written and do not read extra things into it.
2. **Read the question and all the choices twice before answering the question.** You may miss something by not carefully reading and then re-reading both the question and the answers. If you really do not have a clue as to the right answer, leave it blank on the first time through. Go on to the other questions, as they may provide a clue as to how to answer the skipped questions. If later on, you still cannot answer the skipped ones...**guess**. The only penalty for guessing is that you *might* get it wrong. Only one thing is certain; if you do not put anything down, you will get it wrong!
3. **Turn the question into a statement.** Look at the wording of the questions. The syntax of the question usually provides a clue. Does it seem more familiar as a statement rather than as a question? Does it sound strange? By turning a question into a statement, you may be able to spot if an answer sounds right, and it may trigger memories of material you have read.
4. **Look for hidden clues.** It is actually very difficult to compose multiple-foil (choice) questions without giving away part of the answer in the options presented. In most multiple-choice questions, you can often readily eliminate one or two of the potential answers. This leaves you with only two real possibilities and automatically your odds go to fifty-fifty for very little work.
5. **Trust your instincts.** For every fact that you have read, you subconsciously retain something of that knowledge. On questions about which you are not really certain, go with your basic instincts. **Your first impression on how to answer a question is usually correct.**
6. **Mark your answers directly on the test booklet.** Do not bother trying to fill in the optical scan sheet on the first pass through the test. *Mark your answers carefully when you transcribe them to the scan sheet.*
7. **Watch the clock!** You have a set amount of time to answer the questions. Do not get bogged down trying to answer a single question at the expense of ten questions you can more readily answer.

Speaking Portion

For this portion of the actual exam you will be asked to record your answers in Spanish.

Give the following directions in Spanish.

1. Take out your books.
2. Describe where you went on your last vacation and what you did there.
3. Do you think professional athletes should be held to higher standards than other public figures? Why?

Listening Portion

This portion of the actual test will involve listening to an audio clip and providing a response. For the purpose of this practice, an audio script is provided in italics. The actual examination will not include written text, questions, or choices.

El Príncipe Felipe de Borbón, el futuro líder de España, nació en 1968. Estudió en Canadá y en los Estados Unidos. Es muy atlético y le interesan mucho los deportes. Lleva una vida bastante normal aunque es famoso. Según los políticos europeos, está bien preparado para ser el próximo Rey de España.

4. **¿Qué le gusta al Príncipe Felipe?**
(Average)
 - A. Los norteamericanos.
 - B. Los canadienses.
 - C. Los deportes.
 - D. Los estudios.

En la sala sólo hay un sillón de cuero y una lámpara; entonces necesitamos un sofá para sentarnos y una televisión para ver nuestros programas favoritos. En el comedor nos falta una mesa grande, aunque hay seis sillas.

**5. ¿Qué deben comprar?
(Average)**

- A. Un sillón de cuero y una lámpara.
- B. Un sofá, una televisión y una mesa grande.
- C. Una mesa grande y seis sillas.
- D. No nos falta nada.

Writing Portion

Choose the most accurately written item.

6. (Rigorous)

- A. El lápiz de el es azul.
- B. Él lápiz de el es azul.
- C. El lápiz de él es azul.
- D. Él lápiz de él es azul.

7. (Rigorous)

- A. ¿Porque lo hiciste tú?
- B. ¿Por qué lo hiciste tú?
- C. ¿Por qué lo hiciste tu?
- D. ¿Porque lo hiciste tu?

8. (Average)

- A. Se me olvidé la cartera.
- B. Se me olvidó la cartera.
- C. Me la olvidó la cartera.
- D. Me la olvidé la cartera.

Choose the correct response or most appropriate rejoinder.

**9. ¿Quién lo hizo?
(Easy)**

- A. –Yo lo hice.
- B. –Yo me hice.
- C. –Yo lo hizo.
- D. –Me lo hizo.

**10. ¿Lo conoció en el colegio?
(Easy)**

- A. –Sí, conoció allí.
- B. –Sí, me conocí allí.
- C. –Sí, lo conocí allí.
- D. –Sí, me lo conoció allí.

11. Me importan los asuntos de los que habíamos hablado.
(Average)

- A. –A mí me importan tampoco.
- B. –A mí me importan también.
- C. –A mí me importan tambien.
- D. –A mí no me importan tampoco.

Choose the rule or explanation that best explains the following:

12. Eran las 2:00 cuando salimos ayer por la tarde.
(Rigorous)

- A. Correct: The imperfect tense is used to tell time in the past.
- B. Incorrect: Both verbs should be in the imperfect to describe past actions.
- C. Incorrect: The preterite tense is used to tell time in the past.
- D. Correct: Both verbs are in the imperfect tense to tell a story.

13. Quisiera que ella lo hiciera.
(Rigorous)

- A. Correct: The imperfect subjunctive is used following the preterite.
- B. Correct: The imperfect subjunctive is used following a past subjunctive.
- C. Incorrect: The imperfect subjunctive is used to express doubt in the past.
- D. Correct: The imperfect subjunctive is used to express emotion in the past.

14. Señora Cabrices es de Caracas, Venezuela.
(Easy)

- A. Correct: The verb "ser" is used to express origin or nationality.
- B. Correct: The preposition "a" is not needed.
- C. Incorrect: The verb "estar" is used to express location.
- D. Incorrect: The definite article should precede a title of someone's name.

15. Mi padre es pesimista pero mi madre es optimista.
(Average)

- A. Incorrect: Adjectives should agree in both gender and number with the noun they modify.
- B. Incorrect: The conjunction "sino" should be used in the negative construction.
- C. Correct: The subjunctive mood is not needed to express an opinion.
- D. Correct: Adjectives that end in "ista" have only one singular form for masculine and feminine nouns.

16. Ayer iba al cine cuando vino Diego.
(Rigorous)

- A. Correct: The imperfect describes a past repetitive action.
- B. Correct: The imperfect stresses an action in progress when another action took place.
- C. Incorrect: The preterite is needed to express a past fact.
- D. Incorrect: The preterite expresses an action that took place at a definite time in the past.

17. Por favor, René. El carro está sucio. Lávalo.
(Average)

- A. Incorrect: The command form is not needed here. It is a request.
- B. Incorrect: The object pronoun should precede the conjugated verb.
- C. Correct: The affirmative command is in the familiar form.
- D. Correct: The negative familiar command has the same form as the second person singular.

Choose the appropriate answer to complete the following items:

18. En 1971 Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) recibió el Premio Nóbel de ____.
(Easy)

- A. Literatura.
- B. Arte.
- C. Ciencia.
- D. la Paz.

19. Nicaragua está situada entre ____.
(Average)

- A. Honduras y Costa Rica.
- B. Costa Rica y Panamá.
- C. Guatemala y El Salvador.
- D. Guatemala y Belice.

20. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1651-1695) era ____ mexicana.
(Rigorous)

- A. una artista
- B. una muralista
- C. una poeta y ensayista
- D. una novelista

21. El deporte de jai alai es de origen ____.
(Easy)

- A. catalán
- B. árabe
- C. griego
- D. vasco

22. Frida Kahlo era ____.
(Average)

- A. una novelista mexicana
- B. una fotógrafa moderna
- C. una pintora mexicana del período surrealista
- D. una patriota mexicana

23. Al recibir una invitación a cenar, usted debe preguntar...
(Rigorous)

- A. ¿Qué va a servir?
- B. ¿A qué hora debo llegar?
- C. ¿Qué debo comer?
- D. ¿Qué debo llevar?

24. La típica familia española es ____.
(Average)

- A. más grande en la actualidad que la del pasado
- B. más pequeña en la actualidad que la del pasado
- C. muy grande hoy en día
- D. tan pequeña en la actualidad como en el pasado

Complete the following statements about foreign language teaching methodology.

25. Conversation cards and interviews are ____.
(Rigorous)

- A. one type of oral achievement testing
- B. functions of a language
- C. language proficiency
- D. examples of acquisition vs. learning

26. An achievement test measures

_____.
(Average)

- A. form vs. function
- B. a student's general progress and ability
- C. a student's ability to comprehend written and spoken language
- D. a student's acquisition of specific knowledge of the course material

27. The emphasis is on communicative competence rather than memorizing grammar rules and stressing accuracy. (Rigorous)

- A. Grammar-Translation Method
- B. Audiolingual Method
- C. Natural Approach
- D. Total Physical Response

Reading Comprehension

Read the short passages below and then choose the most accurate response based on your reading.

FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA

El famoso poeta español Federico García Lorca fue asesinado durante la Guerra Civil Española. Fue uno de los miembros más distinguidos de la llamada generación del 27. Su muerte fue trágica para el mundo entero.

García Lorca nació en Fuente Vaqueros, Granada, el 5 de junio de 1898. Cuando era joven asistió a "la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras" en la ciudad de Córdoba. Pero un poco después fue a Madrid para seguir sus estudios. Allí conoció a Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, Manuel de Falla y Andrés Segovia. Durante su vida tuvo la oportunidad de pintar, tocar la guitarra, escribir y viajar a Argentina, Cuba y los Estados Unidos.

Desafortunadamente murió en circunstancias misteriosas el 19 de agosto del año 1936, pero su espíritu y talento viven hoy en día en su poesía y sus obras de teatro. Su muerte fue una gran pérdida.

28. Se hizo amigo de Picasso, Dalí, de Falla y Segovia en _____. (Average)

- A. Granada
- B. Córdoba
- C. Fuente Vaqueros
- D. Madrid

**29. La idea principal de este pasaje es que García Lorca _____.
(Rigorous)**

- A. viajó mucho
- B. murió muy jovencito
- C. fue un escritor con mucho talento
- D. tenía muchos amigos

LA TRAVIESA TORMENTA

Hoy por la mañana, los investigadores del Centro Urbano predijeron que la tormenta se alejaría de la costa, aunque cientos de miles de habitantes ya hubieran huido de las playas e islas costeras causando un frenético embrollo. Esta tarde, su trayectoria sigue alejándose de la región. La tormenta tenía más de 200 millas de ancha y vientos de 110 millas por hora.

**30. ¿De qué tipo de evento meteorológico trata la lectura?
(Average)**

- A. Un terremoto.
- B. Una llovizna.
- C. Un embrollo.
- D. Un huracán.

Answer Key

1. Saquen sus libros.
2. Describe adónde fuiste en tus últimas vacaciones y lo que hiciste ahí.
3. ¿Crees que los deportistas profesionales deberían ser medidos por estándares más altos que los de otras figuras públicas? ¿Por qué?
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. A
13. B
14. D
15. D
16. B
17. C
18. A
19. A
20. C
21. D
22. C
23. B
24. B
25. A
26. D
27. C
28. D
29. B
30. D