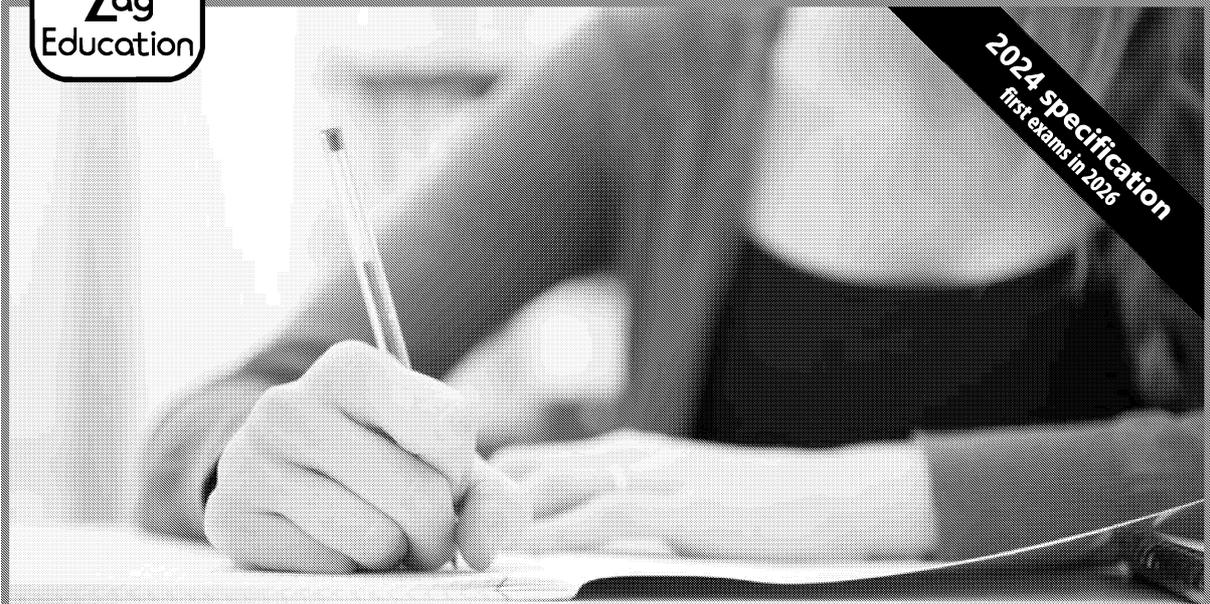




Spanish

GCSE | Edexcel | 1SP1



Practice Papers for GCSE Edexcel Spanish

Writing: Higher

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Teacher's Introduction

Purpose:

This pack contains three full practice papers for the Edexcel Higher writing exam. When a new specification is launched, initially, teachers may find it difficult to source quality practice papers beyond those provided by the exam board, thereby 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.

The author has taken every step to ensure the structure of these papers mirrors that of the Edexcel paper, and has used their extensive experience to produce varied and unique content. These papers cover all six thematic contexts:

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle and wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media and technology
5. Studying and my future
6. Travel and tourism

Remember!

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

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. Papers can be used as teacher-assessed tasks (with the teacher marking the paper and feeding back to the students) or as self-/peer-assessment tasks (with each student or their partner assessing their work).

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. They have also provided some self-/peer-assessment grids, which can be photocopied and given to students to assess their own or their partner's work.

December 2025

Structure of the Paper and Mark Scheme

The Edexcel Higher writing paper comprises three tasks:

1. The 80–90-word task

Students choose between two questions. Note this is an crossover task (it is the same for both the Higher and Foundation papers). There are 18 marks available for this task. It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students must address all four bullet points, develop their ideas frequently and write in a manner that is easy to understand. To score in the top band for AO3, students need to vary their vocabulary and grammatical structures, use a range of sentence structures, including longer sentences with connectives. They must be generally accurate in their use of grammar, including the use of past, present and future events, and the language they use must be generally accurate with no major errors.

2. The 130–150-word task

Students choose between two questions. There are 22 marks available for this task. It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students must address all four bullet points, consistently develop their ideas and write in a manner that is easy to understand. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures. This can be achieved by creating a variety of sentence structures, including complex language. They must be consistently successful at referring to the stimulus, and the language they use must be consistently accurate with no major errors.

3. The translation task

Students translate a short paragraph into Spanish. There are 10 marks available for this task. It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students must ensure that the meaning of the paragraph is accurately translated. To score in the top band for AO3, the vocabulary and grammatical structures used must be consistently accurate, with no major errors.

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Self- and Peer-assessment Grid

Use the grids below to self- or peer-assess your written responses. Please note the

1. 80–90-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
 addressed all four bullet points?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write at least one sentence what you write must be relevant give an opinion and at least one reason (use 'porque' or 'dado que') use the correct time frame
	frequently developed your ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give at least three or four ideas
	responded to the task in a comprehensible manner?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write in a way that is easy to understand if you translate it back into English, it should be understandable
	used a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoid repetitions (use each word only once) include different subject phrases, negatives, etc.
	formed extended sentences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a range of time phrases (e.g. 'desde que viene', etc.) use connectives ('y', 'pero', 'y', 'mu', 'un poco', 'bastante', 'después', 'por fin', 'finalmente')
	occasionally used complex language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a couple of more interesting structures but only if you are confident you could use relative clauses (e.g. 'que', 'cuya', 'cuyo', 'de la que', 'de la cual', etc.)
 made successful use of present, past and future time frames?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are your present, past and future tenses correct? are they in the right paragraph? are they in the right phrase? (remember, 'pasado' = past, 'presente' = present, 'futuro' = future)
	used generally accurate language?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work. Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spelling articles (el/la/los/las un/unas) adjective agreements

2. 130–150-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
 addressed all four bullet points?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write more than one sentence what you write must be relevant give a balanced opinion with reasons (use 'por un lado / por otro lado', etc.) use the correct time frame for the task
	consistently developed your ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always give at least three or four ideas this can be achieved by giving opinions and comparing what life is now vs what it was

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Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	responded to the task in an easily comprehensible manner?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan your paragraphs write in a way that is easy to understand narrate a story as you would in chronological order if you can, translate it back into English
	used a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoid repetitions (use each idea once) use different opinion phrases ('según', etc.) include different subject pronouns ('ningún', 'ni uno', 'ninguno', etc.)
	formed frequently extended sentences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a range of time phrases ('cuando termine mis estudios', etc.) use connectives ('y', 'pero', 'por lo tanto', 'un poco', 'bastante', etc.) and sentence starters ('finalmente', etc.)
	used a lot of complex language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use more interesting vocabulary are confident you could use modal verbs ('deberías', etc.) or infinitive structures ('queriendo', etc.)
	made consistent and successful use of present, past and future time frames?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are your present, perfect and imperfect verb forms correct? have you referred to your child's life as it happened in the past, using the preterite? can you include some near future time frames (will)? can you include the conditional to do (using 'gustaría' or 'quisiera')?
	used language which is always accurate?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spelling articles (el/la/los/las un/una/unos/unas) adjective agreements add accents where necessary

3. Translation task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	transferred the meaning appropriately?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> translate the paragraph like for like consider word order carefully check verbs are in the correct tense
	translated the paragraph (mostly) clearly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> do not leave any gaps if you translate the paragraph bit by bit, does it make sense?
	used general, accurate vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spelling articles (el/la/los/las un/una/unos/unas) adjective agreements

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Write-on paper

Spanish
Writing



Higher Tier Practice Paper 3

Name

Time allowed: 1 hour 20 minutes

The maximum mark for this paper is 50.

Information:

- Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
- You should answer **Option A or Option B** for questions 1 and 2.
- You should answer all of questions 3 to 10.
- Answer all questions in Spanish and use full sentences.
- You may use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.



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Answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** Question 1(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

1. (a) Write a blog post on a forum about holidays.

You **must** include the following points:

- a description of your typical summer holiday
- your opinion about travelling to other countries, with reasons
- the means of transport you used to travel last year
- where you will go on holiday in the future

Write your answer **in Spanish**. You should aim to write between 80 and 90 words.

[18 marks]

1. (b) Write a blog post about the environment.

You **must** include:

- describe the local area
- your opinion about the local area, with reasons
- what you can do to improve the environment
- how you will contribute

Write your answer in Spanish. You should aim to write between 80 and 90 words.

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Answer **either** Question 2(a) **or** Question 2(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

2. (a) Write an article for your local newspaper about films.

You **must** include the following points:

- a film you like
- the pros and cons of going to the cinema
- the net you have watched recently on the TV
- who you will watch TV with in the future

Write your answer in **Spanish**. You should aim to write between 130 and 150 words.

[22 marks]

2. (b) Write an article for your local newspaper about mental health.

You **must** include the following points:

- why mental health is important
- the pros and cons of physical health
- something you have watched recently on the TV
- how you will watch TV in the future

Write your answer in **Spanish**. You should aim to write between 130 and 150 words.

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Non-write-on paper

Spanish
Writing



Higher Tier Practice Paper 3

Time allowed: 1 hour 20 minutes

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

Information:

- Answer all questions in your exercise book.
- You should answer **Option A or Option B** for questions 1 and 2.
- You should answer all of question 3.
- Answer all questions in Spanish and use full sentences.
- You must not use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are given in brackets.



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Answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** Question 1(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

1. (a) Write a blog post on a forum about holidays.

You **must** include the following points:

- a description of your typical summer holiday
- your opinion about travelling to other countries, with reasons
- the means of transport you used to travel last year
- where you will go on holiday in the future

Write your answer in **Spanish**. You should aim to write between 80 and 90 words.

[18 marks]

1. (b) Write a blog post about the environment.

You **must** include:

- describe the environment in your local area
- your opinion about the environment in your area, with reasons
- what you can do to improve the environment
- how you will improve the environment in the future

Write your answer in **Spanish**. You should aim to write between 80 and 90 words.

Answer **either** Question 2(a) **or** Question 2(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

2. (a) Write an article for your local newspaper about films.

You **must** include the following points:

- a film you like
- the pros and cons of going to the cinema
- something you have watched recently on the TV
- who you will watch TV with in the future

Write your answer in **Spanish**. You should aim to write between 130 and 150 words.

[22 marks]

2. (b) Write an article for your local newspaper about mental health.

You **must** include:

- why mental health is important
- the pros and cons of physical health
- something you have watched recently on the TV
- how you will improve mental health in the future

Write your answer in **Spanish**. You should aim to write between 130 and 150 words.

3. Translate the paragraph into **Spanish**.

We spend a lot of time working. That is why I don't do interesting things. People with good grades can have very interesting jobs. I studied to become a professional. I will be a professional in the future if I work hard.



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Preview of Questions Ends Here

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Indicative Content

Practice Paper 1

1. (a) Me gusta mucho la tecnología; uso siempre el móvil para para bajar música de acción con mi familia. Uso la tableta para hablar con mis amigos y hacer que mí estar en contacto con ellos. También uso el ordenador para hacer cosas para estudiar, porque puedo buscar información fácilmente en Internet. En el futuro será muy importante para mí, porque quiero trabajar haciendo aplicaciones para el ordenador nuevo.

1. (b) No soy una persona sana y no me gusta el deporte. Prefiero quedarme en casa pero como colegio tengo que hacer deporte en la clase de Educación Física. Odio los deportes pero me divierto y siempre acabo demasiado cansada. La semana pasada tuve un día terrible. En el futuro voy a cambiar. Voy a moverme más para no tener problemas y voy a escoger comida más sana, como verduras y fruta.

2. (a) Mi colegio es bastante grande, pero, aun así, conozco a todos los profesores pero hay algunos que son demasiados estrictos y ponen muchos deberes pero sé que, si trabajo duro, sacaré buenas notas en los exámenes. Sin embargo, con los deberes, no puedo hacer deporte y pasar tiempo con mis amigos, y esto me afecta. Hace un año, pusieron ordenadores nuevos en todas las clases y ahora son más modernas: podemos buscar información en internet y, además, ahora es más fácil hablar con ellos. Fue una mejora de mucha importancia.

En el futuro, los colegios tendrán más espacios para estudiar, porque cada uno tendrá su propio ordenador. También las asignaturas serán más prácticas y nos van a dar más trabajo que nos gusta.

2. (b) Como a muchos de los chicos me gusta mucho hacer deporte en mi tiempo libre pero en mi familia el fin de semana o jugando al fútbol en el parque con mis amigos y así puedo dormir bien por las noches. Pienso que es muy importante hacer deporte porque mejora mucho la salud, tanto física como mental. Sin embargo, a veces ocupan mucho tiempo, y hay que jugar incluso cuando hace frío o mal tiempo.

La semana pasada fui a la playa con mis padres y mis primos – fue un día muy divertido por la arena y a tomar el sol y luego nos bañamos en el mar. La semana que viene vamos a ir al cine para ver una película de amor de un actor famoso. Luego voy a salir con ellos.

3. Me gusta más ir en avión que en tren. Sin embargo, para proteger el medio ambiente voy en autobús. El año pasado, viajé por Europa en autobús. Como medio de transporte es más barato. Me gustaría viajar más en el futuro, sobre todo en barco.

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