

Princeton University
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
SPANISH READING PROFICIENCY EXAM

How is the exam graded?

The translations are graded according to the following criteria:

PASS: The translation is complete and accurately conveys the sense of the passage, without distortions (although minor lapses are permitted). Basic verb tenses and idioms are translated correctly. The translation is not overly literal and is written in fluent, idiomatic English.

FAILED: The translation shows a general misunderstanding of the basic events of the passage or is repeatedly inaccurate. Verb tenses and idioms are repeatedly mistranslated. The translation is overly literal, displaying no sense of the nuances of the original. The translation is incomplete.

A faculty member of the Spanish language program will be responsible for correcting the translations. If an exam is failed or borderline, it is sent to a second faculty member to be checked; if he/she decides to pass the exam, this second judgment will prevail.

The reading proficiency level to pass the exam corresponds to the Advanced Mid level according to [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012](#).

NOTE: A common reason for failing the exam is that the translation is overly literal and unidiomatic. A text with these characteristics is awkward, often distorts meaning and, furthermore, it does not reveal true understanding of the original text.