What to expect during the test
SHL Test Sections

- Self Assessment
- Lexical Recognition
- Dictation
- Partial Translation
- Sentence Completion
- Verb Conjugation
- Speaking and Writing
Self Assessment

Test takers answer a series of CanDo statements in the five modes of Communication.

The self-assessment results are presented in the report to provide additional insights into the individual student’s language profile, but are not included in the scoring.
Lexical Recognition

Test takers are presented with 100 words and asked if they know the meaning of each word. If they check a real word they get a point credit. If they check a pseudo word they lose a point. They are not penalized if they say they do not know a word.

Do you know the meaning of this word?

Yes

No

Casa

Close this window
Dictation

In this section, students fill in the blanks in a single sentence as they listen to the sentence being read.

Los [Blank] por la mañana visito a mis abuelos.

Close this window
In this section students select the best option from a list of three Spanish translations of an English sentence that would be clearly understood by a Spanish speaker who does not speak English.

**We had a good time at the party last night.**

Nosotros ___________en la fiesta anoche.

- nos divertimos mucho
- tuvimos un buen tiempo
- both nos divertimos mucho and tuvimos un buen tiempo
In this multiple-choice section, students choose the Spanish phrase out of three options that best completes a Spanish sentence. The missing word or expression corresponds to twenty five problematic items that were selected based on

- Pertinent research on SHL (e.g., Colombi 2002; Lipski 1993; Martínez 2007; Sanz 2000)
- Compositions written by University of Houston students, and
- The presence of the items in current SHL textbooks.
In this two-part section, students type in the blanks with the appropriate form of the verb in parenthesis to complete the stories presented. The first Verb section focuses on the simple tenses, including present, preterite, imperfect, conditional, and simple future in both subjunctive and indicative moods. This section also includes regular and irregular verbs (stem change and spelling change).

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of the verb to complete the story. The focus verb is included in parenthesis( ) next to each blank. Pay close attention to spelling and the use of accents.

Cuando Pablo _ _ _ _ _ (estar) en la escuela secundaria a él le gustaba el fútbol americano y _ _ _ _ _ (querer) continuar jugándolo en la Universidad pero no _ _ _ _ _ (ser) posible al empezar su carrera universitaria.
Speaking

Students who have reached this level have demonstrated a high level of proficiency. They will listen to a passage about a current news topic at the Advanced level. They will produce a spoken response into a microphone to an Advanced level question about the passage.

Listen to this news story. Click on the Play button in order to listen to the story. You can listen up to two times. Then, tell the story in your own words, including as many details as you can remember. Say what you found most surprising about the story and explain why you found it surprising. Say what you think the people in the story should have done differently and support your opinion.

Close this window
After the speaking section students will read a passage about a current news topic at the Advanced level and write their response to an Advanced level question using the keyboard.

Read the following news story. Summarize the story in your own words, including as many details as you can remember. Detail the opinion stated by the author of the article and then conclude with your opinion about the article and support your opinion.

NUEVA YORK – El grupo Berkshire Hathaway, propiedad del multimillonario Warren Buffet, está a un paso de cerrar un acuerdo para comprar la empresa Precision Castparts por unos 30.000 millones de dólares, según publica hoy The Wall Street Journal.

El acuerdo con Precision Castparts, fabricante de componentes para aviones y otros equipamientos de ....