



Practice Papers for GCSE AQA Spanish

Speaking: Foundation and Higher

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Teacher's Introduction

Purpose:

This pack contains three full practice papers each for the AQA Foundation and Higher speaking exams. When a new specification is launched, teachers may, initially, find it difficult to source quality practice papers beyond those provided by the exam board, therefore making it difficult to accurately assess their students. Besides, there is always a risk that students can find the papers provided online by the exam board. The ZigZag practice papers allow teachers to give their students extra practice without taking this risk.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

The author has taken every step to ensure these papers mirror the AQA paper structure and has used their extensive experience of resource writing to produce varied and unique content. These papers cover all three themes:

1. People and lifestyle
2. Popular culture
3. Communication and the world around us

Vocabulary:

This resource has been checked against the 2024 vocabulary list to ensure compliance with new exam style, offering the best possible exam practice for your students.

Spec coverage is as follows:

	Role Play	Reading Aloud	Photo Card
Foundation 1	Free-time activities	Identity and relationships with others	Travel and tourism, including places of interest (Theme 3: Communication and the world around us)
Foundation 2	Customs, festivals and celebrations	The environment and where people live	Education and work (Theme 1: People and lifestyle)
Foundation 3	Healthy living and lifestyle	Media and technology	Celebrity culture (Theme 2: Popular culture)
Higher 1	The environment and where people live	Travel and tourism, including places of interest	Healthy living and lifestyle (Theme 1: People and lifestyle)
Higher 2	Celebrity culture	Healthy living and lifestyle	Media and technology (Theme 3: Communication and the world around us)
Higher 3	Identity and relationships with others	Education and work	Customs, festivals and celebrations (Theme 2: Popular culture)

How to use this resource:

We recommend setting each paper under exam conditions to give an accurate picture of students' ability at a given point. The papers can also be used for practice with a language assistant, for instance.

We are not providing a full mark scheme here as it can easily be obtained from the exam board's website, but the author has provided an explanation of the mark scheme and how to achieve the top marks for each task.

December 2025

GCSE AQA Spanish: Foundation Speaking

Exam Information

Structure of the paper and mark scheme exemplification:

The AQA Foundation speaking paper comprises three tasks:

Task 1: The role play task

This task should last between 1 and 1 ½ minutes (and there are 10 marks available for the task, and each part can be awarded 0, 1 or 2 marks. In order to score 10 marks, a clear message must be conveyed clearly, with no ambiguity. If students are required to give only one answer, a score of 1 mark.

Task 2: The reading aloud task

In this task, students must read aloud a short text (for a potential 5 marks), which is made up of four compulsory questions, about the topic of the text (for a potential 5 marks) available for the reading aloud task, as a whole, and it should last between 2 and 3 minutes.

- The reading aloud passage is a new task which tests students' understanding of the text (for a potential 5 marks) and their pronunciation (for a potential 5 marks). It is marked for AO3 only (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band, students must read the passage clearly and accurately. To score in the top minor and a few major errors in pronouncing the passage.
- The four follow-on questions are assessed as a whole and are marked for AO1 (understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing). To score in the top band, students must answer the questions clearly. For two of the four questions (minimum), they must give an answer in Spanish. For one of the other two questions (minimum), they must develop their answer in Spanish.

Task 3: The photo card task

This task comprises two parts: a description of the pictures printed on the card, and a conversation. Students must describe both pictures (for a potential 5 marks) for approximately 1 minute in an unprepared conversation (for a potential 15 marks) for approximately 3 minutes. The total task should last between 4 and 5 minutes.

- The picture description part of the task is marked for AO2 only (understand and respond to written texts). To score in the top band for AO2, students must convey quite a lot of information. The message needs to be mostly clear.
- The conversation part of the task is marked for AO1 (understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing) and AO3 (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO1, students must give a lot of information. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use a good variety of vocabulary and structure. The message needs to be mostly clear. For AO3, students must use a good variety of vocabulary and structure. There may be frequent minor errors and some major errors, even

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ZigZag Practice Exam

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Spanish

Speaking

Foundation Tier Practice Paper 1

Time allowed:

15 minutes preparation
7–9 minutes examination

The maximum mark for this paper is **50**.

Information:

- The test has three tasks: a role play, a reading and a task and conversation.
- You will have 15 minutes to prepare. You are not allowed to practise reading.
- You may take notes on a separate piece of paper, but you will have to hand them in. Do not write on the question cards.
- You can use a dictionary.

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TASK 1: ROLE PLAY STUDENT VERSION

Instructions:

- You are speaking to your Mexican friend.
- Your teacher will play the part of your friend. They will speak first.
- Use the 'tú' form to address your friend.
- ? indicates that you have to ask a question.
- **To score full marks, each response must contain a 'b'.**

Task:

1. Say what you like to do with your friends. (Give **one** detail.)
2. Say how much time you spend with your friends at the weekend. (Give **one** detail.)
3. ? Ask your friend a question about what they do in the evening.
4. Give **one** opinion about shopping.
5. Say where you like to go after school. (Give **one** detail.)

TASK 2: READING ALOUD STUDENT VERSION

Your teacher will ask you to read the following text **in Spanish**.

Tengo una familia muy pequeña.

Vivo con mis padres y mi hermano.

Mi abuelo viene al pueblo en verano.

Celebramos una gran fiesta para mi cumpleaños.

Nuestros vecinos son simpáticos y me llevo bien con ellos.

Your teacher will then ask you four questions **in Spanish** on the topic of **Identity** and **Family**.

To get the highest possible score, try to **develop your answers to all four questions**.

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Use the preparation time to look at the two pictures and make notes on a separate sheet of paper. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

Your teacher will ask you to discuss the content of the pictures. You should spend 2 minutes on each picture. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

After you have discussed the content of the two pictures, your teacher will ask you questions about the theme of **Communication and the world around us**.

Picture 1



Picture 2



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TASK 1: ROLE PLAY TEACHER VERSION

You should begin the role play and address the candidate as 'tú'.
 The target language phrases must be read out exactly as they appear below.
 The role play should begin with the following introduction:

"Estás hablando con tu amigo mexicano / tu amiga mexicana. Yo soy tu amigo /

1		Ask the candidate to say what they do with their friends. ¿Qué te gusta hacer con tus amigos? Allow the candidate to give one detail about what they do with their friends.
2		Ask the candidate how much time they spend with friends at the weekend. ¿Cuánto tiempo pasas con tus amigos el fin de semana? Allow the candidate to give one detail about how much time they spend with friends at the weekend.
3	?	¡Qué bien! Allow the candidate to ask you a question about what you do in the weekend. Give an appropriate response.
4		Ask the candidate to give their opinion about going shopping. ¿Cuál es tu opinión sobre ir de compras? Allow the candidate to give one opinion about going shopping.
5		Ask the candidate where they like to go after school. ¿Adónde prefieres ir después del colegio? Allow the candidate to say what they do after school. (Elicit one detail.)

TASK 2: READING ALOUD TEACHER VERSION

The reading aloud task and the four questions below should last between 2 and 2.5 minutes.
 Once the role play is over, ask the student to read the text aloud by saying 'Lee el texto en voz alta'.
 After the student has read the text aloud, you must ask the questions below. You should allow 2 minutes for the questions; they must be asked exactly as they appear below.

- Describe a tu familia.
- ¿Qué te gusta hacer con tu familia?
- ¿Qué prefieres hacer para pasar tiempo con tus amigos?
- ¿Cuál es tu opinión sobre tu mejor amigo?

TASK 3: PHOTO CARD TEACHER VERSION

Theme: Communication and the world around us

- There are two pictures on the student card. During the preparation time, the student must describe each of the two pictures.
- You then ask the student to discuss the pictures. This should last approximately 2 minutes. The student must say at least one thing about each picture.
- After the picture discussion, you take part in an unprepared conversation with the student. This conversation should last between **3 and 4 minutes**.
- Students are allowed to use the notes they made during the preparation time.

Start by asking the student to discuss the pictures:

- **Háblame de las fotos.**

After the student has finished describing the pictures, you start a conversation on the theme of **communication and the world around us**. You may include **any** or **all** of the topics contained within the list below.

- Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

This part of the speaking assessment (description of the pictures and conversation) should last between **4 and 5 minutes**.

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GCSE AQA Spanish: Higher Speaking

Exam Information

Structure of the paper and mark scheme exemplification:

The AQA Higher speaking paper comprises three tasks:

Task 1: The role play task

This task should last between 1 and 1 ½ minutes and there are 10 marks available (5 prompts) to the task, and each part can be awarded 0, 1 or 2 marks. In order to score, a message must be conveyed clearly, with no ambiguity. If students are required to give only one will result in a score of 1 mark.

Task 2: The reading aloud task

In this task, students must read aloud a short text (for a potential 5 marks), which is made up of four compulsory questions, about the topic of the text (for a potential 5 marks) available for the reading aloud task, as a whole, and it should last between 3 and 5 minutes.

- The reading aloud passage is a new task which tests students' understanding of the text (for a potential 5 marks) and its grammatical correspondences). It is marked for AO3 only (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band, students must be generally accurate although minor errors are tolerated.
- The four follow-on questions are assessed as a whole and are marked for AO3 (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification) to spoken language in speaking and in writing). To score in the top band, students must answer the questions clearly. For two of the four questions (minimum), they must give an answer that is relevant to the question. For one of the other two questions (minimum), they must develop their answer.

Task 3: The photo card task

This task comprises two parts: a description of the pictures printed on the card, and a conversation. Students must describe both pictures (for a potential 5 marks) for approximately 1 minute and take part in an unprepared conversation (for a potential 15 marks) for approximately 2 minutes. There are 20 marks available for the task, as a whole, and it should last between 3 and 5 minutes.

- The picture description is marked for AO2 only (understand and respond to written texts). To score in the top band for AO2, students must convey a lot of information and their responses must always be clear.
- The conversation part of the task is marked for AO1 (understand and respond to spoken language) and AO3 (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO1, students must consistently and successfully develop their responses and extend their sentences. Their responses must always or nearly always be clear. For AO3, students must use a wide variety of grammar and vocabulary. There may be some minor errors and very few major errors in complex language only.

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ZigZag Practice Exam

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Spanish

Speaking

Higher Tier Practice Paper 1

Time allowed:

15 minutes preparation

10–12 minutes examination

The maximum mark for this paper is **50**.

Information:

- The test has three tasks: a role play, a reading and a task and conversation.
- You will have 15 minutes to prepare. You are not allowed to practise reading.
- You may take notes on a separate piece of paper, but you will have to hand them in. Do not write on the question cards.
- You can use a dictionary.

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TASK 1: ROLE PLAY STUDENT VERSION

Instructions:

- You are speaking to your Spanish friend.
- Your teacher will play the part of your friend. They will speak first.
- Use the 'tú' form to address your friend.
- ? indicates that you have to ask a question.
- **To score full marks, each response must contain a 'a' and a 'b'.**

Task:

1. Describe your hometown. (Give **one** detail.)
2. Say what environmental problems there are where you live. (Give **two** details.)
3. Give one action which is important to stop climate change and explain why. (Give **two** details.)
4. ? Ask your friend a question about recycling.
5. Say what activities you did in your local area last weekend. (Give **two** details.)

TASK 2: READING ALOUD STUDENT VERSION

Your teacher will ask you to read the following text **in Spanish**.

Me gusta ir de vacaciones para conocer sitios nuevos.

Prefiero visitar países baratos, ya que tengo poco dinero.

El año que viene, voy a irme a la costa para disfrutar de tomar el sol.

Los paisajes de España son bonitos y me gustaría verlos algún día.

También quiero probar la comida típica, como la paella.

Your teacher will then ask you four questions **in Spanish** on the topic of **Free-time**.

To get the highest possible score, try to **develop your answers to all four questions**.

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Use the preparation time to look at the two pictures and make notes on a separate sheet of paper. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

Your teacher will ask you to discuss the content of the pictures. You should spend 2 minutes on each picture. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

After you have discussed the content of the two pictures, your teacher will ask you questions about the theme of People and Lifestyle.

Picture 1



Picture 2



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TASK 1: ROLE PLAY TEACHER VERSION

You should begin the role play and address the candidate as 'tú'.
 The target language phrases must be read out exactly as they appear below.
 The role play should begin with the following introduction:
"Estás hablando con tu amigo español / tu amiga española. Yo soy tu amigo / tu amiga."

1		Ask the candidate to describe their home. Describe cómo es tu casa. Allow the candidate to describe their home. (Elicit one detail.)
2		Ask the candidate about environmental problems where they live. ¿Qué problemas medioambientales hay dónde vives? Allow the candidate to describe the environmental problems in their area.
3		Ask the candidate what actions are important to stop climate change. ¿Cuáles son las acciones más importantes para evitar el cambio climático? (Elicit one opinion and one reason.)
4	?	Muy bien. Allow the candidate to ask you a question about recycling. Give an appropriate response.
5		Ask the candidate to describe what they did in their local area last weekend. ¿Qué hiciste el fin de semana pasada en tu zona? Allow the candidate to describe what they did in their local area last weekend.

TASK 2: READING ALOUD TEACHER VERSION

The reading aloud task and the four questions below should last between 3 and 3 ½ minutes.
 Once the role play is over, ask the student to read the text aloud by saying 'Lee el texto en voz alta'.
 After the student has read the text aloud, you must ask the questions below. You must ask all the questions; they must be asked exactly as they appear below.

- **¿Qué te gusta hacer en tu viaje?**
- **¿Cuál es el lugar que más te gusta visitar en España?**
- **¿Cómo son tus vacaciones ideales?**
- **¿Con qué tipo de transporte prefieres viajar?**

TASK 3: PHOTO CARD TEACHER VERSION

Theme: People and lifestyle

There are two pictures on the student card. During the preparation time, the student must describe both pictures.
 There are two pictures.

You then ask the student to discuss the pictures. This should last approximately 1 ½ minutes. The student must say at least one thing about each picture.

After the picture discussion, you take part in an unprepared conversation with the student. This conversation should last between **4 ½ and 5 ½ minutes**.

Students are allowed to use the notes they made during the preparation time.

Start by asking the student to discuss the pictures.

- **Háblame de las fotos.**

After the student has finished describing the pictures, you start a conversation on the theme of **lifestyle**. You must include **any** or **all** of the topics contained within this theme:

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

This part of the speaking assessment (description of the pictures and conversation) should last between **6 and 7 minutes**.

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.