Spanish A Level – Preparatory Work 2024

General preparation for A level Spanish and Tasks for new Spanish A level students to complete for their first lesson.

1. General preparation for A level Spanish

There are lots of things you can do to keep learning Spanish. Independent students who seek out a variety of activities and practise on their own initiative tend to thrive at A level.

Grammar

Having a good grounding in grammar helps you to speak and write your thoughts in correct Spanish.
Learn and practise how to conjugate verbs in each tense. For each tense learn the rules for regular verbs and then for the irregular verbs.
The following websites have explanations and exercises.
https://personal.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/ Try the exercises on the right.
https://www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/ats/ 56 grammar topics with exercises.
https://conjuguemos.com/activities/spanish/verb/1 Practise conjugating here. Choose a tense and click on graded practice.

Reading

Browse the Internet in Spanish. Research things you are interested in by using Spanish search terms and reading about them on Spanish language websites. Be curious and find out things you didn't know about Spanish speaking countries.
Make vocab lists of words you don't know.
https://www.learnpracticalspanishonline.com/beginner/beginner-readings.html &
https://www.learnpracticalspanishonline.com/intermediate/intermediate-readings.html Short reading passages with translations.
https://www.bbc.com/mundo News articles in Spanish.
http://lanic.utexas.edu/ A hub with links to newspapers, history, geography, environment, science, museums and reference sites from across Latin America. Explore the diversity of the Spanish speaking world.

Listening & Podcasts

https://www.laits.utexas.edu/spe/ Native Spanish speakers from different countries speak about a range of topics. Comes with transcripts.
https://podcast.duolingo.com/spanish Many podcasts with explanations and context in English interspersed with Spanish segments with transcripts.
https://coffeebreaklanguages.com/category/coffee-break-spanish/ Pick a level and click on free videos & podcasts.
http://www.audiria.com/capitulos.php Short videos. Click to see the text.
Español Automático Podcast (espanolautomatico.com) 10 min. podcasts. Varied topics.
https://www.brut.media/mx Spanish videos with Spanish subtitles.

Tips for Studying A level Spanish

Watch these videos by previous students who got good grades about what helped them to learn Spanish at A level. https://youtu.be/oAJTnNYmrRs Student 1
https://youtu.be/btQT5HRJmfA Student 2

2. Tasks for new Spanish A level students to complete for their first lesson.

La familia de Iñaki

Soy Iñaki. Mi familia vive en un barrio céntrico de la ciudad y los tres hermanos vamos al Instituto Teresa Berganza, que está cerca de nuestra casa. Mi padre es contable, en una empresa ubicada en las afueras, y mi madre es abogada. El barrio es normalito, ni tan rico ni tan pobre. Nuestro instituto es muy nuevo – se inauguró hace dos años – y mucha gente critica los métodos de enseñanza de los profesores. Sin embargo, mi madre dice que si no obtenemos buenas notas somos nosotros los responsables, y no hay que echar la culpa al instituto. Mis hermanos, Silvia y Vicente, no están de acuerdo con ella pero yo sí; Vicente es listo pero no trabaja bastante y Silvia piensa que la escuela es muy aburrida. A veces discutimos sobre quién tiene razón; si no me pongo de su lado me llaman "pelota".

Tenemos relaciones buenas entre nosotros. Cuando mi padre perdió su empleo el año pasado estaba muy abatido; pasaba mucho tiempo en casa viendo la tele, apenas hablaba con nadie. Mis hermanos y mi madre le dimos un apoyo fuerte durante los seis largos meses en que buscaba otro empleo, y al final consiguió un trabajo mejor que el anterior. De esta experiencia negativa sacamos fuerzas y nos dimos cuenta de que como familia estábamos más unidos que antes.

A. Read the article and make a vocab list below by doing the following:

- **highlight the words you don't know with a highlighter pen,**
- **make a separate list of these words below (put verbs in the infinitive)**
- **indicate what type of word they are verbs, nouns, adjectives or adverbs**
- **indicate the gender of nouns using el or la**
- **find the English translations on www.wordreference.com and write them down**
- **3 words have already been highlighted and used to start the list**

Spanish word	**Type of word**	**English translation**
el barrio	noun	neighbourhood
bastante	adjective	enough
conseguir	verb	to get
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

B. Answer the following questions in English

1 What does Iñaki's father do? _____

2 What kind of district does Iñaki live in? _____

3 When did the school open? _____

4 What do a lot of people dislike about the school? _____

5 What does Iñaki's mother say when her children do badly at school? _____

6 What does Iñaki quarrel about with his brother and sister? _____

7 What did the family do when their father lost his job? _____

8 What effect did the experience have on the family? _____

C. Write the correct form of the following verbs in the present tense in Spanish

Examples:

bailar (tú) **bailas**

cerrar (ellos) **cierran**

1. hablar (ellos) _____
2. comer (ella) _____
3. vivir (yo) _____
4. abrir (él) _____
5. cantar (nosotros) _____
6. vender (vosotras) _____
7. volver (tú) _____
8. dar (yo) _____
9. pedir (usted) _____
10. dormir (él) _____
11. hacer (yo) _____
12. ser (tú) _____
13. querer (ustedes) _____
14. conducir (yo) _____
15. empezar (ella) _____
16. seguir (ellos) _____
17. decir (yo) _____
18. lavarse (tú) _____
19. elegir (yo) _____
20. contribuir (él) _____