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LEVEL 4 – INTERMEDIATE

0. PROFILE OF STUDENTS

General Description:

The B level student is called "an independent user" of the language, which implies the implementation of the appropriate linguistic competences in daily transactions, social interactions, and the reception and production of certain texts with a sufficient level of autonomy to be able to perform most tasks involving the use of language in a Spanish speaking country.

According to the CEFR: (Same as for level 4)

Level B1:

- Can understand the main points of clear texts in standard language addressing issues regularly encountered, either in work, study or leisure.
- Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken.
- Can produce simple coherent texts about topics which are familiar or of personal interest.
- Can describe experiences and events, wishes, ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

Description from the Language Curriculum of the Instituto Cervantes:

- As for **social transactions**, the B-level student is able to carry out the tasks involved in satisfying his/her personal needs (beyond the basic ones) when living in a Spanish-speaking country and related to a great variety of situations (public services, work, school, health, etc.) This also means that he or she is able to cope with setbacks he or she may have when fulfilling these tasks.
- As for **social interactions**, the B-level student is able to communicate with native speakers in a wide variety of situations within different social, work and academic domains in Spanish-speaking countries. He or she is able to convey both concrete and abstract information.
- As for **texts**, the B-Level student is able to understand oral/written texts related to topics of his/her interest, likes and dislikes, and to his/her field of specialisation. Furthermore, he or she is able to recognize the conventions of the genre being used, to discern main ideas and other type of less relevant information (establish a hierarchy of information), and to express his/her opinions by reacting to the information conveyed in the texts. The texts (written and oral) that a B-level student is able to understand and produce have a clear structure and are presented in an accessible format, although these texts have a clear layout, due to their medium level of complexity, all the information may not be completely explicit. They may also require quite a degree of familiarity with the target culture

CLM specific characteristics:

- Given the nature of immersion teaching at CLM, during classroom instruction the B-level student develops strategies and linguistic and cultural knowledge which enable them to face these transactions outside the classroom, while also reflecting on the individual experience in classroom instruction.
- In language courses at CLM the students perform tasks inside and outside the classroom that allow them to develop strategies and linguistic and cultural knowledge that enable them to face the characteristic social interactions of an independent social agent.
- In-class instruction, whenever possible, is connected to students' needs and therefore fosters both the development and expansion of the linguistic functions necessary to face the above mentioned social interactions. For example, for the B-level students who want to get involved in the academic community of Granada in order to pursue a degree or take content-based courses at the university, in-class instruction focuses especially on the linguistic and academic skills necessary to function in the characteristic interactions of this domain.



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1. Intercultural Competence (Examples)

- Languages in contact with Spanish.
- Famous people of the Spanish-speaking countries.
- Social customs and rituals.
- The working world (norms and habits) in Spain.
- Popular festivals.
- Advertising in Spain.
- Key moments in the history of Spanish-speaking countries.
- Courtesy: linguistic markers.
- Cinema in the Spanish-language: film genres.
- Television programming.
- Narrative forms: legends.
- Literature: key authors in the Spanish poetry of the twentieth century.

2. Learning Competences (Examples of strategies) same for levels 4-7

- Conversational strategies to check understanding (Do you understand what I mean?) ask for partial clarification (What do you mean by ...?) etc. required for cooperative work.
- Keeping a learning journal.
- Analyze the progress of learning through self-assessment questionnaires provided by the teacher, created by the group or from published documents (such as the European Language Portfolio).
- Create a personal dictionary of expressions, vocabulary, conversational resources, etc. learned in interactions outside of class.
- Using reference works (dictionaries, glossaries, grammars, etc..) to manage independent learning of needs from previous levels.
- Using internet tools to support independent learning or to practice the language.
- Note taking in class.
- Strategies for lexical enrichment of written texts using thesauri, collocations, etc.
- Self-correction of own production with the teacher's guide and reference works.
- Correction of classmates' production.
- Search for real life situations similar to those in class to put into practice what has been learned

3. Communicative Competence

3.1 Language activities

Listening comprehension.

General CEFR descriptor:

- Can understand the main ideas, the overall message and specifics of clear speech in standard dialect and a normal accent dealing with everyday issues related to work, school, leisure time, including short stories.

Descriptor developed according to the CEFR and the Instituto Cervantes:

- Understands the main point of many radio or TV programs about current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear, and the visuals and action make it possible to follow the plot in the case of films

Reading Comprehension

General CEFR descriptor:

- Can read simple texts about specific events about topics related to the speciality with a satisfactory level of understanding.

Descriptor developed according to the CEFR and the Instituto Cervantes:

- Understands texts of some length and complexity in a language of habitual or everyday or work related use.
- Understands the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.



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- When faced with discursive texts, for example, newspaper articles about everyday topics, can extract the line of argument and the main explicit conclusions, though not necessarily in full detail or with the implicit information.
- Can use the information from different parts of the text to perform a particular task and make simple summaries, even handling diverse sources, to convey the overall content to another person.

Spoken Interaction

General CEFR descriptor:

- Can make the most of a simple linguistic repertoire to deal with most situations likely to arise when travelling.
- Participates without preparation in conversations that address everyday issues, expressing personal opinions and exchanging information on familiar topics of personal interest or relevant in everyday life (eg family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).
- Communicates with some confidence on matters that are both common and uncommon, related to their personal interests and expertise.
- Exchanges, checks and confirms information, faces less common situations and explains the reason for a problem.
- Can speak on more abstract and cultural issues, such as movies, books, music and more.

Descriptor developed according to the CEFR and the Instituto Cervantes:

- Adequately communicates in a neutral register but with enough flexibility to adapt to different situations, also showing reasonable correction, but hesitates or pauses to think about what to say, makes mistakes (especially pronunciation) particularly in unexpected and somewhat tense situations, has doubts, makes circumlocutions and lexical limitations cause repetition and even, sometimes, difficulties in the formulation.
- Can take advantage of a comprehensive repertoire but simple vocabulary, structures and learned formulas. Knows how to ask someone to clarify or develop what they just said and is able to voice complaints and to recount details of unforeseen situations (theft, accident, etc..).
- Recognizes the most important rules of courtesy, ability to identify the most significant differences between the customs, habits, attitudes, values and beliefs that prevail in the new community and their own.
- Clearly expresses their satisfaction or dissatisfaction and makes valuations.

Oral Production

General CEFR descriptor:

- Can carry out with reasonable fluency, a simple description of a variety of topics of interest, presenting them as a linear sequence of elements.

Descriptor developed according to the CEFR and the Instituto Cervantes:

- Can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions.
- Can briefly explain and justify their opinions and plans.
- Can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film, and can describe their reactions.
- Can express him/herself reasonably accurately, although hesitates or pauses to think what they will say, catches errors and makes circumlocutions, having enough vocabulary, structures, learned formulas, as well as a variety of linguistic features that allow them to address the issues described above, although the lexical limitations cause repetition and even, sometimes, difficulties in the formulation.
- Can make a short prepared presentation on a topic within their speciality so that it can be followed without difficulty.

Written production

General CEFR descriptor:

- Writes simple and cohesive texts on a range of everyday topics within their field of interest by linking a series of shorter discrete elements into a linear sequence.



Descriptor developed according to the CEFR and the Instituto Cervantes:

- Can write personal letters describing experiences, impressions, plans or desires.
- Can tell a story and write short reports in a standard format.
- Takes notes, making a list of the important aspects for a simple conference, provided the topic is known, and the speech is formulated in a simple manner and articulated clearly.

3.2 TEXTUAL PRODUCTION

Text production: (C = Comprehension, E = Expression)

- Basic social interaction Emails (establishing contact, maintaining social relationships, consultations about doubts and requests for advice, etc..) (C / E)
- Biographies. (C / E)
- Personality tests. (C / E)
- Job adverts, posters and adverts with prohibition messages. (C / E)
- Listings of standards, entertainment guides. (C / E)
- Advertising campaigns, slogans. (C / E)
- Simple instructions manuals. (C)
- Mobile messages. (C / E)
- Notes. (C / E)
- Greeting Cards. (C / E)
- Informative texts on general social problems. (C)

Oral production: (C = Comprehension, E = Expression)

- Conversations of basic social interaction (exchange of information, narratives of personal experiences, asking for help, discussions with decisions about rules and regulations of a group). (C / E)
- Transactional conversations with basic communicative intentions (asking and granting favours and permission, justifications, gratitude, etc.) with different degrees of formality. (C / E)
- Discussions and debates taking reasoned decisions. (C / E)
- Description of sequences of scenes or films or advertisements. (C / E)
- Telephone conversations. (C / E)
- Anecdotes and past experiences. (C / E)
- Jokes. (C / E)
- Relating fictional works in the present. (C / E)
- Interviews with experts in any field of general interest. (C)
- Urban Legends. (C / E)
- Tales of historical moments. (C / E)

3.3. ADDITIONAL IMMERSION TASKS

- Add subtitles to short scenes from a movie or prepare small comics.
- Conduct simulated activities and scenarios that develop in students the strategies needed to function in real situations outside the classroom.
- Perform web-quests.
- Write emails to classmates or the teacher.
- Subtitling movie scenes.
- Media: make a television or radio programme, prepare the class newspaper.



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4. PRAGMATIC COMPETENCE. NOTIONS AND FUNCTIONS

Asking and giving information

- Expressing general habits of a community in present and past.
- Express a condition.
- Locate an action in the present, past and future.
- Give and request information about the start, duration and termination of past actions.
- Relate past personal experiences related to educational, professional and personal situations.
- Sequencing actions over time.
- Locate an action in the future.

Expressing opinion, attitudes and stating knowledge

- Expressing possibility in the future.
- Communication strategies: ask the caller for clarification, circumlocution, check for understanding of the interlocutor.

Expressing likes, dislikes and feelings

- Ask about likes and interests: *¿qué te parece..? , te gusta que+* present subjunctive, *no me importa + SN.*
- Express aversion: *odio, no soporto, me molesta*
- Ask about preferences

Asking the interlocutor to do something

- Expressing general prohibitions for everyone.
- Expressing general need and requirement for everyone.
- Giving orders and instructions.
- Suggest and advise: *podrías + infinitive, debes + infinitive, imperative.*

Interacting with others

- Telephone conversations: extending the content seen in level A.
- Send and transmit others' messages: greetings, memories, comments, acknowledgments, invitations, recommendations, etc..
- Asking for a favour (in attenuated and covert form), ask for objects (direct and attenuated form), ask for help (direct and attenuated form).
- Reject a proposal, offer or invitation giving excuses.
- To thank and respond to gratitude.
- Basic conversational strategies to react to the interventions of the partner, maintain attention, maintain or take turn-taking.

5. GRAMMATICAL COMPETENCE

Nouns

- Place names with a compulsory or optional article: *los Pirineos, (la) China.*
- Change of gender with change of meaning.

Adjectives

- Apocopation: *buen, mal...*
- Antepositioning of *mejor, mayor, peor, menor*
- Contrast *poco/un poco + adjective*



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Articles

- Incompatibilities with other general quantifiers. *cada, cualquiera...*

Demonstratives

- Combination with other determinants: *esas otras, *un otro...*

Possessives

- Summary of the opposition of tonic possessive with the article / zero article (*Ese bolso es mío/Ese bolso es el mío*) and possessive/tonic possessive (*Mi amigo/un amigo mío*).
- Differentiating or contrasting possessive: *Ése es mi libro (y no el tuyo)*.

Quantifiers

- Ordinals from 11th onwards
- Universal: *cada*
- Referring to things: *algo*
- Summary of semantic contrast: *nada/nadie, nadie/ninguno*
- Partitive constructions: *gran número de, una gran parte de, gran cantidad de, una minoría de*.
- *Poco/un poco de* + uncountable nouns

Pronouns

- Subject: presence when there are different subjects (*Yo soy de Almería y ella es de Granada*) and absence with a non-specific reference (*Llaman a la puerta*).
- In IO / DO: hierarchy of the order of IO / DO pronouns, position of the IO / DO pronouns with the affirmative and negative imperative, IO pronouns with verbs of speech to convey the words of another, antepositioning of the direct object and duplication of DO pronoun (*Esa película todavía no la he visto*).
- Interrogatives: combination with prepositions (*hasta dónde, desde cuándo, etc.*)

Adverbs

- Temporal deictic complements: *dentro de dos días, al cabo de unos meses, etc.*
- Probability: *posiblemente, seguramente, probablemente* + indicative.

Personal forms of verbs

- Past imperfect indicative: Formal paradigm; descriptive value, courtesy.
- Future imperfect indicative: Formal paradigm, basic temporal use contrast with *ir a* + infinitive).
- Pluperfect indicative: Formal paradigm, overall value of previous action regarding a past action.

Impersonal forms of the verb

- Infinitive: independent infinitive with generalized value (*No fumar* [on posters and signs])
- Gerund: independent fragment (-¿*Qué haces?* -*Aquí, estudiando*).

Compound sentences

- Basic distribution

Subordinate clauses

- Substantive: dependent on a verb of speech to convey information (*me ha dicho que, me ha preguntado si/dónde/cómo...*), on the infinitive (*me molesta* + infinitive, *es* + adjective + infinitive).
- Adverbial: conditionals (*si* + present, future/imperative)

Other topics

- Contrast between imperfect and simple past tense
- Impersonal passive sentences: *se* + singular/plural verb
- Verbs of speech to convey the main basic communicative intentions (*comentar, dar las gracias, despedirse, explicar, felicitar, invitar, pedir, preguntar, proponer, saludar, etc.*)
- Preposition use
- *Estar* + gerund in the past: contrast imperfect / past simple.



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- Temporal markers: *una vez, el otro día, y entonces, desde hace* + quantity of time, *hace* + quantity of time + *que*, summary of *ya/todavía no* + present perfect
- Comparative structures of equality with *igual que, igual de, el mismo (...)* *que*
- *Depende de* + substantive and *depende de si* + present indicative.
- Basic aspectual periphrasis: *empezar a* + infinitive, *acabar de* + infinitive, *volver a* + infinitive, *dejar de* + infinitive, *llevar* + gerund, *seguir* + gerund
- Periphrasis *soler* + infinitive
- Periphrasis *tener que* + infinitive / *deber* + infinitive

6. PHONOLOGICAL AND ORTOGRAPHIC COMPETENCES

Intonation

Segmentation of speech: melodic patterns corresponding to subordinate clauses as well as clauses and constructions in parenthetical positions.

Identification and production of melodic patterns corresponding to different types of assertion (categorical insinuation, uncertainty, enumerations).

Identification and production of melodic patterns corresponding to the declarative interrogative intonation, with disjunctive traits and courtesy.

Identification and production of characteristic melodic patterns of different speech acts covered in the curriculum level.

Syllable and accent

Syllabification of vowels sequential: no diphthong between two vowels, diphthongs presence between open and closed vowels, presence of hiatus with tonic closed vowels, triphthongs.

Relationship between the prosodic accent and the diacritic accent on acute, plain, and 'pre-antepenultimate' antepenultimate words and in diphthongs, hiatuses and triphthongs.

Tonic grammatical categories (verbs, nouns, prepositions, tonic pronouns) and unstressed (articles, prepositions, conjunctions ...)

Rhythm, pauses and time

Perception and production of pauses in phonic units: communicative possibilities and implications (*el niño* vs. *el/número*).

Distinction between defining relatives and explanatory relatives.

Phonemes

Cases of relaxation of unstressed vowels in fast and familiar pronunciation.

Castilian lisp.

Orthographic competence

Spelling of foreign words and Latinisms.

Italics in titles, names of periodicals and un-adapted foreign words. Hyphenation at the end of line.

Date expression, numerals, signs and numbers. General rules of written accent.

Knowledge of common abbreviations in letters: PD / PS, Rte / etc.