

The GCSE Spanish Exam Handy Revision Pack

4 exams: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing

Paper 1: Listening	+ Paper 2: Speaking
What's assessed Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language	What's assessed Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)• 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)• 25% of GCSE (Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-exam assessment• 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time• 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time• 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)• 25% of GCSE
Questions Foundation Tier and Higher Tier <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally• Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally	Questions Foundation Tier and Higher Tier <p>The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)• Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)• General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading	+ Paper 4: Writing
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Understanding and responding to different types of written language</p>	<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes</p>
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier) • 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier) • 25% of GCSE 	<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier) • 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier • 25% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally • Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally • Section C – translation from Spanish into English (a minimum of 35 words at Foundation Tier and 50 words at Higher Tier) 	<p>Questions</p> <p>Foundation Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks • Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks • Question 3 – translation from English into Spanish (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks • Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks <p>Higher Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks • Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks • Question 3 – translation from English into Spanish (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

What topics should I revise?

Y9 = red Y10 = red and blue Y11 = red, blue and green

Theme	Topic	Content ideas
Identity and culture	Family and Friends	Family members Physical descriptions – hair, eyes, height, weight Ages Personality What makes a good friend
	Relationships and Marriage	The generation gap Getting on with someone Arguing Talking about your future plans Opinions on getting married Dating Problems in relationships
	Technology	Uses of the internet Comparing old and new technology Social media advantages and disadvantages Communicating online Uses of mobile phones Addiction to mobiles Opinions on mobile technology
	Music, cinema and TV	Saying what you like and don't like Types of music, film and tv programme Saying how often you watch films/tv or listen to music Talking about plans for the weekend Meeting up with a friend
	Food and Sports	Buying food and drink in a market Saying what you have for breakfast, lunch, dinner and as a snack Eating out at a restaurant and asking of food and dealing with problems Talking about special occasion meals Different sports Opinions with sport Talking about sports you'll try Looking at different sports and sportsman around the world
	Spanish customs and festivals	Spanish life in the family – religion, meal times Spanish routines – eating patterns and siesta Local customs and traditions Changes in Spanish customs and traditions Spanish festivals Latin American culture Going to a festival/Imagining you've been to a festival

Theme	Topic	Content ideas
Local, national, international and global areas of interest	My house	Describing your house and where it is Rooms in the house Saying where things are in rooms. Opinions of houses
	My town	Talking about what you do where you live Shops in town Places in town Changes in your town Comparing the town and the countryside
	Charity and voluntary work	Talking about different ways to volunteer Saying whether you volunteer now or want to volunteer in the future Discussing charities The importance of charity work Saying what you would do
	Healthy and unhealthy living	Healthy eating Healthy lifestyles and unhealthy lifestyles Exercise Botellón, drugs and smoking
	Environment	Reusing, reducing waste and recycling Saying what would worry you Pollution, floods, fire, oil slicks Ways to protect to environment Improving the improvement
	Poverty and Homelessness	Poverty Human rights Homelessness How to help people in society
	Holidays and travel	Transport Weather Holiday accommodation Holidays activities Past and future holidays Dream holidays

Theme	Topic	Content ideas
Current and future study and employment	My studies	Subjects Opinions of subjects Teacher descriptions Classroom activities, instructions and expectations Option choices Describing a day at school School facilities
	Life at school	School timetables School facilities School rules School uniform Good and bad things about school – homework, bullying, litter, technology, uniform, facilities What you'd change about your school
	Education post-16	What you'll do when you leave school Deciding what's best; to study or to work? Opinions about university
	Jobs, career choices and ambitions	Jobs vocabulary Open on jobs Reasons to do certain jobs Looking for jobs and job adverts Job interviews Employability skills Ideal jobs Problems in the work place

What grammar should I revise?

www.studyspanish.com has lots of exercises on the grammar you need to know and recognise for your exam.

Your bright pink sheet will be very useful.

- Tenses – present, preterit, future, imperfect and conditional
- Time phrases
- Connectives
- Giving opinions and reasons – verbs and adjectives
- Star phrases

How should I revise?

- www.samlearning.com
- www.memrise.com
- www.linguascope.com
- www.quizlet.com
- www.bbcmundo.com
- BBC Bitesize
- Past papers
- Practice writing questions
- Practice role plays
- Practice describing photos and think of follow up questions
- Prepare your general conversation topic well
- Learn the basics – opinion phrases, connectives, time frames, frequencies
- Learn your common verbs in past, present and future tenses
- Learn some star phrases/grammar

STAR GRAMMAR CHECKLIST

GRAMMAR POINT	Example
Tener expression	Tengo hambre – <i>I'm hungry</i> Tengo miedo – <i>I'm scared</i> Tengo prisa – <i>I'm in a hurry</i>
Acabar de + infinitive	Acabo de ir de vacaciones a Francia <i>I have just been on holiday to France</i>
Después/antes de + infinitive	Después de ir al supermercado, volví a casa <i>After going to the supermarket, I returned home</i>
Connectives: dado que/debido a	Estudio historia dado que me interesa mucho <i>I study history given that it interests me a lot</i>
No solo....sino también	No solo como mucha fruta sino también bebo mucha agua. <i>I don't only eat lots of fruit but I also drink lots of water.</i>
Opinion starters: a mi parecer, para mí, pienso que, creo que	A mi parecer debemos ayudar a nuestros padres en casa <i>From my point of view we must help our parents at home.</i>
Si fuera rico/a, famoso/a... Si tuviera más dinero... Si ganara la lotería...	Si fuera rico compraría una casa enorme <i>If I were rich I'd buy an enormous house</i>
Habiendo + past participle (ado/ido)	Habiendo considerado todo <i>Having considered everything</i>
Cuando + sea mayor/tenga dieciocho años/vaya a la universidad	Cuando sea mayor voy a vivir en Escocia. <i>When I'm older I'm going to live in Scotland.</i>
Adverbs – use them to add extra detail	Mi madre habla rápidamente <i>My mum talks quickly.</i>
Adjectives – use them to add extra detail	Me gusta mi perro ruidoso <i>I like my noisy dog.</i>
Subordinate clauses – que	Mi amiga, que tiene dieciséis años, es artista. <i>My friend, that's 16, is an artist.</i>
3 tenses – past, present and future	Ayer fui al supermercado. – <i>Yesterday I went to the supermarket.</i> Hoy voy al gimnasio. – <i>Today I'm going to the gym.</i> Mañana voy a comer pizza. – <i>Tomorrow I'm going to eat pizza.</i>
Star tenses – imperfect, conditional	Cuando era joven nadaba todos los días. – <i>When was younger I used to swim everyday.</i> Trabajaría en un hospital. – <i>I would work in a hospital.</i>
Me gustaría + infinitive	Me gustaría tocar el piano. <i>I'd like to play the piano.</i>

Se puede + infinitive	Se puede ir a la playa <i>You can go to the beach</i>
Se debe/tiene que/hay que/se debería + infinitive	Se debería beber menos alcohol <i>You should drink less alcohol</i>
Lo + adjectives	Lo interesante es que... <i>The interesting thing is that...</i>
Mientras + estar + gerund (ando/iendo)	Mientras estaba nadando, vi un tiburón. <i>Whilst I was swimming I saw a shark</i>
Comparisons más/menos/mejor/peor	Cenar pizza es menos sano que cenar una ensalada. <i>Having pizza for dinner isn't as healthy as having salad for dinner.</i>
Suelo/Solía + infinitive	Suelo jugar al fútbol <i>I tend to play football</i> Solía llevarme bien con mi hermana <i>I used to get on well with my sister</i>
Negatives no/nunca/tampoco/nadie/ya no	Nunca escucho música <i>I never listen to music</i>
Ask a rhetorical question! ¿Merece la pena...? ¿Quieres...?	¿Merece la pena acostarse tarde? <i>Is it worth going to bed early?</i>