

FACTFILE: GCSE SPANISH

Speaking 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:

- communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes;
- take part in short conversations, asking and answering questions, exchanging opinions and producing extended sequences of speech;
- speak spontaneously, responding to questions, points of view or situations and sustaining communication, as appropriate;
- express information and narrate events coherently and confidently, using and adapting language for new purposes;
- make appropriate and accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;

- make creative use of the language, as appropriate, to express and justify their own thoughts and points of view; and
- use accurate pronunciation and intonation that would be understood by a native speaker.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

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

Preparation

- Ensure you become familiar with the specification requirements, grade boundaries and with the assessment format of this component of the GCSE.
- It is important to gain confidence and fluency, so use every opportunity in class to improve your speaking skills (oral exercises/discussions/role-plays/debates, etc.)
- Try to use Spanish language podcasts and webcasts to listen to native speakers of Spanish and improve your pronunciation skills.
- Build up a bank of topic based vocabulary and phrases useful for role-play and general conversation, e.g.
 - ¿Cómo se celebra la Navidad en tu casa?
 - ¿Has probado alguna vez las “tapas”?
 - ¿Cómo celebraste tu último cumpleaños?

- Familiarise yourself with a few of the most famous festivals and celebrations in Spain (name, where it takes place, when it takes place, what happens, etc.) so that you can talk about them.
- Focus on areas of weakness that you need to work on, e.g. pronunciation, word order, tenses, etc.
- Write out well developed answers to CCEA sample questions. Key areas of discussion might be:
 - Differences between life in Spain and life here;
 - Your birthday;
 - The most important festival/celebration in Spain, in your opinion;
 - Your opinion on bull fighting;
 - Spanish traditional music – flamenco;
 - Differences between Christmas in Spain and Christmas here;
 - Important festivals and celebrations in your country.

Practice

- Interviews to find out how different celebrations are celebrated by others in the class.
- Role-play situations for this topic using SAMs from CCEA.
- Other role-plays: Birthday celebrations/attending a festival or celebration in Spain/describing and comparing customs of native country and Spain/Christmas celebrations in Spain and in your country.
- Topic based 2 minutes oral presentations.
- General conversation questions using SAMs from CCEA.

Revision

- Practise a variety of different topic based scenarios.
- Be familiar with topic based vocabulary related to Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations.
- Revise key verbs related to the topic (celebrar/ salir de tapas/echar la siesta/comprar y recibir regalos/decorar/visitar/probar/participar, etc) and use them in different tenses.
- Try to include opinions and justifications in your answers, where appropriate.
- Include idiomatic language, where appropriate.
- Always take into account any feedback from your teacher and/or language assistant to identify areas for improvement.

