



Rewarding Learning

SPANISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #5

GUIDANCE FOR CONVERSATION AT AS

Introduction

The AS conversation element is based on AS level themes. You converse in Spanish about aspects of the AS themes. The conversation lasts approximately eight minutes.

Assessment

An external visiting examiner carries out your speaking test and it is recorded.

Assessment Objectives

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;
- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately, using a range of lexis and structure.

Familiarise yourself with the requirements of each criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

A01 assesses:

- your degree of comprehension;
- the fluency of your responses;
- your initiative to develop answers and your ability to argue points of view;
- your pronunciation and intonation.

A03 assesses:

- your command of idiom and vocabulary;
- your knowledge and application of grammar.





Skills

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

- Look at the sample questions relating to A level themes in the Spanish AS Fact File for ideas.
- Review specific vocabulary to help you talk more knowledgeably about each topic.
- Practise answering as many questions as you can at home.
- Anticipate the examiner's questions and be prepared to develop them further.
- Rehearse the questions thoroughly but do not recite a memorised speech in the exam.
- Remember your answers must follow the natural flow of a real conversation.
- Engage in one-to-one mock conversations with classmates to review the topics and gain fluency and confidence.
- Record your conversation practices and review them later to identify your weak areas.
- Practise conversation in class and with friends as much as possible.
- Familiarise yourself with Spanish conversational transitions such as “pues”, “bien”, “o sea”, “es decir”, etc. to add spontaneity to your answers and give you time to collect your thoughts if needed.
- Pay attention to adjective agreement, tenses and structures.
- Do not rush through the conversation.
- Breathe, relax and speak clearly and with confidence.