

DELE Exams: Frequently Asked Questions

The DELE exam (*Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera* — Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language) is an official certificate that accredits your level of proficiency in Spanish. It is issued by the Instituto Cervantes on behalf of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports. Below, you will find answers to some frequently asked questions about this exam:

1. What levels are available in the DELE exam?

The DELE exams are structured according to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The levels are:

- **A1:** Basic user, beginner level.
- **A2:** Basic user, elementary level.
- **B1:** Independent user, intermediate level.
- **B2:** Independent user, upper-intermediate level.
- **C1:** Proficient user, advanced level.
- **C2:** Proficient user, mastery level.

For Spanish nationality: A minimum **DELE A2 certificate + CCSE test** is required.

2. What is the structure of the DELE exam?

Each level has a slightly different structure, but the exam generally consists of the following parts:

- Reading comprehension
- Listening comprehension
- Written expression and interaction
- Oral expression and interaction

The tasks become more complex as the level increases, and the time allocated also varies depending on the exam level.

4. How is the DELE exam assessed?

- Each DELE exam is assessed on a scale of 100 points.
- To pass, candidates must achieve at least 60% in each group of tests (reading, listening, writing and speaking). Failing one of the groups means failing the entire exam.

5. When and where can I take the DELE exam?

- DELE exams are held several times a year, and the dates are announced on the official Instituto Cervantes website. Below, you can see the examination sessions offered at our centre: **FEDELE IDEALOG CASTELLDEFELS**.

Registration can only be completed online through the Instituto Cervantes website:
<https://tienda.cervantes.org/>

6. How long does it take to receive the certificate?

- The certificate usually arrives approximately three months after taking the exam, although this timeframe may vary.

8. How long is the DELE certificate valid for?

- The DELE diploma is valid indefinitely. It does not expire and is recognised worldwide as an official certificate of Spanish language proficiency.

9. Can I retake the exam if I do not pass?

- Yes, you can take the exam as many times as you wish. There is no limit on the number of attempts, although you must register and pay the corresponding fee again for each attempt.

10. How can I prepare for the DELE exam?

- Practising with previous exams or mock exams is very useful.
- We recommend studying with official materials and taking specific preparation courses. At Idealog, we organise **20-hour DELE preparation courses** before each examination session. (See *DELE preparation course calendar*.)

11. Can I take the DELE exam if I am non-literate?

Yes, it is possible! The Instituto Cervantes offers the **DELE A2 for non-literate candidates**. This exam is specifically designed for people with a basic level of Spanish who cannot read or write.

To take this exam, you must register for the **DELE A2 for non-literate candidates (A2 N/A)** and have authorisation from the relevant Ministry certifying your non-literate status. This document is essential in order to access the adapted tests designed for these circumstances.

Important! If you are not a non-literate person and have registered for the DELE A2 N/A by mistake, you will not be allowed to take the exam. In that case, you will need to register again for the DELE A2 exam corresponding to your profile. Make sure you select the appropriate option when registering.

12. Can I take the exam if I have special needs?

Yes, it is possible to take the exam if you have special needs. To do so, you must send the relevant form together with medical documentation supporting your situation to the examination centre where you will register. This will allow the necessary adaptations to be made to ensure that you can participate under appropriate conditions.

We recommend contacting the examination centre in advance to ensure that you meet the established requirements and deadlines.

13. Are the written and oral tests held on the same day?

The written test follows the schedule established by the Instituto Cervantes and cannot be changed. As for the oral test, our centre organises it on a different day, either before or on the same day as the written exam.

To schedule your oral examination appointment, you must do so through the Cita Previa appointment system. You will receive a link to arrange your appointment in the email we send you before the exam. Make sure to check your inbox and book your appointment in good time.

14. Are the written and oral exams held at the same location?

For the **DELE A2**, the written test is held at the location indicated in the official examination notice that we send you by email before the exam.

The written tests for all other levels, as well as all oral tests, are held at Idealog.

It is important to carefully check the information provided in the examination notice to make sure you go to the correct location in each case.

15. What documentation do I need to present for the DELE exam?

On the day of the exam, you must bring the following:

DELE A2 and DELE A2 N/A

1. Passport and TIE (Foreigner Identity Card), or a national identity document (DNI) for EU citizens.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ONLY.

2. The official examination notice sent by the Instituto Cervantes.

Make sure you print the examination notice or have it available on your mobile phone. Without these documents, you will not be allowed to take the exam.

3. Additional documentation, where applicable:

- If you have special needs or are registered for the DELE A2 N/A (for non-literate candidates), you must present the required authorisation or medical documentation.

What documentation do I need to present for DELE exams at other levels?

For DELE exams at the following levels: **A1, B1, B2, C1 and C2**, you must present one of the following documents:

1. **Passport**
2. **TIE (Foreigner Identity Card)**
3. **DNI (National Identity Document): for EU citizens**

Make sure that the document matches the identification number used in your registration.
You must also present the official examination notice from the Instituto Cervantes.

Without valid identification, you will not be allowed to take the exam.