

# FACTFILE:

# GCSE SPANISH

## Grammar & Structures



## Introduction



### Introduction

#### Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- show understanding of a range of spoken language that contains a wide variety of structures and more complex language;
- show understanding of written texts that contain a variety of structures;
- use a variety of structures and verb tenses, as appropriate.

#### Skills

Here are some key points to help you with Grammar and Structures. These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive. [Refer to the Specification Appendix].

#### Articles

- Learn the gender of every noun.
- Use the correct article in singular and plural form.
- Use *lo* before an adjective (*Lo bueno es...* the good thing is...).

#### Adjectives

- Ensure all adjectives agree with the noun they are describing.
- Ensure the positioning of the adjective is correct. Most go after the noun but there are always exceptions!
- Learn the rules for making adjectives plural (*os/as/ e-es*).

#### Possessive and demonstrative

- Remember demonstrative adjectives agree with the noun that they precede.
- *Mi, tu, su* do not have a masculine/feminine form. They only change for the plural *mis, tus, sus*.
- *Nuestro/vuestro* must change depending on the gender of the noun it is preceding.

#### Prepositions

- Usually describe the location of a noun (beside, behind etc.).
- Remember *a* and *de* contract with *a* and *el* (*al... del*).

### Auxiliary Verbs

- Use *Haber* when conjugating the perfect and pluperfect tense.
- Remember nothing separates the auxiliary verb and the past participle (*He visitado* = I have visited).
- The reflexive pronoun goes before the auxiliary verb *Mi madre se ha levantado*.

### Present tense of Regular Verbs

- Learn the subject pronouns.
- There are always three sets of endings (*ar/er/ir*).
- Get lots of practice conjugating the present tense.
- Learn the four different subject pronouns for you.
- The verb is always conjugated in six parts and in the same order.

### Present tense of Common Irregular Verbs

- Learn these off by heart verbs like *tener*, *ser* and *estar* will come up often.
- Be confident in conjugating reflexive verbs.
- Radical changing verbs are very common. You need to know which verbs change and where these changes occur, learn them off by heart and more importantly get lots of practice.

### Perfect tense

- Use *Haber* for the auxiliary verb (perfect and pluperfect).
- Past participle of AR verbs = *ado*.
- Past participle of ER/IR verbs = *ido*.

### Future tense

- Infinitive is NOT removed.
- Only one set of endings, learn them off by heart.
- There are some irregulars but even they follow a pattern.

### Imperfect tense

- Only two sets of endings (*er/ir* endings are the same).
- Remember the most important thing about this tense is knowing when to use it; when referring to something you did often in the past, to talk about what something was like etc.
- Only 3 irregulars *Ir/ser/ver*.

### Conditional tense

- Infinitive is NOT removed.
- Only one set of endings, learn them off by heart.
- There are some irregulars but even they follow a pattern.

### Miscellaneous

- Aim to include some present and conditional subjunctive phrases.
- Grammar is the glue that holds language together, if you can grasp it then the rest will naturally fit into place.

