

Level C1
32 hours

Course programme



DELE C1 PREPARATION

Course summary

This course prepares you to sit the Instituto Cervantes DELE C1 exam. You will get to know the four tests from the inside, including the mediation tasks, learn to manage your time and sit mock exams under real conditions, which your teachers mark and go through with you.

Before you start

Before you come into class we do two things with you. First, a level test at the school, which includes a conversation with us and confirms that you are at the level of the exam you want to sit. Then, when you enrol, you tell us which exam session you are sitting, whether you have taken the exam before and what you need the diploma for.

If, when you enrol, you mention any circumstance that could affect your preparation, we open a form for you in the portal so that you can explain it to us properly, in your own time.

Course objectives

Over the 32 hours of the course you will learn to:

- get to know the structure of the exam: the four tests, their tasks, their timings, the number and type of items, and the marking criteria applied to each one
- master the strategies specific to each test and each type of task, including mediation tasks
- consolidate the communicative competences of level C1 and use of language through communicative tasks
- manage the time in each test, use the answer sheet correctly and approach the three tasks of the oral test with the confidence they call for

Main contents

To reach these objectives you will work on two kinds of content: content about the exam, that is, what its tests are like and how to prepare for them, and the content of level C1 itself, which is what you need to master in order to pass. These are the main ones.

- Exam structure: four tests grouped into two marking blocks. Group 1: reading comprehension and use of language, and written expression, mediation and interaction. Group 2: listening comprehension and use of language, and oral expression, mediation and interaction. You need thirty points out of fifty in each group to be awarded a pass
- The range of task types in each test, with guided practice and analysis of the official marking criteria
- Mediation tasks: summarising a spoken text in writing and presenting a written text orally, with assessment and opinion
- Varieties of Spanish: each comprehension test includes texts from three different geographical varieties
- Functional, grammatical and lexical content of level C1 and use of language, embedded in the exam tasks
- A partial mock of tests 1 and 2 in sessions 8 and 9, and a full mock of Group 1 in sessions 14 and 15, under exam conditions and marked individually

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Course materials

All the materials are included: the “Claves del DELE C1” series (Difusión), with the audio, the transcripts and the answer keys from campus.difusion.com; the sample exams published by Instituto Cervantes, and the school’s own materials, gathered in the materials bank. Each session states the unit or sample exam from the coursebook, with its page, and the materials used.

Course organisation

The course is organised around the exam session you are sitting, and these are its conditions.

- Sixteen two-hour sessions
- Four weeks, Monday to Thursday, from 18:05 to 20:00
- The course starts four weeks before each official exam session
- Sessions that fall on a public holiday are not made up, because the exam date cannot be moved
- A maximum of eight students. The group is closed and takes no new students once the course has started

Assessment and monitoring

The course has no final test and no grades: the assessment that goes with it is the official Instituto Cervantes exam, and the school does not administer that exam. What is assessed during the course is your progress towards that exam session.

The results of your mock exams, marked with the official Instituto Cervantes scales, are kept in your record on the ILA portal, and your teacher goes through them with you in the session after each marking.

Monitoring is done in four ways:

- The diagnostic test in the first session, which covers the four tests and places you before you begin.
- The partial mock, in two parts: test 1 in session 8 and test 2 in session 9. It is marked individually and lets you see where you stand halfway through the course.
- The full mock of group 1, in sessions 14 and 15, under exam conditions. It is marked with the official Instituto Cervantes scale, the four-category one, the same scale the examiners will use on the day of the exam.
- Your teacher’s observation of your work in the tasks of each session, throughout the course.

Certification

Two things are worth telling apart: the certificate the school offers you for having taken this course and the diploma Instituto Cervantes issues if you pass the exam. They are different documents and they come from different institutions.

- Certificate of attendance: you request it, and it states the hours you have attended, the type of course and the dates

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- You can request it at any time, whatever your attendance and however many hours you have taken
- The DELE diploma is issued by Instituto Cervantes once you pass the official exam. This course prepares you for it but does not replace it: there is no certificate of achievement here, because the course does not lead to the accreditation of a level

The DELE exam

The exam is convened by Instituto Cervantes and each student registers on their own. Iberia Language Academy is not an examination centre. The official website sets out the requirements, the examination centres, the exam session dates and the registration procedure:

Structure of the DELE C1 exam

What the exam is like

Who it is for

Where it is held

How to register

The academic coordination team can advise you on the deadlines and on the level it makes sense for you to sit.

To keep practising on your own

Between one session and the next it is worth carrying on by yourself, and at ILA you have these resources within reach to do so.

- The sample exams Instituto Cervantes publishes on its website
- The 2024 DELE C1 exam guide and its official marking scales
- The catalogue of freely available digital resources on the ILA portal
- The school library, with graded readers, fiction and non-fiction, dictionaries and verb books, Spanish coursebooks and children's and young adult literature, all classified by level
- Opinion journalism, popular science talks and podcasts in Spanish

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