

Santillana Preliminary Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is the Spanish word for seventeen?**
 - A. dieciocho**
 - B. diecinueve**
 - C. diecisiete**
 - D. quince**

- 2. Which phrase indicates a lack of sunlight and overcast conditions?**
 - A. It's hot**
 - B. It's cloudy**
 - C. It's sunny**
 - D. It's chilly**

- 3. What phrase is used to ask about the weather in Spanish?**
 - A. ¿Qué hora es?**
 - B. ¿Qué clima hace?**
 - C. ¿Qué tiempo hace?**
 - D. ¿Cuál es la fecha?**

- 4. What is the Spanish term for Wednesday?**
 - A. Martes**
 - B. Miércoles**
 - C. Jueves**
 - D. Sábado**

- 5. What is an effective technique for the Listening Comprehension section?**
 - A. Listening without any distractions**
 - B. Taking notes while listening**
 - C. Reading the questions beforehand**
 - D. Watching videos with subtitles**

- 6. What does "ciencias naturales" translate to in English?**
 - A. Natural Sciences**
 - B. Social Sciences**
 - C. Mathematics**
 - D. Physical Sciences**

- 7. What does "música" translate to in English?**
- A. Science**
 - B. Music**
 - C. Math**
 - D. Art**
- 8. What is the numerical equivalent of "treinta y uno"?**
- A. 30**
 - B. 31**
 - C. 32**
 - D. 33**
- 9. What is the main focus of the Vocabulary section?**
- A. To measure spelling skills**
 - B. To assess knowledge of words and their meanings**
 - C. To evaluate writing coherence**
 - D. To examine reading comprehension abilities**
- 10. What should students focus on when answering vocabulary questions?**
- A. The definitions of words only**
 - B. The context of the sentence or passage**
 - C. Memorization of word lists**
 - D. Associating words with images**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What is the Spanish word for seventeen?

- A. dieciocho
- B. diecinueve
- C. diecisiete**
- D. quince

The Spanish word for seventeen is "diecisiete." This term is formed by combining "diez" (ten) with "siete" (seven), which reflects the way numbers are constructed in Spanish from eleven to nineteen. In this range, the words for the numbers typically start with "dieci-" followed by the unit number. Hence, "diecisiete" literally indicates ten plus seven. Understanding this composition helps in recognizing other related numbers, such as "dieciocho" for eighteen and "diecinueve" for nineteen, reinforcing the pattern of numerical naming in Spanish.

2. Which phrase indicates a lack of sunlight and overcast conditions?

- A. It's hot
- B. It's cloudy**
- C. It's sunny
- D. It's chilly

The phrase that indicates a lack of sunlight and overcast conditions is "It's cloudy." This phrase directly describes a situation where clouds cover the sky, reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches the ground. When it is cloudy, typically the weather is dull and grey, which often connotes a lack of brightness associated with sunny weather. The other choices describe different weather conditions. A declaration of "It's hot" suggests warmth, possibly indicating sunny weather rather than overcast. "It's sunny" clearly denotes the presence of sunlight, which contradicts the idea of lack of light. "It's chilly" could describe a cool temperature regardless of the cloud cover, but it does not specifically indicate overcast conditions or a lack of sunlight. Therefore, "It's cloudy" is the most accurate representation of a situation characterized by overcast skies and limited sunlight.

3. What phrase is used to ask about the weather in Spanish?

- A. ¿Qué hora es?
- B. ¿Qué clima hace?
- C. ¿Qué tiempo hace?**
- D. ¿Cuál es la fecha?

The phrase "¿Qué tiempo hace?" is the correct way to ask about the weather in Spanish. This phrase literally translates to "What is the weather like?" where "tiempo" refers specifically to weather conditions. In everyday conversation, this is the standard inquiry used among Spanish speakers when they want to know about the current weather, such as if it is sunny, raining, hot, or cold. The other phrases do not pertain to weather inquiry: "¿Qué hora es?" means "What time is it?", which relates to asking for the current hour. "¿Qué clima hace?" is not commonly used in Spanish; while "clima" refers to climate, it's not the typical phrase for current weather. "¿Cuál es la fecha?" translates to "What is the date?", which also is unrelated to weather conditions. This understanding highlights why "¿Qué tiempo hace?" is the most appropriate choice for discussing weather in Spanish.

4. What is the Spanish term for Wednesday?

- A. Martes
- B. Miércoles**
- C. Jueves
- D. Sábado

The Spanish term for Wednesday is "Miércoles." In Spanish, the days of the week are derived from Latin, and "Miércoles" comes from the Latin word "dies Mercurii," meaning "day of Mercury." Each weekday in Spanish has a unique name: Monday is "Lunes," Tuesday is "Martes," Thursday is "Jueves," and Friday is "Viernes." Therefore, "Miércoles" specifically refers to Wednesday, distinguishing it from the other days of the week. Understanding these terms is fundamental when learning the Spanish language, as the days of the week are commonly used in both written and spoken communication.

5. What is an effective technique for the Listening Comprehension section?

- A. Listening without any distractions
- B. Taking notes while listening**
- C. Reading the questions beforehand
- D. Watching videos with subtitles

Taking notes while listening is an effective technique for the Listening Comprehension section because it helps reinforce understanding and retention of the material being presented. Note-taking encourages active engagement with the audio content, allowing listeners to capture key ideas, details, and important vocabulary as they arise. This technique facilitates better recall when answering questions later, as it provides a concrete reference to refer back to. It also allows listeners to organize their thoughts and focus on the main points, which is particularly useful in a test situation where comprehension and memory are critical. While listening without distractions can create a conducive environment, it does not actively engage the listener with the content. Reading questions beforehand is helpful for context but does not aid memory as effectively as note-taking does. Watching videos with subtitles may improve comprehension but does not apply directly to audio-only listening tasks. Therefore, taking notes stands out as the most beneficial approach in enhancing listening comprehension.

6. What does "ciencias naturales" translate to in English?

A. Natural Sciences

B. Social Sciences

C. Mathematics

D. Physical Sciences

The term "ciencias naturales" translates to "Natural Sciences" in English. This term encompasses the branches of science that study the physical world, including fields such as biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences. Understanding "ciencias" refers to "sciences" in English, and "naturales" translates to "natural," which relates to the natural world and the phenomena that occur within it. Therefore, when combined, "ciencias naturales" specifically conveys the idea of the sciences that pertain to observing and understanding the natural environment and its laws. The other options refer to different fields of study. "Social Sciences" involves the study of human society and social relationships, "Mathematics" is a discipline focused on numbers and quantitative analysis, and "Physical Sciences" is a broader category that could include aspects of "Natural Sciences" but does not encapsulate the entirety of what "ciencias naturales" means. Hence, "Natural Sciences" remains the most accurate translation.

7. What does "música" translate to in English?

A. Science

B. Music

C. Math

D. Art

The Spanish word "música" translates directly to "music" in English. This translation is straightforward, as both terms refer to the same concept—artistic sound that is organized in such a way as to be enjoyable or meaningful, typically involving elements like rhythm and melody. Understanding language translations often requires recognizing equivalent terms in different languages, and in this case, "música" is a commonly known term in both Spanish and English, making it particularly important for learners to remember. The other words in the options, such as "science," "math," and "art," refer to entirely different disciplines, underscoring that "música" specifically relates to the field of music.

8. What is the numerical equivalent of "treinta y uno"?

A. 30

B. 31

C. 32

D. 33

The phrase "treinta y uno" translates directly to "thirty-one" in English. In the Spanish numbering system, "treinta" means thirty, and "y uno" means and one. When these parts are combined, they form the number 31. This understanding of how Spanish numbers are constructed is important, as it follows the pattern of stating the tens followed by the addition of units. Thus, the numerical equivalent of "treinta y uno" is indeed 31.

9. What is the main focus of the Vocabulary section?

- A. To measure spelling skills**
- B. To assess knowledge of words and their meanings**
- C. To evaluate writing coherence**
- D. To examine reading comprehension abilities**

The main focus of the Vocabulary section is to assess knowledge of words and their meanings. This section is designed to evaluate how well a student understands various terms, their definitions, and their appropriate usage in different contexts. Strong vocabulary skills are essential for effective communication and comprehension in both spoken and written language. This assessment helps to determine a student's ability to recognize, understand, and use words accurately, which is fundamental for overall literacy development. While several aspects of language proficiency may be tested across various sections, such as spelling, writing coherence, or reading comprehension, the specific aim of the Vocabulary section is distinctly tied to the breadth and depth of a student's vocabulary knowledge and its application in communication.

10. What should students focus on when answering vocabulary questions?

- A. The definitions of words only**
- B. The context of the sentence or passage**
- C. Memorization of word lists**
- D. Associating words with images**

When answering vocabulary questions, it is crucial for students to focus on the context of the sentence or passage. Understanding the context allows learners to grasp the meaning of a word as it is used in a particular situation, which can often differ from its dictionary definition. By considering the surrounding words and ideas, students can make informed guesses about unfamiliar vocabulary and how it relates to the overall message or theme of the text. For instance, a word may have multiple meanings depending on its usage. By analyzing the context, students can infer which definition is applicable in that specific instance, helping them choose the most appropriate meaning. This skill not only enhances comprehension but also aids in retaining vocabulary by anchoring words to specific scenarios or concepts.