**AQA Exam Factsheet**

**GCSE Spanish**



Congratulations on choosing GCSE Spanish! We hope that you will l in love with the subject (if not, it might come later in life!) and enjoy travelling, meeting new people, discovering a new culture and developing a deeper understanding of the world.

Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and is an impressive achievement, giving you better and brighter options for your future!

This Factsheet is designed to give you an overview of your Spanish GCSE course and the exams that are coming up. Good luck!

# What have we studied?

Over the two years of your GCSE course, you have studied the following themes:

## [Theme 1: Identity and culture](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658/subject-content/themes#id-Theme_1_Identity_and_culture_1_1_1)

### **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](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658/subject-content/themes#id-Theme_2_Local_national_international_and_global_areas_of_interest_1_1_2)

### **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](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658/subject-content/themes#id-Theme_3_Current_and_future_study_and_employment_1_1_3)

### **Topic 1: My studies**

### **Topic 2: Life at school/college**

### **Topic 3: Education post-16**

**Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions**

# How will I be assessed?

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.

More information about each exam is given in the tables overleaf.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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*** • **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
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| Paper 2 – Speaking (Oral exam) | * 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 | **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:* **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)
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| 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*** • **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 for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)
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| 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 | **Foundation Tier**• **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**Higher Tier*** • **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
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# When will I take my exams?

This qualification is linear. Linear means that you will sit all of your exams at the end of the course. The dates of your exams are:

Speaking –

Listening –

Reading –

Writing -

# How go GCSE grades 1-9 work?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). The chart from Ofqual below summarises the new GCSE grading structure.

‘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’.



Very best of luck and please ask if we can further support you in any way!