

Tips to be successful in the AP® Spanish Language & Culture class and eventually the exam

Here is how one teacher describes the exam: "...a 3-4 hour skill-based exam testing your abilities and proficiency in Spanish. It is not a knowledge-based exam like most other AP exams. You are "on stage" in Spanish for over 3 hours integrating all four of your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing."

*These tips will help position you for success as exam time approaches in May. Your commitment to practicing and using the language will directly relate to your performance in the class and the **AP® Spanish Language and Culture exam**. I know that if you do some or all of these tips constantly throughout the summer, you will be in a better place than if you decide to do nothing. The question is how ready you want to be in class. Trust me **some of these tips are fun**.*

Read and listen to authentic sources in the target language.

Since the print and audio texts on the exam are sourced from Spanish-language media, TV, blogs, podcasts, newspapers, and magazines, you should spend a considerable part of your prep time digging into these authentic sources. Examples are: [Language and culture podcasts](#), [Radio Naciones Unidas](#), [RTVE.es](#), [Radio Caracol](#) and <https://www.prensaescrita.com/>. Visit and read online Spanish language newspapers such as [bbcmondo.com](#), [elpais.com](#), [20minutos.es](#) or [clarin.com](#). Read about things that interest you. Listen to Spanish music on the internet or listen to podcasts in Spanish, such as [Radio Ambulante](#). There are numerous podcasts for learning and some designed for entertainment. Watch [Univisión](#) or other Spanish programming on TV. News programs like "Primer Impacto" or "Noticiero Univisión" are especially useful. In addition, a fun way to add to your vocabulary is by watching Spanish movies or series on sites like Netflix. There is a way to learn more vocabulary on Netflix. I am adding a [link](#) to a tutorial on how to add a Chrome extension for that use.

Practice interpersonal speaking and writing with a heritage speaker.

There is no substitute for using the language in an informal setting that reinforces your speaking skills, control of language structures, and vocabulary usage. The hour you spend practicing Spanish is the equivalent of several days of class time. Talk about all topics, nothing is trivial, and the more you do it the more comfortable you will be in class and the exam.

Study up on culture.

Whether it is watching the news in Spanish, reading an online newspaper, or watching YouTube videos, there is a wealth of information you can use on the **AP® Spanish Language and Culture exam**. Choose cultural readings and podcasts in Spanish about topics that interest you! It can prove to be very useful in the cultural comparison section. Think about how you might compare what you learn about the Spanish-speaking world with your own community. Explore your interests (sports, arts, the environment, music, history, technology, religion, geography, etc.) in a few countries that interest you and expand your knowledge. Better to expand and deepen your knowledge of a few countries than to try to know a little of all of them.

You need to familiarize yourself with the format of the exam as soon as possible. Visit <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-spanish-language-and-culture/assessment?spanlang> there you will find not only the format and more useful tips.

One more thing.

If you need an online dictionary you should use <https://www.wordreference.com/> or download the app (I use it), but **NEVER use Google translate** and NEVER try to translate phrases or full sentences, only a word at a time as when you use a dictionary.

Some of the information used is from this [site](#)