This second edition of SAT Spanish has been fully revised after receiving feedback from teachers and students who have used the book. You now will find more authentic passages from magazines as well as advertisements. For the most part, the level of difficulty has been kept on par with or slightly above the actual tests. This was done on purpose so that once you take the practice tests you will be fully prepared for and feel more confident to take the actual exam.

The SAT Subject Test: Spanish has been designed to assess your knowledge of Spanish. Although the Spanish program in each school is different, students usually take the SAT after at least three years of study.

There are two different types of the SAT Spanish tests to choose from: Spanish and Spanish with Listening. Each test lasts one hour. If you decide to take the test with listening, you should be aware that it is administered only in November; you should check with your school counselor for dates and centers. You may also want to visit the College Board site on-line (www.collegeboard.org). Remember that you must take your own CD player to the test center. If you are not sure which test you should take, check with the colleges you plan to attend. You may also want to discuss it with your high school Spanish teacher.

The date you choose to take the test will depend on your preparation and your needs. You should take the test when you feel you are ready for it. In general, students take the SAT Spanish test just before they finish their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year.
SAT SUBJECT TEST: SPANISH (WITHOUT LISTENING)

The following is an overview of the SAT Subject Test: Spanish without the listening comprehension component.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part A—Vocabulary and Structure</th>
<th>(Approximately 20 vocabulary and 12 structure questions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part B—Paragraph Completion</td>
<td>(2 to 3 passages with approximately 26 questions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part C—Reading Comprehension</td>
<td>(4 to 5 passages and/or authentic documents. Approximately 27 questions)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of multiple-choice questions: 85

PREPARING FOR THE TEST

The best way to prepare for the test is to review what you have learned in your Spanish courses. This book offers you a complete review of Spanish grammar. Some topics are very basic and you may just go over them quickly. Other topics may be new to you and you may have to spend more time studying and learning them.

For some of you, this may be the first test of this type you take in a foreign language. Thus, you may find the first test you take in this book more challenging than expected. Do not be discouraged. With practice and review you will build your confidence and do well on the test. Some practice questions in this book may be more challenging than the questions on the actual test. This was done intentionally so that once you go through the practice test, you will be prepared for almost any question you encounter on the actual test.

Familiarize yourself with the test. Know the number and types of questions you will have to answer. In this book you will be exposed to all the different types of questions that currently appear on the test. Become familiar with the directions. This way, you will not have to spend time reading them again at the test center.

TAKING THE TEST

It may be a good idea to answer first all the questions you find easier and those you are certain you can answer. It may be to your disadvantage to work on the test in the same order as the questions. If you spend too much time on a difficult question, you are taking away time that could have been spent answering a question you know how to answer. If you spend too much time on those questions you find hard, you may become discouraged and give up too soon. Remember that within the hour you have to complete the test, you can go back to questions in any section that you did not answer. (If you take the listening test, you are advised not to stop or replay any part of the CD.)

When in doubt, eliminate the wrong choices. If you take the context of the sentence or the paragraph into consideration, you will have a good idea of the meaning of the sentence. Then, by eliminating the answers you definitely know are wrong, you should be able to narrow down the choices.
If you are sure that you have found a choice that is absolutely wrong, you should guess. But if you can’t do this, you should leave the question blank because you lose one-third of a point for each incorrect answer. You do not lose any points by leaving a question blank. Remember, you do not have to finish the entire test. Work with those questions you know how to answer first, and then, if time permits, go back and tackle those for which you have been able to eliminate one or more choices.

Do not forget to compare the number of the question you are answering with the number on the answer sheet, especially if you decide to leave a question or questions blank. Many times students get nervous and lose their place.

It may be a good idea to get the College Board’s *Official Study Guide for all SAT Subject Tests*. Although this book contains tests for different subjects, it is limited in that it contains only one test for each subject. Still, it will allow you to become familiar with the instructions so that when you actually take the test, you do not have to spend time reading them again.

**Part A: Vocabulary and structure**

In this part you will answer a series of multiple-choice questions dealing with vocabulary and structure (grammar).

**Vocabulary questions**

You can prepare for the vocabulary section by reading as much as possible in Spanish. Although vocabulary lists help a little, you will remember more vocabulary when you see it used in context. You may consider preparing some index cards with the Spanish word on the front and its English equivalent on the back. You may also want to add words of the same family, antonyms, synonyms, idiomatic expressions, etc. and even a sentence that helps you remember the word’s meaning. For example:

- **cuidar**—to take care of, look after
- **cuidado**—care
- **descuidar**—to neglect, overlook
- **descuidarse**—to be careless
- **tener cuidado**—to be careful

_**Cuando mis padres salen por la noche, yo cuido a mis hermanos.**_  
—When my parents go out at night, I take care of my brothers.

When answering a vocabulary question, try to get a general sense of the meaning of the sentence, and then begin eliminating those choices that have nothing to do with it. Don’t forget to use your knowledge of English, as some words may be cognates. But be careful: In the Appendix (Words and Expressions Worth Noting) you will find a list of “false” cognates; make sure you become familiar with them. Also, try to see if the word resembles another word you know in Spanish. It may be a derivative, which could help you choose the correct answer or understand the meaning of the sentence or passage.

Again, it is a good idea to answer first all the questions that you find easier and those that you are certain you can answer. Make sure you mark the questions you find difficult so that if you have time at the end and want to go back, you can easily identify them. The wisest thing you can do while taking the test is to skip those questions with vocabulary you do not know or for which you do not recognize any
cognates. If you recognize one or two words, but find they are not enough to help you understand the context, skip the question and then go back. If you are sure that you have found a choice that is absolutely wrong, you should guess. But if you can’t do this, you should leave the question blank, because you lose one-third of a point for each incorrect answer. You do not lose any points by leaving a question blank. Again, it is to your disadvantage to work on the test in the same order as the questions appear.

Let’s go over a vocabulary question:

Mónica, te voy a enviar el regalo por… pues no podré visitarte hasta el mes próximo.

(A) correo
(B) edificio
(C) sello
(D) cuadro

The key word in this sentence is enviar (to send), and the preposition por (by, through) can also help you eliminate some of the choices. These two words should give you a good idea of what the correct answer may be. You can easily eliminate edificio (building), and cuadro (picture) because they have little to do with “sending by.” Then, the choice is between sello (stamp) and correo (mail). If you have followed these steps, and you know the meaning of sello and correo, you will choose the correct answer: correo. Even if you don’t know the meaning of these two words, you may be able take a chance and guess.

At times, vocabulary questions have choices that belong to the same category (i.e., correo, sello), but other times the four choices have nothing to do with one another. Keep this in mind. Be careful! Sometimes, if the four choices are within a particular category, it may be harder to come up with the right answer because the context becomes more crucial. You may also need to understand the subtleties between the meanings of the four choices. Keep in mind that sometimes the four choices are very similar in sound. Again, use the context to help you choose the right answer. As you study new vocabulary words, it may be a good idea to group them by categories. That way, if you recognize a word in the exam, you may be able to put it in a category, which will help you with the overall meaning of the sentence.

Structure (Grammar) questions

A question dealing with structure (grammar) is best approached by trying to get a general sense of its meaning. Again, if you have no idea what the sentence is about, mark it and go back if you have time at the end.

Find the subject of the sentence. Then, note the tense of the verb(s) and begin analyzing the options. If you find one or more answers that you are sure are incorrect, eliminate them and concentrate on those about which you have some knowledge.

If the options deal with object pronouns, decide who is receiving the action of the verb. Is the subject of the verb doing something to someone or for someone? If the answer is yes, then you can eliminate any direct object pronoun and concentrate on the indirect. If the word before the blank is a preposition, then you will need an infinitive (e.g., dormir, caminar, salir) or a prepositional pronoun (mí, ti, etc.). Remember to keep in mind those verbs of persuasion, desire, order, wish, imper-
sonal expressions, and so on that take the subjunctive, as well as the conjunctions that require the subjunctive. You should also do a thorough review of those verbs that require a preposition (see the Appendix). These are just a few of the grammar points you may want to check as you try to answer the questions. As you work through the practice test, you may want to write down other points you need to keep in mind as you approach this section.

In this section you do not have to be as careful with options that sound alike. Many times the options are different forms of a particular verb. If the answer sounds “right,” it may help you eliminate some of the other choices.

Again, the same rule applies here: Answer first all the questions that you find easier and that you are certain you can answer. Make sure you mark those questions you find difficult so that if you have time at the end and want to go back, you can easily identify them.

**Part B: Paragraph completion**

In this part of the test you will complete a series of paragraphs in which some words have been omitted. Some of these blanks deal with vocabulary, others with grammar. Read the entire passage very quickly. This will give you a general idea of the topic. Keep in mind that at times the choice you make at the beginning of the paragraph may be affected by something that happens later on. Therefore, it is to your advantage to have a general idea of what happens in the entire passage. Pay attention to the tense of the verbs. Is the narration in the present? Is it in the past? Many of the suggestions you use to deal with the previous types of questions (vocabulary and structure) apply here, so use them to your advantage. Once you have selected the correct answer, read the sentence to yourself, keeping in mind the meaning of the sentence.

Although it may seem more difficult to skip some questions in this part, you should do it if you have no idea what the sentence means. Once you have finished the passage, you can go back. Having completed those sentences you found easy may give you a better understanding of the passage and therefore a better chance of answering a few more questions. Remember, you do not have to answer every single question in this section. Concentrate on those you know!

Once again, you can still eliminate an entire passage that you find difficult and come back to it later. If you do a quick read of the passage and realize that you don’t know what the content means, it is a good idea to skip it and go back to it later if you have time.

**Part C: Reading comprehension**

In this part of the exam you are asked to read several passages and answer questions about their content. The more you read in Spanish (newspaper articles, magazine articles, ads, short stories, etc.), the better you will do in this section. When you read an article or story in Spanish, it is a good idea to write a few sentences summarizing, in your own words, what you have read.

In the test, you may want to answer questions about those passages of which you have a good understanding and then do those you find difficult. Do not be concerned if there are words in the passage you do not understand. Concentrate on the words you do know. Actually, some of the passages that appear in the practice tests are quite challenging. This was done intentionally, so that you get enough practice in deciphering the meaning of sentences and the overall content of the passage when you do not know every single word. This way, you will be better prepared for
the actual test. Try to understand the main ideas of the passage, its audience, the tone, and the general structure. Don’t be afraid to underline or mark words and parts of the sentences as you read, because this will help you go back and find the information you need to answer the questions.

You can save time by reading the questions first. This way, you know what to look for. Look for key words; many times the correct answer is paraphrasing the information you find in the passage. If you can’t find the right answer, try to eliminate answers you are sure are incorrect. Finally, remember that you do not have to answer every single question in each passage. It may be better to leave blank those questions and even passages that you are not comfortable in answering and concentrate on those you know.

**SAT SUBJECT TEST: SPANISH WITH LISTENING**

The following is an overview of the SAT test with the listening comprehension component.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section I—Listening Comprehension</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part A—Pictures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part B—Rejoiners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part C—Selections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section II—Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part A—Vocabulary and Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part B—Paragraph Completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part C—Reading Comprehension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of multiple-choice questions: 85

All the suggestions and techniques you learned for the test without listening comprehension apply to this test also.

With regard to the listening comprehension part of the test, keep the following in mind:

- A few days before the test, check the CD player and headphones you will be using. Become familiar with its operation and make sure that you have a set of fresh batteries. A set of extra batteries would not hurt! You may also want to play a CD of someone talking to learn how to adjust the volume.
- The best way to practice for the listening part of the test is to listen to Spanish as much as possible. Most textbook series are accompanied by listening comprehension CDs. If your teacher does not use them in the classroom,
you may want to borrow them from him or her. Listen to the radio or watch television. The best programs are the news and soap operas. If it is your first time listening to the radio or watching television, you may want to start gradually, a few minutes at a time, to avoid frustration if you do not understand everything. As time passes, you should increase the amount of time you listen.

- All the instructions you hear from the CD are also printed in your test booklet.
- You will be instructed not to stop or go back on the CD during the test.
- Read the options before you begin to listen. This will give you a general idea of the selection’s theme.
- You may not understand everything you hear. Try to get the general gist of the passage. If you do enough practice, you will know what works best for you (e.g., reading the question and options before the selection begins, taking notes, etc.)

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

It will be best if you try to imitate the circumstances in which you will be taking the test. Find a quiet place at home and time yourself. Give yourself an hour to complete the test.

Following the Introduction, the book is divided into four distinct parts:

Chapter 2 is a general review of Spanish grammar. The explanations in this section go from very basic structures to advanced. This section appears for reference purposes and is a way for you to review and learn new material before you take the practice tests.

Chapter 3 has been designed to give you practice in those areas that are tested more often on the actual test and those areas in which students usually have difficulties. Note that these questions are for practice purposes and that not all of them reflect the type of questions that appear on the actual test. For example, to review the articles, you have a section in which each question has only two choices. If you find that you are having difficulties with a particular grammar point, you should find this section helpful, because the questions have been designed to do as practice before moving on to the actual test.

Chapter 4 contains further practice for the Spanish test with listening. It also has a complete script of all the passages that appear on the compact disc. You should use this script for reference only after you have listened to the CD and need to check or verify an answer. You may want to do this part before you do the actual test or if you need further practice.

Practice Tests. This section has ten practice tests (three with a listening section) and explanations for all the answers. You will also have an answer sheet for each test and a section to analyze your results. You should take Test 1 first. Once you have taken it, analyze the results and pinpoint any weaknesses. Go back to the grammar review section if necessary and then continue with the other tests.
The Appendix is organized as follows:

- **Synonyms**
- **Antonyms**
- **Words and Expressions Worth Noting**—In this part you will find a list of words that you should learn to differentiate. You will also find a list of false cognates—words that are spelled almost the same as English words, but whose meanings are quite different in Spanish.
- **Idiomatic Expressions, Conjunctions, and Other Useful Phrases**—A list of the most common idiomatic expressions, conjunctions, and other useful phrases you should know before taking the test.
- **Spanish–English Vocabulary**—A glossary of Spanish words and their English equivalents.

**Scoring Your Practice Tests**

This book offers you an overall guide as to how well you are doing on the practice tests (see page 362). Because the population taking the test varies from year to year, there is not a fixed set of guidelines to convert your raw score into a scaled score. Remember that the test is scored on a scale between 200 and 800.