



Rewarding Learning

SPANISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #8

LISTENING - STEPS TO SUCCESS

Introduction

The listening element [Section A] of the AS Unit 2 examination lasts 40 minutes.

The listening element [Section A] of the A2 Unit 2 examination lasts 45 minutes.

Assessment

At AS, the listening element of the examination consists of two discrete audio passages:

- Recording 1: you answer in Spanish;
- Recording 2: you answer in English.

At A2, the listening element of the examination consists of two discrete audio passages:

- Recording 1: you answer in Spanish;
- Recording 2: you answer in English.

Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- A01: understand and respond to spoken language.

Look at the mark scheme to familiarise yourself with the requirements of the criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

You should be able to understand, infer meaning and draw conclusions from a variety of spoken sources covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres.





Skills

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

- Practise your listening skills by listening to a variety of authentic resources e.g radio, TV, films.
- Become accustomed to hearing language in different registers e.g a news report, a conversation, a debate.
- Tune into Spanish radio and TV.
- Use audio-visual resources such as YouTube to practice.
- Don't focus on individual words; try to get the gist of what is being said and then focus on the details.
- Remember in the exam you will have full control over the disk and can play the material again if needed.
- Develop a good knowledge of vocabulary related to the themes at A Level.
- Practise your listening in a quiet room with no background noise or distractions.
- Try to see what clues the title can give you so that you can anticipate what topic you are going to hear.
- In the exam it is important to read the questions carefully and understand what you are expected to answer.
- Look at the marks awarded to each question in the exam; this may give clues as to how many points of information are required in the answer.
- Always be aware of your timing in the exam; do not waste time playing back the same part of the recording in case you run out of time.
- Answer the questions in the appropriate language. Remember a question in Spanish will require an answer in Spanish and a question in English will require an answer in English. Marks will not be awarded for answers in the wrong language.
- Make a note of key words and phrases that may help you with your answer.
- Use past papers and specimen assessment materials for practice before the exam.