

BCA Year 11 Spanish Support Pack

Exams

There are four exams at the end of the course, in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier (Foundation or Higher) for all four papers.

Key dates: TBC

Topics

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

- Social media
- Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities

- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues

- Charity/voluntary work
- Healthy/unhealthy living

Topic 3: Global issues

- The environment
- Poverty/homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Paper	Length of exam	Total marks awarded	Question types
Paper 1 – Listening (Written exam)	35 minutes (Foundation Tier) + 5 minutes reading time / 45 minutes (Higher Tier) + 5 minutes reading time.	40 marks (Foundation Tier) / 50 marks (Higher Tier). 25% of GCSE	Foundation Tier and Higher Tier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or multiple choice • Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or multiple choice
Paper 2 – Speaking (Oral exam)	Foundation Tier 7–9 minutes + 12 minutes of preparation time (Higher Tier) 10–12 minutes + 12 minutes of preparation time	60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier) 25% of GCSE	Foundation Tier and Higher Tier 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier) 2. Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier) 3. General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)
Paper 3 – Reading (Written exam)	Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier) / 1 hour (Higher Tier)	60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier) 25% of GCSE	Foundation Tier and Higher Tier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or multiple choice • Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or multiple choice • Section C – translation from Spanish into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

Paper	Length of exam	Total marks awarded	Question types
Paper 4 – Writing (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>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

In the exams ALL questions are in Spanish, so it is vital that you recognise and understand question words.

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). ‘9’ is the highest grade you could be awarded (roughly equivalent to an ‘A*+’) and ‘1’ is the lowest grade on the scale (roughly equivalent to a ‘G’). A grade ‘4’ is roughly equivalent to a grade ‘C’.

Advice for the speaking & writing exams:

- You get most of your marks from having a go at answering the questions. Even if you are unsure of a question, try to pick out the key words and use them in your answer – eg. By expressing an opinion about them.
- Express lots of opinions and justifications and try to vary your language.
- Learn some key opinion phrases, a range of connectives & a few time phrases that can be used in all contexts.
- Learn how to say WE THINK or HE / SHE THINKS and then use that in every context in order to talk about other people.
- You need to know a range of nouns to do with each topic, but you can recycle the verbs and structures across every topic. Make sure that you know your key verbs in past, present & future tense and then use them in your answers.
- For the speaking exam, do as much practising out loud as you can. Work with someone else in order to test each other. You will have answers that you have prepared, so devote a significant amount of time to learning them, so that you can feel confident coming into the exam. There will also be unexpected questions so it is really useful to practise speaking spontaneously.
- For the writing exam, you need to plan your answers carefully. Use the practise activities given to you by your teacher to get used to writing a plan and then completing the task in timed conditions, so that you are used to doing it by the time of the real exam. When you are completing your answers, tick off the bullet points as you answer them – you must address all of them.
- For the translation, remember to think about things like word order and idiomatic structures – ie. Instead of “a blue car” they will say “a car blue” and instead of “I am ten years old” it would be “I have ten years”.

Advice for the reading and listening exams

- Learn as much vocab as you can – every word you know will make the exam a bit easier. Use quizlet regularly – we recommend at least 10 minutes per day, or 30 minutes three times a week.
- Read the questions very carefully – what is it asking you to do?
- Don't give up if you don't understand something. Use the context to help you! Are there any cognates?
- Keep an eye on the time – there is lots to do so go at a decent speed! If you're having trouble with a question go back to it later.
- The translation is worth the most marks on the paper so make sure you leave plenty of time to tackle it! Translate one sentence at a time and look back to check it makes sense!
- Before you begin to translate, read the whole text – get the gist for what it is saying.
- Pay attention to adverbs (ayer/mañana/el fin de semana) that might suggest a change in tense.
- You have five minutes reading time at the start of the listening exam. Use this to read through the paper and work out what you are being asked to do. In particular, the questions in section B which are in Spanish.
- Make notes whilst you are listening to the recording, you will hear each track twice with a pause in between. Once you have finished listening twice, there will be time to write in your answers.
- Listen right to the end, even if you think you have the answer – sometimes the person will add a detail that will change the answer.
- Don't panic if you do not understand everything, listen carefully and pick out the vocabulary you need to answer that particular question.
- Make sure you answer every question – lots of questions are multiple choice so if you are unsure have an educated guess!
- Use the resources provided by your teacher in order to do as much practice as possible. We will send out links using Google Classroom.

Key Vocabulary

Without knowing the basic vocabulary expected of you it is impossible for you to pass the exam. Spend time learning vocabulary regularly. The key topics are listed earlier in this guide, please refer to them when planning your revision.

Alongside topic vocabulary, make sure you know command words and question words. You will not be able to answer questions written in Spanish without them.

<u>Español</u>	<u>Inglés</u>
¿Cuánto(s) ?	How many ?
¿Cómo ?	How ?
¿Es/está ?	Is ?
¿Dónde ?	Where ?
¿Cuándo ?	When ?
¿Por qué ?	Why ?
¿Qué ?	What ?
¿Cuál ?	Which ?
¿Quién ?	Who ?
¿Quienes?	Who ?

Revision

Vocabulary learning is time consuming and requires regular repetition. In order to learn vocabulary thoroughly, you should use QUIZLET to look at the words your teacher is telling you to learn.

You should also complete some written revision yourself:

- Look, cover, write, check
- Flashcards
- Mindmaps
- Revision clocks
- Concertinas

Once you are more familiar with the vocab, then you can use the games on Quizlet for extra practice.

We recommend that you spend approximately 10 - 15 minutes a day OR 30 mins three times a week focussing on vocabulary revision. Once you have done a particular set of words, practise something else the next time and then revisit at a later date.

You will also need to practise the various skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening. Teachers will set homework (both on paper and via Google Classroom) that you need to complete. With reading and listening, it is important to look up the words you didn't know, record their meanings and incorporate them into your vocab practice moving forward. With listening, you will need to use the transcript to do this, and your teacher will show you how to access these.

Here is a list of useful websites to help you with your revision:

Quizlet.com – search for Miss Serrano and work through the Spanish Year 11 and GCSE revision sets. You can also search AQA GCSE Spanish and lots of other sets will come up.

AQA GCSE SPANISH QUIZLET - <https://quizlet.com/en-gb/content/aqa-gcse-spanish-resources>

Language-Gym.com – particularly useful for the higher papers, there are lots of grammar and vocabulary workouts that you can complete, all activities are self-marking so you get immediate feedback.

Linguascope.com – login: bcamfl, password: brilliant. Start with beginners if you are sitting the foundation papers, then move onto intermediate. If you are sitting the higher papers, have a quick look over the beginner vocab and move onto intermediate. Lots of games to practise vocabulary.

BBC GCSE Bitesize : <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z9dqxnb>

Reading and listening activities.

Teachers will be sending out past paper practice via **Google Classroom**. Remember that when you need to look a word up, you should use www.wordreference.com NOT google translate!

Español-extra.co.uk – USERNAME = padgate PASSWORD = tapas600

Loads of games, vocab sheets and listening activities on all GCSE topics and plenty of grammar practice.

