

DELE Examination

General Overview

The DELE (Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera), issued by Spain's Ministry of Education and administered by the Instituto Cervantes, is an official accreditation of Spanish language abilities. It is recognized by official institutions of Spanish-speaking countries as well as countries where Spanish is not the official language. The exam verifies abilities in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding Spanish with two levels:

- Diploma de Español (**Nivel inicial** / Beginner level): This qualification attests to sufficient linguistic ability for understanding and responding appropriately in most normal day-to-day situations and for expressing desires and needs in a basic way.
- Diploma de Español (**Nivel intermedio** / Intermediate level): This qualification validates sufficient linguistic ability to get by in average day-to-day situations in normal communication circumstances, which do not require specialized use of the language.
- Diploma de Español (**Nivel superior** / Proficiency level): This qualification accredits the necessary linguistic competence to integrate in situations requiring an advanced use of the language and knowledge of the cultural customs embedded within it.

Apart from gaining Spanish language certification, the exam preparation course is an excellent way to arrive at a balanced level of proficiency.

The maximum examination grade is 100 marks. The different tests are grouped as follows (the maximum amount of marks available is given in brackets) for the Beginner and Intermediate levels:

- Group I: Reading comprehension (20 marks) and Writing (15 marks): 35 marks.
- Group II: Grammar and vocabulary: 20 marks.
- Group III: Aural comprehension (15 marks) and Speaking (30 marks): 45 marks.

For the Proficiency level, the marking system is as follows:

- Group I: Reading comprehension (15 marks) and Writing (20 marks): 35 marks.
- Group II: Grammar and vocabulary: 20 marks.
- Group III: Aural comprehension (15 marks) and Speaking (30 marks): 45 marks.

To obtain the Diploma in Spanish, at Beginner, Intermediate or Proficiency Level, candidates must obtain at least 70% of all the available marks in each of the groups described above; that is, 24,5 marks for Group I, 14 marks for Group II and 31,5 marks for Group III.

If candidates obtain a pass mark only in one or some of the groups, this mark will not exempt them from taking the whole of the test on future dates.

