

International Spanish Language Examinations in Latvia

Spanish language is one of the most popular and spoken languages in the world and the number of learners and speakers is increasing year by year and therefore examinations and diplomas that can provide a comparative assessment of language competences is a necessity. Similar to other world languages a unified system for assessment of knowledge of Spanish language is necessary enabling one to objectively evaluate the knowledge of the candidate irrespective of place where it was learned.

The popularity of Spanish language has also considerably increased over recent years which is also indicated by the fact that one of the most important Spanish language tests - DELE examinations can be passed in Latvia. This diploma is awarded by Cervantes Institute on behalf of the Ministry for Education, Science and Sports of Spain and is recognised in all countries who have concluded a cooperation agreement with Spain in the field of education. DELE is an official examination assessing the knowledge and skills of candidates in Spanish language that can be passed in six various levels in accordance with the European Union defined language skill levels: A1, A2, B1/B2 – Escolar, B2, C1 or C2.

It is possible to appear for the examination in various countries including Latvia at the DELE centre that is situated in the Latvian Academy of Culture and run by Dr.philol. Alla Placinska.

The content, form, procedures and assessment of the DELE examination have been developed in cooperation with European Council experts in accordance with the European Union defined language skills (ALTE 2) levels. It is very important that the examination results are recognised by all Spanish, Latin American and EU higher educational institutions; the results are differentiated and assessed centrally in Spain and are valid indefinitely.

Why is such an examination necessary and who needs it? DELE examination is the only officially recognised document that testifies the relevant level of knowledge and skills of Spanish as a foreign language and it is recognised by the state as well as private establishments, various state educational institutions and the chamber of trade and commerce. It is sufficient proof of the candidate's Spanish language skills and his ability to use the language for any kind of relevant academic or professional activity that requires knowledge of the language and the candidate does not require any other certificates, e.g., C2 level diploma holders do not need to pass any other language examinations to testify education acquired in other countries and start studies in Spanish education institutions. B2 level diploma holders can undergo first level higher education in specialised programmes in Spanish language. B2 or C2 level diploma holders, depending upon each particular situation, if they are European Union citizens will be able to apply for positions in state administrative institutions or other state institutions without the necessity of passing any other Spanish language examinations.

The task of the diploma in compliance with common European aims is to facilitate protect diversity in Europe, promote, the equal recognition of titles/degrees, skills and knowledge as well as improve cooperation in the field of education.

All language skills are assessed during the examination: speaking, writing, reading and listening comprehension. The tasks are differentiated, worked out in accordance with the Ministry's instructions and evaluated by Spanish language experts and the tasks include assessment of standard language knowledge as well as depending upon the different levels of use of the language in various environments and countries, which is a very important factor taking into account the fact that Spanish language is geographically spread over a wide area with various communication levels. The lower level examinations are divided into two groups – reading/writing to test the candidate's understanding and ability to express himself in written and an oral part that involves listening comprehension and conversations/dialogues. Starting from the B1 level grammar and vocabulary is also included in the examination. Starting from C1 level the skills are combined in such a manner as to test the candidate's abilities in using the language knowledge for communication in various real life situations.

The examinations are held several times a year and one has to apply for the examinations in advance. The DELE centre in Latvia also offers free testing of the candidate's level and it is possible to fix appointments for consultations.

For further information and examination samples:

- A1 level: <http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion-general/nivel-a1.html>
- A2 level: <http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion-general/nivel-a2.html>
- B1/B2 Escolar level: <http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion-general/nivel-b1b1-escolar.html>
- B2 level: <http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion-general/nivel-b2.html>
- C1 level: <http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion-general/nivel-c1.html>
- C2 level: <http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion-general/nivel-c2.html>

Additional information:

- Additional resources: http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion/profesores_espanol/recursos.html
- Library: http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion/profesores_espanol/bibliotecas.html
- Special publications: http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion/profesores_espanol/publicaciones.html
- Additional learning materials: http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion/profesores_espanol/materiales.html

For further information and applications:

LKA DELE Centre, Riga, Ludzas street 24, Room 17., tel.: 671 148 04, 26 4 254 74 ; fax: 671 410 12; e-mail: centroderiga@inbox.lv

Information prepared by:

Mg. philol. Zane Karpenko, Turība University, Assistant lecturer at the Department of Languages, e-mail: Zane.Karpenko@yahoo.com

Šis projekts tiek finansēts ar Eiropas Komisijas atbalstu. Šī publikācija [paziņojums] atspoguļo vienīgi autora uzskatus, un Komisijai nevar uzlikt atbildību par tajā ietvertās informācijas jebkuru iespējamo izlietojumu.