

Spanish Proficiency Exam: Study Guide

The Providence Catholic Spanish proficiency exam is given in two parts: reading and writing. For the reading portion, students will read a short text and answer questions in the following format: 1) Word Recognition (Spanish/English meaning) 2) Main Idea (Summarize the main point of the text) 3) Short Answer (Understanding details) 4) Grammar and Words in Context (conjugation and unknown words). Then for the writing portion, students will complete three short writing prompts surrounding the general content and vocabulary themes identified below.

How is the exam assessed? The proficiency exam is assessed utilizing the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for Spanish language acquisition. The student must score at minimum the ACTFL *Novice High* proficiency level in both domains to be considered for a placement beyond Spanish I.

To aid you and your student in understanding how the writing portion will be scored, please see the example to the right with a prompt for *English* learning to the question: **Do you like to play sports?**

- *Novice Low*
 - 1-2 words (yes/no)
- *Novice Mid*
 - add a word or two to a phrase
- *Novice High*
 - create a sentence with details
 - day
 - month
 - season
 - weather
 - but, and, also, always, often, sometimes, rarely
- *Intermediate Low*
 - create a sentence with details such as adjectives and various
 - Different timeframes (past, present, future)

General Content and Vocabulary Themes:

1. Identity, Characteristics of Self
2. Food
3. School/University/Professions
4. Calendar/Seasons
5. Colors/Basic Adjectives
6. Time

Grammar Topics Covered:

1. conjugations of regular —ar,-er,-ir verbs in present indicative in the *yo, tú, él/ella/usted, nosotros/as, ellos/as*.
2. ser and estar
3. noun, adjective and verb agreement
4. possessive adjectives
5. possession with 'de'
6. contractions del and al
7. stem-changing verbs such as querer, poder, dormir, jugar
8. irregular verbs like ir, hacer, tener, ser, estar, haber
9. adjectives - gender, number, agreement
10. definite and indefinite articles
11. subject pronouns and interrogatives
12. verb phrases/usage-special uses of tener, ir + a + infinitive
13. Word order of questions
14. negation - word order
15. Novice connector words: and, but, then, always, never