

Overview of IGCSE Spanish

The IGCSE is a two year course. It aims to develop the student's ability to use the language effectively for the purposes of practical communication in those countries where the language is spoken. It also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where the language is spoken, and, of course, to provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.

Assessment

The IGCSE examination comprises the following assessments:

Paper 1 Listening (45 mins)

Paper 2 Reading (1hr)

Paper 3 Speaking (15 mins)

Paper 4 Writing (1hr)

Each paper is worth 25% of the overall grade.

Examination Content/Structure

Listening Paper

The recordings are made up of a mixture of conversations, discussions and factual information (e.g. news, current affairs, interviews, factual reports).

Candidates answers comprise multiple choice, box-ticking, matching exercises, grid-filling, written answers in the target language. Where candidates produce written answers in the target language, these should be brief, relevant and concise.

Reading Paper

This paper has several different sections and includes:

- Questions requiring specific details as an answer (e.g. what time a museum opens)
- Questions checking that you understand and identify the main points in a text.
- Longer questions testing more general comprehension, and whether you can identify attitudes, emotions or ideas.

Speaking Paper

1. Role Play tasks – 2 Role Plays (30 marks, 15 each) Role Play A is simpler than Role Play B.

2. Topic Conversation (30 marks, 5 mins) A conversation between the examiner and the candidate on one topic of the candidate's choice. Candidate speaks for 1-2 mins uninterrupted and this is followed by specific questions on the topic.

3. General (unprepared) Conversation (30 marks, 5 mins) General questions relating to two or three of the topics from the Topic Areas. The examiner will lead the candidate into using other tenses.

Candidates must convey past, present and future meaning for a high mark on Linguistic Content.

4. Impression (10 marks) The examiner makes an assessment of the candidate's pronunciation, accent and fluency. This is based on the candidate's overall performance in the Speaking Paper.

Writing Paper

This consists of 3 parts:

- Question 1: candidates are required to write a series of single words linked to a topic.
- Question 2: a directed writing task. 80-90 words in total are required. 10 marks are available for communication and 5 for language.
- Question 3: candidates are offered a choice of 3 tasks (an email/letter, an article or a narrative) and must complete one of these. 130-140 words in total are required. 10 marks are available for communication, 8 marks for correct verbs and 12 marks for other linguistic features.