

FACTFILE: GCSE SPANISH

Listening 4

CONTEXT 1: IDENTITY, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE



Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations



Introduction

Here are some key points to help you study this topic.

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of different types of spoken language;
- follow and understand clear speech using familiar language;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of spoken passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of spoken texts; and
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended spoken text (including authentic sources, which may be adapted as appropriate) by being able to answer questions, extract information, evaluate and draw conclusions.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

- Communication.
- Using ICT.
- Self-management
- Working with others.
- Problem solving.
- Managing information.

Preparation

- Ensure you become familiar with the specification requirements, grade boundaries and with the assessment format of this component of the GCSE.
- Try to use Spanish language podcasts and webcasts to listen to native speakers of Spanish and improve your understanding skills.
- Do not become distracted or lose focus on what you are hearing.
- Try to see what clues the title or pictures of the exercises can give you so that you can anticipate what topic you are going to hear.
- Always read the questions carefully and at least twice and ensure you understand what you are expected to answer.
- Look at the points allocated to each question in the exam paper. This may give you a clue of how much detail you have to include in your answer.
- Ensure you answer the questions in the specified language: If the questions are in English, answer in English. If they are in Spanish, answer in Spanish.
- In the exam, marks will not be awarded for answers in the wrong language even if the answers are correct.

- Remember that in the exam you do not have control over the disk. The material will be repeated twice and you need to find the key information by the second repetition.
- Become familiar with the type of questions posed in the exam.
- While listening, make a note of key words and phrases that might help you with your answer.
- Try to get the gist of what is being said and don't focus on individual words. Listen to everything first and then focus on the details.
- Develop a good knowledge of vocabulary and structures related to the topic of Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations in Spain (eating habits/shopping habits/school habits/main festivals in Spain/birthday celebrations/Christmas, etc).

Practice

- To practice your listening skills use a variety of authentic resources (radio/TV programmes, films in the target language).
- Use websites which offer a good variety of listening exercises at GCSE level in the topics of Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations to get used to a variety of registers and accents.
- Use as many listening past papers as possible.
- Listen to different festival descriptions and make note of key details (name of the festival/where it takes place/when/what happens, etc.)
- Listen to descriptions related to culture and customs of Spanish people and answer questions in English or in Spanish.
- Listen and note down mentioned products/times/ingredients, etc.
- Listen to interviews about Spanish eating habits and tick the correct answer.

Revision

- Go over listening exercises and past papers done in class.
- Revise your notes and ensure that you have a very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures related to the topic of Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations.
- Are you answering what the question requires? Avoid irrelevant information.
- Ensure you are answering in the language required.
- Check your spellings both in Spanish and in English.
- Ensure you are using the verb tense required.

