



The Grey Coat Hospital Languages Department

Spanish GCSE / A-Level Transition Summer
2026

¡Bienvenidos!

A-Level Spanish Key Words: spontaneity, accuracy, debating, rephrasing and summarising, essay writing, translation, critical appreciation of issues and trends, critical appreciation of literature and film, independent research.

This is a very rewarding course which will challenge you in many ways. To be as best prepared as possible, we would like you to develop further your active grammatical understanding and to start to explore Spanish-speaking culture and society.

You will be required to:

- enhance your **linguistic skills** and promote and develop your capacity for **critical thinking** on the basis of your knowledge and understanding of the **language, culture and society** of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an **extended range of vocabulary**, for both practical and intellectual purposes as an increasingly confident, accurate and independent user of the language
- develop knowledge about **matters central to the society and culture, past and present**, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- develop as an **independent researcher** through the language of study.

To this end you should:

- consolidate and extend your knowledge of grammatical structures by revising the key structures in this booklet.
- start to read / watch / listen to the Spanish news such as at <https://www.rtve.es/noticias/>
- watch Spanish films, find out about Spanish music and read Spanish fiction
- find out about aspects of Spanish/Latin American culture and society that interest you, e.g. art, politics, history, science, fashion...
- Keep a Spanish notebook / diary to record your observations about the news and your independent cultural research. Be ready to discuss in September!

We would like you to hand in your notebook in September with the compulsory activities completed and at least 3 suggested activities completed.

Compulsory Work to do this summer:

1. Choose 2 of the podcasts from numbers 5-9 below to listen to. Make detailed notes in your notebook on what you learn.
2. Complete the historical research grid on the next page of this booklet.

Suggested List of Work to do this summer (to make the links open you will have to copy and paste them into your browser as it doesn't work to just press them):

1. Watch a Spanish-language film and write a review. You might like to sign up to the BFI discount scheme for young people so that you can see films for £4: [BFI under 25s](#) See a list of suggested films you might find on streaming services at the bottom of this page.
2. Find an exhibition in London / go to the (free) National Gallery and find out about an artist. Write your reflections. A paying exhibition you might be interested in is the Zurburan exhibition in the National Gallery.
3. Explore Spanish music and keep a log of what you are listening to and your reflections. Find out about the artists and write down what you find out.
4. Watch the news every week and keep a log. Write up one news story. You could use the following website - <https://www.rtve.es/noticias>
5. Listen to a podcast about the Spanish Civil War and write down your reflections.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0m89scm>
6. Listen to a podcast about the Spanish playwright/poet Lorca and write down your
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0006dss>
7. Listening to a podcast about the Rise & Fall of The Moors in Muslim Spain
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0l0sdcr>
8. Listen to a podcast about the Machu Pichu: The Fall of the Inca Empire and write down your reflections.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0k7bv06>
9. Listen to a podcast about Picasso's 'Guernica' and write down your reflections.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct98b4>
10. Read 'La casa de Bernarda Alba' by Lorca in English and jot down your thoughts on the play. <https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Spanish/AlbaActl.php>

Suggested films:

- Ocho apellidos vascos (Emilio Martínez-Lázaro)
- Volver (Pedro Almodóvar)
- Todo sobre mi madre (Pedro Almodóvar)
- El laberinto del fauno (Guillermo del Toro)
- María llena eres de gracia (Joshua Marston)

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The Spanish Civil War.

It would be useful to do some research into Spain during this period of history:

- Research the events that led to the Civil War
- What happened to Spain during this time?
- What was life like in Spain during the Civil War?

Use the questions below to guide your research.

1. What was the political situation in Spain during the period 1925-1935?	
2. What were Franco's reasons for wanting to take charge?	
3. What different regions of Spain were Nationalist (pro-Franco) and Republican (opposing Franco)?	
4. What was the outcome of the Civil War?	
5. What were the implications on daily life for Spanish people?	

Grammar

In order to succeed in Spanish in the Sixth Form, it is essential that you have a good grasp of grammar and are prepared to work on this independently. Accurate grammar enables you to write successful literary essays (20% of your final grade) and your final oral exam (30% of your final grade) as well as an important section of your listening, reading and writing exam (50% of your final grade).

Over the summer break you **must** ensure that you are confident using all key tenses studied at GCSE level. Aim to understand the uses of and the regular verb tables for the following tenses *off by heart* so that you can conjugate verbs appropriately and spontaneously;

The tenses, as well as other basic grammar concepts, that you have seen at GCSE are specified below. **Highlight** in different colours those with which you feel confident, more or less confident, and not so confident. Then, Revise the conjugation rules and uses of each tense listed.

A) TENSES

Present tenses

1. The Present tense
2. The Present continuous

Past tenses

3. The Preterite tense
4. The Imperfect tense
5. The Perfect tense
6. The Pluperfect tense

Future tenses

7. The Near future
8. The Simple future
9. The Conditional

B) OTHER GRAMMAR CONCEPTS: Practise these using www.languagesonline.org.uk

Modal verbs

1. Deber
2. Haber que
3. Necesitar
4. Permitir
5. Poder
6. Querer
7. Saber
8. Soler
9. Tener que

Adverbs and time phrases

Ser vs Estar

Ordinal numbers

The Present - Regular Verbs

The present tense is used in two cases:

- 1) When you want to talk about something that is happening now.
- 2) When you want to talk about something that happens on a regular basis.

The present tense of regular verbs is easy to form. You take the verb in the infinitive (ending AR / ER / IR), take off the AR / ER or IR ending and add on the endings according to whom you want to talk about to the stem.

Here are the endings (in capitals):

HABLAR	VIVIR	COMER
HablO	VivO	ComO
HablAS	VivES	ComES
HablA	VivE	ComE
HablAMOS	VivIMOS	ComEMOS
HablÁIS	VivÍS	ComÉIS
HabLAN	VivEN	ComEN

Por ejemplo

Yo hablo español - I speak Spanish
Ana vive en Madrid - Ana lives in Madrid
Mis amigos comen cereales - My friends eat cereals

Present tense - Irregular verbs

(You must know these off by heart)

There are **two types** of irregular verbs in the present tense:

1. Those that have a **radical change** (boot verbs)
2. Those that are **complete irregulars** (like ser and estar)

1. Radical-changing verbs or boot verbs have a change in their stem (that part of the verb that's left after you have taken out the infinitive endings: -ar, -er or -ir). The "we" and "you (plural)" form of the verb don't change.

a) Verbos de e-ie: cerrar, perder, comenzar, empezar, querer, pensar, entender, sentarse, despertarse.

Ejemplo: pensar → **pienso, piensas, piensa, pensamos, pensáis, piensan.**

Despertarse → me **despierto**, te **despiertas**, se **despierta**, nos **despertamos**, os **despertáis**, se **despiertan**.

b) Verbos de o-ue: acordarse, volver, devolver, recordar, almorzar, encontrar, mostrar, mover, sonar, soñar, poder, contar, costar.

Ejemplo: encontrar → **enuentro, encuentras, encuentra, encontramos, encontráis, encuentran.**

Acordarse → Me **acuerdo**, te **acuerdas**, se **acuerda**, nos **acordamos**, os **acordáis**, se **acuerdan**.

c) Verbos de e-i: pedir, seguir, repetir, servir, medir, vestirse, reír(se), sonreír(se)

Ejemplo: pedir → **pido, pides, pide, pedimos, pedís, piden.**

Vestirse → me **visto**, te **vistes**, se **viste**, nos **vestimos**, os **vestís**, se **visten**.

2. Those that are **complete irregulars** (like ser and estar) do not follow any pattern and you just have to practise thoroughly to memorise them.

a) Irregular just in the first person

Coger: cojo, coges, coge, cogemos, cogéis, cogen

Conocer: conozco, conoces, conoce, conocemos, conocéis, conocen

Dar: doy, das, da, damos, dais, dan

Estar: Estoy, estás, está, estamos, estáis, están

Hacer: hago, haces, hace, hacemos, hacéis, hacen

Poner: Pongo, pones, pone, ponemos, ponéis, ponen

Saber: Sé, sabes, sabe, sabemos, sabéis, saben

Salir: Salgo, sales, sale, salimos, salís, salen

Traer: traigo, traes, trae, traemos, traéis, traen

b) More than one irregularity

Venir VENGO VIENES VIENE VENIMOS VENÍS VIENEN	Decir DIGO DICES DICE DECIMOS DECÍS DICEN	Oír OIGO OYES OYE OÍMOS OÍS OYEN	Tener TENGO TIENES TIENE TENEMOS TENÉIS TIENEN
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c) Completely irregulars

Ser: Soy, eres, es, somos, sois, son

Ir: Voy, vas, va, vamos, vais, van

The Present Continuous

To say what is happening now in Spanish, you can use the Present Continuous. To form this you will need two parts:

1. The present tense of **ESTAR** and the **PRESENT PARTICIPLE (ALSO CALLED GERUND)**.

Can you remember the formation of the verb ESTAR (to be) in the present tense? Here it is

Estoy

Estás

Está

Estamos

Estáis

Están

2. To form the **regular present participle** you need to remove from the infinitive the **-AR or -ER or -IR** and then add these endings:

-AR verb > add **-ANDO** for example: hablar > **hablando**. (speaking)

-ER verb > add **-IENDO** for example: comer > **comiendo**. (eating)

-IR verb > add **-IENDO** for example: vivir > **viviendo**. (living)

Irregular present participles have a spelling change:

Finally you put the part of **ESTAR** and the **PRESENT PARTICIPLE (OR GERUND)** together

For example: I am eating > Estoy comiendo
 My brother is sleeping > Mi hermano está durmiendo (irregular participle – look at above box)

Infinitivo	Gerundio	Inglés
DORMIR	DURMIENDO	SLEEPING
MORIR	MURIENDO	DYING
MENTIR	MINTIENDO	LYING
REIR	RIENDO	LAUGHING
SERVIR	SIRVIENDO	SERVING
DECIR	DICIENDO	SAYING
PREFERIR	PREFIRIENDO	PREFERING
SEGUIR	SIGUIENDO	FOLLOWING
LEER	LEYENDO	READING
CONSTRUIR	CONSTRUYENDO	BUILDING
OIR	OYENDO	HEARING
TRAER	TRAYENDO	BRINGING
IR	YENDO	GOING

The Preterite (el pretérito)

The preterite is used for past actions that are seen as completed.

To conjugate **regular -ar** verbs in the preterite, simply drop the ending (-ar) and add one of the following:

yo	é
tú	aste
él	ó
nosotros	amos
vosotros	asteis
ellos	aron

To conjugate **regular -er and -ir** verbs in the preterite, simply drop the ending (-er or -ir) and add one of the following:

yo	í
tú	iste
él	ió
nosotros	imos
vosotros	isteis
ellos	ieron

Here are all three regular preterite verb forms together:

Hablar	comer	Vivir
Hablé	comí	Viví
Hablaste	comiste	Viviste
Habló	comió	Vivió
Hablamos	comimos	Vivimos
hablasteis	comisteis	Vivisteis
hablaron	comieron	Vivieron

Irregular preterites

Most of the common verbs used in the past in Spanish are irregular. Here is a list of some in the Yo form and underneath examples of other parts of the verbs:

YO FORM	INFINITIVE	TRANSLATION
Anduve	Andar	To walk
Cupez	Caber	To fit
Di	Dar	To give
Dije	Decir	To say
Estuve	Estar	To be
Fui	Ser	To be
Fui	Ir	To go
Hube	Haber	To have
Hice	Hacer	To make / to do
Pude	Poder	To be able
Puse	Poner	To put
Quise	Querer	To want
Supé	Saber	To know
Tuve	Tener	To have
Traje	Traer	To bring
Vine	Venir	To come
Vi	Ver	To see

Por ejemplo:

El año pasado fui a Barcelona	(Last year I went to Barcelona)
La semana pasada quise ir al cine	(Last week I wanted to go to the cinema)
¿Qué hiciste?	(What did you do?)
Mi amigo anduvo al instituto	(My friend walked to school)
Vimos la nueva película	(We saw the new film)
Tuvimos hambre	(We were hungry)
¿Hicisteis las camas?	(Did you make the beds?)
Mis padres estuvieron de vacaciones	(My parents were on holidays)
Los chicos trajeron un pastel a la fiesta	(The boys took a cake to the party)

The imperfect tense

El imperfecto

The imperfect is a past tense in Spanish. Its uses are different from those of the preterite. They are used in different contexts and emphasize the continuation of an action in the past. To form the imperfect tense, remove the infinitive endings (**-ar**, **-er**, and **-ir**) and add the following conjugated endings:

Pronoun	Comprar/ to buy	Vender/ to sell	Recibir/ to receive
yo/ I	Compr- aba	Vend- ía	Recib- ía
tú/ you	Compr- abas	Vend- ías	Recib- ías
él, ella, Ud./ he, she, you	Compr- aba	Vend- ía	Recib- ía
nosotros/ we	Compr- ábamos	Vend- íamos	Recib- íamos
vosotros/ you	Compr- abais	Vend- íais	Recib- íais
ellos/ they	Compr- aban	Vend- ían	Recib- ían

Uses of the imperfect tense

1. The Spanish imperfect tense has several meanings in English; the Spanish imperfect is used to describe actions that occurred repeatedly or habitually in the past. To communicate the same idea in English, the phrases ***used to*** or ***would***, ***past continuous***, or ***simple past*** are used.
2. The imperfect tense is used to describe physical conditions or characteristics of people and things in the past:

Irregular verbs in the Imperfect

There are only three verbs with irregular forms in the imperfect: ir, ser, and ver.

IR (to go)	SER (to be)	VER (to see)
iba	era	veía
ibas	eras	veías
iba	era	veía
íbamos	éramos	veíamos
ibais	erais	veíais
iban	eran	veían

The Perfect tense

The PERFECT tense is used to talk about something you have done. To form you use the following structure:

HABER + past participle (this is different form the present participle)

The parts of HABER in the present are:

he / has / ha / hemos / habéis / han

The past participle is formed by adding -ado to the stem of **ar** verbs, and by adding -ido to the stem of **er** and **ir** verbs. Both parts are then put together. **Please note the difference with -ando/ -iendo (-ing).**

Por ejemplo:

tomar	comer	vivir
he tomado	he comido	he vivido
has tomado	has comido	has vivido
ha tomado	ha comido	ha vivido
hemos tomado	hemos comido	hemos vivido
habéis tomado	habéis comido	habéis vivido
han tomado	han comido	han vivido

2. The Spanish perfect is used just as the English and is translated as 'I have...-ed', 'you have...-ed', 'he has...-ed' etc.

Han llegado temprano.

They have arrived early.

Note - The past participle is invariable – it doesn't change in spelling, only the corresponding part of **HABER** changes.

Note - The auxiliary **HABER** is never separated from the past participle.

Note – If the sentence is in the negative form, the **NO** goes before both parts of the perfect tense.

The Perfect tense – irregular past participles

Some verbs have irregular past participles. These include:

Infinitive	participle	translation
abrir	abierto	<i>opened</i>
cubrir	cubierto	<i>covered</i>
decir	dicho	<i>said, told</i>
describir	descrito	<i>described</i>
descubrir	descubierto	<i>discovered</i>
devolver	devuelto	<i>returned</i>
escribir	escrito	<i>written</i>
hacer	hecho	<i>made</i>
morir	muerto	<i>died, dead</i>
poner	puesto	<i>put, placed</i>
romper	roto	<i>broken</i>
ver	visto	<i>seen</i>
volver	vuelto	<i>returned</i>

The pluperfect

El pluscuamperfecto

The pluperfect (el pretérito pluscuamperfecto), also known as the past perfect, is used to talk about a past action that happened prior to another action in the past.

The pluperfect is often used to talk about what a person *had* done before something else happened in the past. It is formed by combining **haber** in the imperfect with a past participle.

Haber in the imperfect + Past participle (the same one we use for the perfect tense) –ADO/ -IDO

Había	hablado/comido/vivido...
Habías	hablado/comido/vivido...
Había	hablado/comido/vivido...
Habíamos	hablado/comido/vivido...
Habíais	hablado/comido/vivido...
Habían	hablado/comido/vivido...

Check out these examples of the Spanish past perfect.

Había visto ya a mi primo.

I had already seen my cousin.

Habías cantado en la fiesta cuando llegué.

You had already sung at the party when I arrived.

Usted había leído el libro antes que él.

You had read the book before him.

Él había sacado su gorro cuando entró en mi casa.

He had taken off his hat before entering my house.

Ella había comido antes de ir al cine.

She had eaten before going to the movies.

Nos habíamos sentado cuando el tren salió.

We had sat down when the train left.

No habíais oído la canción antes de ahora.

You had not heard the song before now.

Ustedes habían vuelto cuando ellos salieron.

You had returned when they left.

Ellos habían puesto los pasteles en la mesa.

They had put the cakes on the table.

Elas habían hablado mucho cuando la fiesta terminó.

They had talked a lot when the party ended.

The near future tense

Imagine you are ready to go and do something. Regardless of the Spanish speaking situation you are in, if you can't say 'I am going to...' you can't communicate in the immediate future tense. Thus, the **immediate future tense** is simply an action one *is going to do*. To illustrate, right now, what are you going to do? In English, you would say *I am going to learn the immediate future tense in Spanish*. This very same sentence is:

Yo voy a aprender el tiempo futuro inmediato en español.

The sentence above may appear rather complicated. The great news is you can learn a formula for this tense that is so easy to remember. Let's begin.

The Formula

To form the immediate future tense, you need:

a subject + simple present form of ir (to go) + preposition 'a' + verb in its infinitive form (ar, er, ir)

Let's go back to the sentence above to break it into pieces:

- *yo* is the subject
- *voy* is simple present form of *ir* (to go)
- *a* is there as a preposition
- *aprender* is the verb in its infinitive form (ends in 'er')

If you want to make a sentence negative, all you have to do is add *no* in front of the simple present form of 'ir'. For example:

Yo no voy a cantar. (I am not going to sing)

Subject	Simple Present Form of 'ir' (to go)	Preposition 'a'	verb in its infinitive form (ar, er, ir)	Meaning
Yo	voy	a	estudiar	I am going to study
Tú	vas	a	estudiar	You (informal singular) are going to study
él, ella, usted	va	a	estudiar	he, she, is going to study-same for 'usted' which is formal singular
Nosotros	vamos	a	estudiar	We are going to study
Vosotros, vosotras	váis	a	estudiar	You (plural male and female) are going to study
Ellos, ellas, ustedes	van	a	estudiar	They (male and female) are going to study-same for 'ustedes' which is formal plural

The Simple Future Tense

(Also called true future)

Regular Future Forms. Most Spanish verbs are regular in the simple future. The infinitive serves as the stem of almost all Spanish verbs in the future tense.

Rule = Infinitive + é, ás, á, emos, éis, án

The Future Tense			
<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Pronoun</i>	<i>Stem</i>	<i>Endings</i>
Trabajar	yo	Trabajar-	é
Aprender	tú	Aprender-	ás
Escribir	él	Escribir-	á
Hablar	ella	Hablar-	á
Decidir	Vd.	Decidir-	á
Entender	nosotros	Entender-	emos
Bailar	vosotros	Bailar-	éis
Caminar	ellos	Caminar-	án
Perder	ellas	Perder-	án
Recibir	Vds.	Recibir-	án

Note: All the endings, except the **Nosotros** form, have written accent marks.

Irregular Simple Future Forms

A few verbs are irregular in the future tense. These verbs use a variation of the infinitive as a stem. Here are some. The endings are the same as those for regular verbs.

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Stem</i>	<i>Future Tense</i>	
Decir	dir-	yo	dir-é
Hacer	har-	tú	har-ás
Poder	podr-	ella	podr-á
Poner	pondr-	Vd.	pondr-á
Saber	sabr-	nosotros	sabr-emos
Haber	habr-	vosotros	habr-éis
Salir	saldr-	ellos	saldr-án
Tener	tendr-	ellas	tendr-án
Querer	querr-	Vds.	querr-án
Venir	vendr-		vendr-án

The Conditional Tense

The conditional tense in English is translated as *I would speak, I would go, etc.*

To form this tense, like with the simple future you take the **the whole infinitive** or **the irregular stem** (see the table for irregular stems in the simple future tense) and add the **-ER / -IR imperfect endings** → *ía, ías, ía, íamos, íais, ían.*

HABLAR	COMER	VIVIR
Hablaría	Comería	Viviría
Hablarías	Comerías	Vivirías
Hablaría	Comería	Viviría
Hablaríamos	Comeríamos	Viviríamos
Hablaríais	Comeríais	Viviríais
Hablarían	Comerían	Vivirían

The three above are regular verbs. Remember a number of Spanish verbs have irregular future stems. The endings are still the same as regular verbs only the stem changes. Here is a list of the most common ones:

INFINITIVE	TRANSLATION	STEM
Caber	To fit	Cabr-
Decir	To say	Dir-
Haber (auxiliary verb)	To have	Habr-
Hacer	To do/make	Har-
Poder	To be able	Podr-
Poner	To put	Pondr-
Querer	To want	Querr-
Saber	To know	Sabr-
Salir	To leave/go out	Saldr-
Tener	To have	Tendr-