



Rewarding Learning

# SPANISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #20

## USING LANGUAGE – STEPS TO SUCCESS

### Introduction

You will be expected to understand, and apply accurately, the grammatical system and a range of structures and be able to transfer meaning from English into Spanish.

### Assessment

Use of language is assessed in all three units at AS.  
Use of Language is assessed in all three units at A2.

### Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A01: understand and respond to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources, including face-to-face interaction;
- A02: understand and respond to written language drawn from a variety of sources;
- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a range of lexis and structure.

You should be able to:

- manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a range of lexis;
- transfer meaning; and
- understand and accurately apply the grammatical system and a range of structures.





## Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area.

- Be familiar with the required grammar for AS and A2 which appears in Appendix 5 of the A-Level Spanish Specification.
- Study your grammar notes on a daily basis and try to vary the exercises. There is a great range of websites which offer the possibility of studying and practising grammar exercises with auto tests.
- When studying grammar put it into context.
  - E.g. If I need to describe the current environmental problems I am mainly going to use the present tense (El tráfico aumenta los niveles de polución en las ciudades).
  - If I need to give advice to someone I am mainly going to use imperatives (¡Practica ejercicio tres veces por semana!)
- Study verbal tenses thoroughly and ensure that you know their equivalent in English. Try to have examples in your book to identify them more easily. e.g.

|                    |            |                    |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| • Infinitivo       | • Ir       | • To go            |
| • Presente         | • Voy      | • I go             |
| • Preterito simple | • Fui      | • I went           |
| • Imperfecto       | • Iba      | • I was going      |
| • Perfecto         | • He ido   | • I have gone      |
| • Futuro simple    | • Iré      | • I will go        |
| • Futuro inmediato | • Voy a ir | • I am going to go |

- When translating sentences from English into Spanish take into consideration the word order in Spanish.
  - E.g. Remember that adjectives usually follow nouns. (El libro viejo).
- Don't forget that adjectives have to agree in gender (feminine/masculine) and number (plural/singular) with the noun they are describing. (Las personas inglesas/El estudiante extranjero).
- Ensure that there is agreement between the subject and the verb.
  - E.g. Los refugiados vivieron en la ciudad (3rd person plural subject and verb).
  - El padre perdió su trabajo (3rd person singular subject and verb).
  - Nosotros no iremos a la playa (1st person plural subject and verb).



- Don't forget to put accents in those words which need them. Be especially careful with those words which are spelt the same but have different meaning when an accent is present.
  - I.e. Si (if) and sí (yes).
  - Esta (this); está (he/she is) and ésta (this one).
- Do translations with a good range of grammar points.
- The difference between POR and PARA seems to be one of the most problematic areas when studying Spanish. Ensure you revise the rules about when to use them.
- Do not forget that in Spanish all questions and exclamations must have two marks; one at the beginning and one at the end of the sentence (interrogative marks: ¿and?/exclamation marks: ¡ and !).