

# CLEP® Spanish Language: At a Glance

## Description of the Examination

The CLEP® Spanish Language examination is designed to measure knowledge and ability equivalent to that of students who have completed two to four semesters of college Spanish language study. The exam focuses on skills typically achieved from the end of the first year through the second year of college study; material taught during both years is incorporated into a single exam.

The examination contains approximately 120 questions to be answered in approximately 90 minutes. Some of these are pretest questions that will not be scored. There are three separately timed sections. The three sections are weighted so that each question contributes equally to the total score.

There are two Listening sections and one Reading section. Each section has its own timing requirements.

- The two Listening sections together are approximately 30 minutes in length. The amount of time candidates have to answer a question varies according to the section and does not include the time they spend listening to the test material.
- The Reading section is 60 minutes in length.

Most colleges that award credit for the Spanish Language exam award either two or four semesters of credit, depending on the candidate's test scores.

## Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Spanish Language examination require candidates to comprehend written and spoken Spanish. The subject matter is drawn from the following abilities. The percentages next to the main topics indicate the approximate percentage of exam questions on that ability.

### 15% Section I: Listening: Rejoinders

Listening comprehension through short oral exchanges

### 25% Section II: Listening: Dialogues and Narratives

Listening comprehension through longer spoken selections

### 60% Section III: Reading

16% Part A: Discrete sentences (vocabulary and structure)

20% Part B: Short cloze passages (vocabulary and structure)

24% Part C: Reading passages and authentic stimulus materials (reading comprehension)

## Study Resources

Most textbooks used in college-level Spanish language courses cover the topics in the above outline, but the approaches to certain topics and the emphases given to them may differ. To prepare for the CLEP Spanish Language exam, it is advisable to study one or more college textbooks, which can be found in most college bookstores.

Besides studying basic vocabulary, you should understand and be able to apply the grammatical principles that make up the language. To improve your reading comprehension, read passages from textbooks, short magazine or newspaper articles, or other printed material of your choice. To improve your listening comprehension, seek opportunities to hear the language spoken by native speakers and to converse with native speakers. If you have opportunities to join organizations with Spanish-speaking members, to attend Spanish movies, or to listen to Spanish-language television or radio broadcasts, take advantage of them.

A recent survey conducted by CLEP found that the following textbooks are among those used by college faculty who teach the equivalent course. Most of these have companion websites with practice test questions and other study resources. HINT: When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the Knowledge and Skills Required for this test.

Armen, <i>Abriendo Puertas: Lenguaje</i> (McDougal Littell)
Dozier and Iguña, <i>Manual de gramática: Grammar Reference for Students of Spanish</i> (Heinle)
Frances et al., <i>Manual de gramática y ortografía para hispanos</i> (Pearson)
Gac-Artigas, <i>Directo al Grano</i> (Prentice-Hall)
Gill et al., <i>En Contacto</i> (Heinle)
Gilman et al., <i>Nuevos Horizontes</i> (Wiley)
Iglesias and Meiden, <i>Spanish for Oral and Written Review</i> (Heinle)
Kiddle et al., <i>Perspectivas</i> (Heinle)
Knorre et al., <i>Puntos de Partida</i> (McGraw-Hill)
Siskin et al., <i>Entrevistas: An Introduction to Language and Culture</i> (McGraw-Hill)
Valdes and Teschner, <i>Español Escrito</i> (Prentice Hall) — for native speakers

In addition, the following resources, compiled by the CLEP test development committee and staff members, may help you study for your exam. However, none of these sources are designed specifically to provide preparation for a CLEP exam. The College Board has no control over their content and cannot vouch for accuracy.

<http://www.wordchamp.com>

<http://www.studyspanish.com>

<http://www.espanole.org/>

<http://www.trentu.ca/spanish/masarriba/>

<http://fsi-language-courses.org/Content.php?page=Spanish>

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Visit [www.collegeboard.com/clepprep](http://www.collegeboard.com/clepprep) for additional Spanish language resources. You can also find suggestions for exam preparation in Chapter IV of the *CLEP Official Study Guide*. In addition, many college faculty post their course materials on their schools' websites.

## Sample Test Questions

The following sample questions do not appear on an actual CLEP examination. They are intended to give potential test-takers an indication of the format and difficulty level of the examination and to provide content for practice and review. For more sample questions and info about the test, see the *CLEP Official Study Guide*.

1. Todos los días nos levantamos a las seis \_\_\_\_\_ la mañana.

- (A) de
- (B) por
- (C) en
- (D) a

2. Cristóbal Colón \_\_\_\_\_ a la reina Isabel que le diera dinero para sus viajes de exploración.

- (A) pidiera
- (B) pedirá
- (C) pidió
- (D) pediría

**Directions for Part B:** In each of the following paragraphs, there are blanks indicating that words or phrases have been omitted. As you go through the questions, the computer will highlight each blank, one at a time. When a blank is shaded, four completions are provided. For each blank, choose the completion that is most appropriate, given the context of the entire paragraph.

Sebastián miró a su alrededor. Él no \_\_\_3\_\_\_ dónde estaba. Sólo recordaba que había llegado el día anterior a esta ciudad. La noche era un misterio. Recorrió las calles interminables \_\_\_4\_\_\_ cansarse, y entró en un café oscuro y desierto.

3. (A) sabíamos  
(B) sabías  
(C) sabía  
(D) sabían

4. (A) hasta  
(B) entre  
(C) hacia  
(D) dentro

**Directions for Part C:** Read the following selections. Each selection is followed by one or more questions or incomplete statements. For each question, select the answer or completion that is best according to the selection.



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5. Según el anuncio, ¿qué se puede reservar al llamar al número telefónico presentado?

- (A) Un apartamento
- (B) Una mesa en un restaurante
- (C) Un sitio para vender
- (D) Boletos para un concierto

6. ¿Cuál es una ventaja de Mundo Mart?

- (A) Está abierto 24 horas al día.
- (B) Ofrece una variedad de servicios.
- (C) No hay que reservar el espacio por adelantado.
- (D) El uso del espacio es gratuito en los fines de semana.

## Credit Recommendations

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The American Council on Education has recommended that colleges grant 6 credits for a score of 50, which is equivalent to a course grade of C, on the CLEP Spanish Language exam, and 12 credits for a score of 63. Each college, however, is responsible for setting its own policy. For candidates with satisfactory scores on the Spanish Language examination, colleges may grant credit toward fulfillment of a distribution requirement, or for a particular course that matches the exam in content. Check with your school to find out the score it requires for granting credit, the number of credit hours granted and the course that can be bypassed with a passing score.

*Answers to Sample Questions:* 1-A; 2-C; 3-C; 4-A; 5-C; 6-B.