Spanish DELE Intermedio Exam Preparation Course (20 hours)

Course Description

• 20-hour course, one 2-hour class per week
• Trains for the DELE (B2) exam (Certificate of Spanish as a Foreign Language)
• Qualified, experienced exam prep teachers
• Valuable exam practice and techniques
• Small classes
• Friendly, focussed atmosphere
• Cactus Exclusive: Includes Language Mini - Hola!, downloadable podcast revision extras and PDF exercises

Class Times: 7:00 - 9:00pm
Start Dates Available: October 2012 and January 2013
Class Size: Maximum 12, minimum 6
Minimum Age: 18
Course Materials: Included in the course fees. Exam fees are not included.
School: Cactus London Piccadilly Circus
Location: Piccadilly Circus
Course Type: Exam Preparation Course

Book Now - 0845 130 4775
Level Upper Intermediate
Course cost: £205

Course Outline

Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera – Nivel Intermedio (B2)
This course gives training in Upper-Intermediate [“Avanzado”] to Advanced [“Superior”] Spanish for the purpose of the DELE (B2) Exam and/or a more academically focussed Spanish course. The course covers appropriate language skills, techniques and methodology, and offers lots of exam focussed language expansion in the key skill areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, grammar and vocabulary.

Though the course trains for the DELE Intermedio examination*, it is open to all students who are interested in more academic coursework. On completion of the course all students will receive a certificate of attendance and performance from Cactus. This does not replace the internationally recognised DELE certificate.

You do not have to take the exam at any point, unless you choose to. Practice tests and advice on when the best time to take the exam form part of the course.

* Interested students could alternatively consider doing the DELE B1 (Inicial) exam or DELE C2 (Superior) exam, depending on their language development progress.

Term Dates
The courses run for 10-week terms of 20 hours each. Additionally a minimum of 40 hours of guided self-study is recommended per course.

Entry Requirements
All students must complete the Cactus level test with at least 30 points (Cactus Level 6) in the Cactus Spanish level test in order to be eligible for course participation.
Skills Development

General
- Reading the question and exam – tasks, points, purposes
- Summarising, note taking skills and rewriting notes from presentations, reports, and other written and/or spoken discourse
- Listening while thinking for negotiation – paying attention to the other person/people
- Pronunciation and fluency development (pronunciation of sounds, words, sentences, paragraphs, stress and intonation)

Specific
1) Reading and Research Skills (Comprensión Lectora)
- Developing active reading skills (reading for understanding)
- Skimming and scanning
- Identifying key points and selective reading techniques
- Identifying conjecture, fact and fiction

2) Writing Skills (Expresión Escrita)
- Formal and informal letters, descriptive essays, reports, stories, development of argument, etc.
- Introduction, body, conclusion, main points, etc.
- Stylistics: Paragraphing, punctuation, sentence structure, linkers, synonyms, formal vs informal language, the language of reports
- Changing and improving language: summarising complex information, adapting, editing, reducing word counts

3) Listening Skills (Comprensión Auditiva)
- Listening for gist: radio, television, presentations, lectures, etc.
- Listening for understanding: Key words, linkers, rhetorical devices, etc.
- Characteristics of spoken Spanish as sign-posts – emphasis, intonation, stress patterns, etc.
- Accent variation (Regional accents – Spain, Central and South America, etc.)

4) Grammar and Vocabulary (Gramática y Vocabulario)
- Grammar: idioms, vocabulary development, active skills in Spanish, etc.
- Grammar: informal-formal, personal-impersonal, verb tense/aspect/mood, modality, sentence structure, prepositions, articles, etc.
- Use of language for effect: idioms, slang, formality, indirect vs direct speech, collocations
- Widening the language experience: transformations, synonyms and antonyms, vocabulary expansion, word building

5) Speaking Skills (Expresión Oral)
- Giving personal information
- Describing sequences – narratives, reasons, suppositions
- Planning your presentation
- Rhetorical devices
- Negotiation skills, accepting and giving reasons
- Off-the-cuff presentations
- Presentation skills and stylistics: Informal, formal and technical Spanish
- Structure of formal spoken presentations (marketing, lectures, class reports, etc.)

The course also contains regular mock tests, taken from past examination papers. These test the skills of the students in their
(a) capacity to operate in Spanish at the required level or beyond, and
(b) ability to use Spanish effectively in the academic and working worlds.
FAQs

Q: What does the course cover?
A: The course covers the exam areas, reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary and language. Please see Course Content.

Q: How much homework will I be expected to do?
A: Up to about 4 hours a week.

Q: What can I use the DELE certificate for?
A: Employment, study, university entry.

Q: Do I have to decide to take the exam when I sign up for the course?
A: No, you can decide any time up to the exam registration period.

Q: Is the exam internationally recognised?
A: Yes, by employers, universities and other educational bodies, as well as Ministries of Education.

Q: What is in the exam?
A: The course covers the exam areas: comprehension (reading, listening) production (writing, speaking), vocabulary and structure. Please see Course Content. Please note this is an exam preparation course and does not include the exam itself.

Please contact us if you have other questions about this course or the DELE exam.
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Terms & Conditions

Entry Requirements
All students must complete an exam course entry test before they can start the course. The test will be sent to you after you have booked and paid for the course.

As a guide, students need to achieve at least 30 points (Cactus Level 6) in the Cactus Spanish level test in order to be eligible for course participation. If you do not reach this level, we advise you to proceed with your booking only after consultation and assessment with Cactus' Director of Studies. Contact us.

Entry Test
There are two entry test stages:

Stage 1: Written Test
Once you have booked and paid for your course, you will be sent a written entry test to complete and return to us for marking.

Stage 2: Listening & Speaking
If you pass your written entry test, we will contact you to set up a listening & speaking test with a qualified teacher. Upon successful completion, you will be eligible to take the course.

What happens if I fail my entry test?

- You may request an interview with Cactus' Director of Studies to assess your eligibility.
- Your course fees can be used as a credit towards any other Cactus course to help you reach the required level. Your credit is valid for 12 months. Speak to us for some advice on the right product for you.
- If you do not wish to use the money towards any other Cactus course, you are entitled to a full refund.

The Exam
Your teacher will be able to advise you on your readiness for the exam, based on mock examinations taken as part of the course. Cactus will then arrange the exam for students who want to take it.

Participation in Cactus’ 20-hour DELE Exam Preparation Course does not guarantee a pass in the DELE (B2) Exam (or any other Spanish examination). In addition to the 20-hour course, a minimum of 40 hours of guided self-study is recommended per term, over the three terms (60 hours in total).

What happens if I fail the exam?
You can re-sit the exam at the next available date in the exam calendar. Contact us to arrange a new exam date and any additional tuition if necessary.

Course & Examination Fees
The course fee is £205 (incl. VAT), due in full before commencement of the course. Exam fees are not included in the course fees.

Examination fees are payable by the specified exam registration date. The following is an estimate only:
Spanish DELE Exam: £125 (individual bookings), £113 (group bookings)

Class size
The minimum number of students required for this course to run is 6. For quality reasons the maximum number of students admitted per course is 12.

Cancellation & Refunds
Cancellations on the part of the student:
Up to 30 days before course commencement, the course fee will be refunded less a £50 administration fee. Up to 7 days before the course commencement 50% of the course fee will be refunded. After this time, no refunds will be possible.

Cancellations on the part of Cactus:
All course fees will be refunded in full.
Exam fees (paid on top of the course fees) are non-refundable. These fees are paid directly to the examining body.