

# FACTFILE: GCSE SPANISH

## Writing 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 in writing for a variety of purposes;
- write short texts, using simple sentences and familiar language to convey meaning and exchange information;
- translate sentences from English into French to convey key messages accurately and to apply grammatical knowledge of language and structures in context;
- produce clear and coherent extended text to present facts and express ideas and opinions for different purposes and in different settings;
- make accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;

- manipulate the language, using and adapting a variety of structures and vocabulary with accuracy and fluency for new purposes (including using appropriate style and register); and
- make independent and creative use of the language to identify key points, express and justify their thoughts and points of view.

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.
- Always read the questions carefully and at least twice and ensure you understand what you are expected to answer.
- In extended writing exercises, plan your work carefully with the ideas you want to include.
- Organise your essay by developing each point in a different paragraph. Ensure there is a balance in the information you write for each bullet point and avoid repetition.

- Remember that in this section you have to write in Spanish, therefore be careful with your spellings and the grammar used, especially tenses.
- Don't forget about punctuation, as it may change the meaning of a sentence.
- Focus on the requirements of the questions and avoid writing irrelevant material. You will not get any extra points for it and will be more prone to make mistakes.
- 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/Spanish music/birthday celebrations/Christmas, etc.) and focus on the spelling of these and the grammar you need to use.
- 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 write about them.

## Practice

- Write an e-mail or a letter about a past/future visit to a famous festival.
- Write an e-mail or a letter about how Christmas is/was celebrated in your house.
- Write a description of your last/next birthday.
- Make lists of vocabulary related to the topic of Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations.
- Translation from English into Spanish of sentences related to the topic of Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations.
- Written descriptions of photographs related to the topic of Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations.
- Questions in the writing section using SAMs from CCEA.

## Revision

- Practise a variety of different topic based scenarios (gap filling exercises/short sentences/translations from English into Spanish/extended writing exercises).
- Be familiar with the spelling of topic based vocabulary and structures related to the topic of 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 to identify areas for improvement.

