Princeton University  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  

SPANISH READING PROFICIENCY EXAM

Tips to prepare for the exam

a) Taking courses at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.  
   To assist the language departments in placing students in the appropriate course, we  
   strongly encourage them to take the on-line placement test that is offered every summer  
   through Blackboard.  
   Princeton University Graduate School does not offer Spanish language courses as a part of  
   their Summer Language Program.

b) Reviewing textbooks.  
   Spanish 207, which is the course corresponding to the ACTFL Advanced Mid level, uses A  
   Handbook of Contemporary Spanish Grammar, published by Vista. It is a programmed  
   textbook giving an overview of Spanish grammar with self-corrected exercises.  
   Apart from language books, students are encouraged to peruse a book on translation, such  
   as Thinking Spanish Translation: A Course in Translation Method: Spanish to English, published  

c) Practice.  
   Students can practice by reading and translating, keeping in mind that they are expected to  
   translate around 500 words: a 250-word passage from a literary work, typically a  
   contemporary novel or a short story, and a 250-passage from a secondary source, typically a  
   scholarly journal, in the candidate’s area of study. Candidates have two hours to complete  
   the translation and may use a dictionary.