

Spanish Higher Writing Exam

Structure of the exam – 1 hour and 20 minutes

Question 1 – Write 80-90 words

Question 2 – Write 130-150 words

Question 3 – Translate a short paragraph into Spanish

<u>Question No.</u>	<u>Task expectation</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>How to answer</u>	<u>Top Tip(s)</u>
<p>1 – Write 80-90 words</p>	<p>Choose either 1a OR 1b – Put a cross in the box to indicate which task you have chosen.</p> <p>Write a response to each prompt:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Choose either Question 3a) or Question 3b) If you answer Question 3a) put a cross in the box ☐ .</p> <p>3 a) Write a letter to your friend about your school.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">You must include the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what your school is like • your opinion of one of your subjects with reasons • what you did in school last week • what you will do after school this week. <p style="font-size: x-small;">Write your answer in Spanish. You should aim to write between 80 and 90 words.</p> </div>	<p>Write to a friend about... - The scenario could be from any of the Thematic Contexts.</p> <p>Prompt 1 = Describing in the present tense about the task topic</p> <p>Prompt 2 = Opinion in the present tense about the task topic</p> <p>Prompt 3 = A past activity in the context of the task topic</p> <p>Prompt 4 = A future activity in the context of the task topic</p>	<p>Use sentence openers – EG: Normalmente – Normally En el pasado – In the past En el futuro – In the future</p> <p>Use sequencers to develop your answers: Primero – First of all Luego – Then Después – Afterwards Más tarde – Later Finalmente – Finally</p> <p>Use a range of conjunctions: y – and también – also además – furthermore pero – but sin embargo – however no obstante – however porque – because</p> <p>Use verbs accurately in the present, past and future tenses. EG: Voy – I go Fui – I went Como – I eat Comí – I ate Bebo – I drink Bebí – I drank Veo – I watch Vi – I watched Juego – I play Jugué – I played</p>	<p>Leave a line in between each prompt so that it is clear to the examiner that you have addressed each one.</p> <p>If you don't have lots of ideas for one of the prompts, write at least one sentence and then write a bit more for at least one of the other prompts.</p>

			<p>Hago – I do Hice – I did / made Tengo – I have Soy / Estoy – I am</p> <p>Voy a + infinitive – I am going to... EG: Voy a ir – I am going to go Voy a comer – I am going to eat</p> <p>Know a range of opinions so that you don't repeat vocabulary. EG: En mi opinión – In my opinion Pienso que – I think that Creo que – I believe that Para mí – For me Me gusta(n) – I like Me encanta(n) – I love Prefiero – I prefer No me gusta(n) – I don't like Detesto / Odio – I hate es – it is fue – it was será / va a ser – it will be / it is going to be muy – very bastante – quite un poco – a bit interesante – interesting súper – super aburrido – boring fácil – easy difícil – difficult importante – important útil / inútil – useful / useless increíble – incredible</p>	
<p>2 – Write 130-150 words</p>	<p>Choose either 2a OR 2b – Put a cross in the box to indicate which task you have chosen.</p>	<p>Write an article/blog about... - The article/blog could be any scenario from any of the Thematic Contexts.</p> <p>Although an article/blog is a formal context, you do not have use a formal register.</p>	<p>Use sentence openers – EG: Normalmente – Normally Por lo general – Generally Hoy en día – Nowadays En el pasado – In the past Ayer – Yesterday La semana pasada – Last week</p>	<p>Leave a line in between each prompt so that it is clear to the examiner that you have addressed each one.</p> <p>Develop your answers – at least 3 extended sentences per question.</p>

Write a response to each prompt:

Choose either Question 2(a) or 2(b).
If you answer Question 2(a) put a cross in the box (X).

2 a) Write a blog about music.

You must include the following points:

- when you like to listen to music
- the pros and cons of going to concerts
- a singer or group that you liked in the past
- the music you are going to listen to next weekend.

Write your answer in Spanish. You should aim to write between 130 and 150 words.

Prompt 1 = Describing in the present tense about the task topic

Prompt 2 = The pros and cons of.. the task topic

Prompt 3 = A past activity in the context of the task topic

Prompt 4 = A future activity in the context of the task topic

En el futuro – In the future
Mañana – Tomorrow
La semana que viene – Next week
La semana próxima – Next week

Use sequencers to develop your answers:

Primero – First of all

Luego – Then

Después – Afterwards

Más tarde – Later

Finalmente – Finally

Use a range of conjunctions:

y – and

también – also

además – furthermore

pero – but

sin embargo – however

no obstante – however

aunque – although

si - if

porque – because

ya que – since

dado que – given that

Use verbs accurately in the present, past and future tenses.

EG:

Voy – I go

Fui – I went

Como – I eat

Comí – I ate

Bebo – I drink

Bebí – I drank

Veo – I watch

Vi – I watched

Juego – I play

Jugué – I played

Hago – I do

Hice – I did / made

Tengo – I have

Soy / Estoy – I am

Voy a + infinitive – I am going to...

EG:

Voy a ir – I am going to go

Voy a comer – I am going to eat

Know a range of opinions so that you don't repeat

For prompt 2, start your answer with:

Hay muchas ventajas y desventajas.

Then list at least one pro and one con.

EG:

- the pros and cons of eating school lunch

Hay muchas ventajas y desventajas. Diría que me encanta mucho la pizza ya que es muy sabrosa y también lo que más me gusta es el agua porque no cuesta nada. Sin embargo, es demasiado caro y además la comida no es sana.

Include WOW phrases to access the higher grades:

EG:

... es más ... que... –

... is more... than...

... es menos ... que... –

... is less... than...

... es tan ... como... –

... is as... as...

Es lo peor – It's the worst thing

El lo mejor – It's the best thing

Lo más importante es... –

The most important thing is...

Lo que me gusta más es –

What I like most is...

Lo que prefiero es... –

What I prefer is...

Es lo mío – It's my thing

No es lo mío –

It's not my thing

Lo paso bien –

I have a good time

Lo pasé bien –

I had a good time

			<p>vocabulary. EG: En mi opinión – In my opinion Pienso que – I think that Creo que – I believe that Para mí – For me Me gusta(n) – I like Me encanta(n) – I love Prefiero – I prefer No me gusta(n) – I don't like Detesto / Odio – I hate es – it is fue – it was será / va a ser – it will be / it is going to be muy – very bastante – quite un poco – a bit interesante – interesting súper – super aburrido – boring fácil – easy difícil – difficult importante – important útil / inútil – useful / useless increíble – incredible</p>	<p>Lo pasamos <u>bien</u> – We have/had a <u>good</u> time No creo que sea... – I don't think that it is... Ojalá que sea... – Let's hope it is... Al <u>comer</u>, <u>hablo</u> con... – On/While <u>eating</u>, I <u>talk</u> with... Antes de + infinitive – Before <u>doing</u>... Después de + infinitive – After <u>doing</u>... Acabo de... + infinitive – I have just... Suelo / Solemos... + infinitive – I usually / We usually... Debería haber <u>estudiado</u>... – I should have <u>studied</u>... Si fuera rico/a, ... – If I were rich,... (I would...) Si fuera presidente, ... – If I were president, ... (I would...)</p> <p>If you don't have lots of ideas for one of the prompts, write at least one sentence and then write a bit more for at least one of the other prompts.</p>
<p>3 – Translation into Spanish</p>	<p>Translate the 5 thematically linked sentences into Spanish.</p>	<p>The sentences can be from any of the Thematic Contexts.</p> <p>Present, past and future timeframes (future used only if necessary for the coherence of the text).</p> <p>Variety of first (I) and third (he/she/they) person sentences.</p>	<p>Translate the sentences into natural Spanish ensuring that you have accounted for every English word.</p> <p>Know a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures so that you can access sentences from any Thematic Context.</p>	<p>Ensure you have revised the vocabulary lists for the whole course.</p> <p>Don't worry about not knowing all the words in the sentences. Translate the words you do know.</p>