



AP[®] Spanish Language

Update on Changes to the Course and Exam

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Rationale

The AP Spanish Language course is designed to be comparable to advanced level (fifth- and sixth-semester or the equivalent) college/university Spanish language courses. In order to maintain this equivalence, the course and exam are periodically revised to reflect evolving college/university curricula. The AP Spanish Development Committee, which is comprised of AP Spanish teachers and college/university faculty who teach corresponding courses, has adopted a plan to implement changes to the AP Spanish Language course and exam over the coming years in order to ensure the continued equivalence of the AP course with college/university courses. In addition, the committee seeks to appropriately incorporate best practices from evolving philosophies of language instruction and language testing within the profession by considering documents such as the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines* and the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning*.

Changes to the 2005 and 2006 Exams

Beginning with the exam administered in May 2005, the number of multiple-choice question types was reduced. Specifically, the cloze and error recognition parts no longer appear. These question types are rarely used at the college/university level; in addition, they test knowledge and skills evaluated elsewhere on the exam. While there was an increase in the number of questions of the remaining types, the number of multiple-choice questions decreased overall. No changes to the free-response section were introduced. Also, the percentages assigned to the listening, reading, writing, and speaking parts remain unchanged. The table below summarizes the 2005 and 2006 exam format.

AP Spanish Language Exam Format (May 2005 and May 2006)

Section	Item Type	Number of Questions and % Weight of Final Score		Time
Section I	Multiple Choice	70–75 questions	50%	90 min.
Part A: Listening	Short Dialogues & Narratives	30–34 questions	20%	30–35 min.
	Long Dialogues & Narratives			
Part B: Reading	Reading Comprehension	38–41 questions	30%	55–60 min.
Section II	Free Response		50%	80 min.
Part A: Writing	Paragraph Completion	10 questions	30%	60 min.
	Sentence Completion	10 questions		
	Composition	1 prompt		
Part B: Speaking	Picture Sequence	Set of 6 frames	20%	20 min.
	Directed Responses	5 prompts		

Changes to the 2007 Exam

Further changes will be introduced with the exam administered in May 2007 based on a new curriculum (see Claims and Evidence below). These changes will include new question types and a new exam format (see AP Spanish Language 2007 Exam Format below). The AP Spanish Exam Development Committee made final decisions based on input from a number of sources:

- A survey of faculty teaching third-year advanced Spanish language courses to assess the key characteristics of college/university curricula
- Reviews of the current exam by language teaching and testing specialists to gauge the exam's quality
- A "foreign language framework" from the College Board's Foreign Language Academic Advisory Committee to outline a basis for testing of foreign languages
- Comment sessions at the AP Spanish Language Reading and the AP National Conference to solicit opinions from AP and college/university teachers
- Tryout studies to determine the feasibility of creating, administering, and scoring new question types
- An AP Central survey of AP Spanish Language teachers to compile feedback regarding necessary changes to the exam

Details about changes to the course and 2007 exam are posted on AP Central. In addition to the official 2007, 2008 *AP Spanish Course Description* (which will be available in May 2006 both in print and as a downloadable file on AP Central), information about the changes and professional support for AP Spanish Language teachers will be provided in a number of ways:

- Presentations at professional conferences, such as the AP National Conference, and those of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), and the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL)
- Training for College Board AP Spanish consultants
- Professional development workshops for AP Spanish teachers
- Publication of the *AP Spanish Language Teacher's Guide*
- Announcements on AP Central and the AP Spanish Electronic Discussion Group

AP Spanish Language Course and Exam Claims and Evidence

Claims*

The student who receives an AP grade of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Spanish Language Exam has mastered—to a degree commensurate with the AP grade—the skills and knowledge required to receive credit for an advanced level (fifth- and sixth-semester or the equivalent) college/university Spanish language course.

- The student has strong communicative ability in Spanish in interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive modes.
- The student has a strong command of Spanish linguistic skills (including accuracy and fluency) that support communicative ability.
- The student comprehends Spanish intended for native speakers in a variety of settings, types of discourse, topics, styles, registers, and broad regional variations.
- The student produces Spanish comprehensible to native speakers in a variety of settings, types of discourse, topics, and registers.
- The student acquires information from authentic sources in Spanish.
- The student is aware of some cultural perspectives of Spanish-speaking peoples.

*Claims “are statements we’d like to make about what students know, can do, or have accomplished” (Mislevy, Steinberg, and Almond, 2002).

Evidence**

The AP Spanish Language Student can:

- Identify and summarize the main points and significant details and make appropriate inferences and predictions from a spoken source (such as a broadcast news report, a lecture, etc.) on an academic or cultural topic related to the Spanish-speaking world.
- Identify and summarize the main points and significant details and predict outcomes from an everyday conversation on a familiar topic, a dialogue from a film or other broadcast media, or an interview on a social or cultural topic related to the Spanish-speaking world.
- Identify and summarize main points and important details and make appropriate inferences and predictions from a written text, such as a newspaper or magazine article, contemporary literary excerpt, etc.
- Write a cohesive and coherent analytical or persuasive essay with control of grammar and syntax in reaction to a text or on a personal, academic, cultural, or social issue.
- Describe, narrate, and present information or persuasive arguments on general topics with grammatical control and good pronunciation in an oral presentation of two or three minutes.
- Use information from sources provided to present a synthesis and express an opinion.
- Recognize cultural elements implicit in oral and written texts.
- Interpret linguistic cues to infer social relationships.
- Communicate via formal and informal written correspondence.
- Initiate, maintain, and close a conversation on a familiar topic.
- Formulate questions to seek clarification or further information.
- Use language that is semantically and grammatically accurate according to a given context.

**Evidence comprises observable work products, which can be evaluated to substantiate intended claims (Mislevy, Almond, and Lukas, 2003).

AP Spanish Language 2007 Exam Format

Section	Item Type	Number of Questions and % Weight of Final Score		Time
Section I	Multiple Choice	70–75 questions	50%	85–90 min.
Part A: Listening	Short Dialogues & Narratives	30–35 questions	20%	30–35 min.
	Long Dialogues & Narratives			
Part B: Reading	Reading Comprehension	35–40 questions	30%	50–60 min.
Section II	Free Response		50%	Approx. 100 min.
Part A: Writing	Paragraph Completion (with root words)	10 questions (2.5%) 7 minutes	30%	Approx. 80 min.
	Paragraph Completion (without root word)	10 questions (2.5%) 8 minutes		
	Informal Writing	1 prompt (5%) 10 minutes		
	Formal Writing (Integrated Skills)	1 prompt (20%) 55 minutes		
Part B: Speaking	Informal Speaking— Simulated Conversation	5–6 response prompts (10%) 20 seconds to respond each	20%	Approx. 20 min.
	Formal Oral Presentation (Integrated Skills)	1 prompt (10%) 2 minutes to respond		

For more information, visit <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>.