TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

HIGHER SPANISH

NATIONAL 6

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**HIGHER (National 6) - SOME GENERAL INFORMATION.**

1. **No student** can claim **not** to have any homework. Learning grammar and vocabulary are key elements of the course and must be done on a regular basis - as a matter of routine.

2. Regular homework is a key feature. It is to ensure your son/daughter's success. All homework should be completed for the deadlines given. Students should review the comments on their written work and discuss any matters with their class teacher.

3. There are six periods of Spanish per week. Although grammar points are covered as part of the overall course work, through the reading and listening materials, students will have a dedicated grammar period.

4. All students have been issued with:
   - Guidelines on the component parts of the course
   - A CD and a Listening & Writing homework pack.
   - Scholar passwords

5. All students will have a speaking examination at the end of February/beginning of March which will be recorded for verification purposes and SQA marking. It consists of a presentation on a topic chosen by the candidate (2 minutes in length) **and** a follow-up discussion with a speaker of the target language (4½ - 6 minutes), developing from the original topic and theme and continuing into at least one of the other prescribed themes. **The class teacher will record it to their mobile phone for learning.**

   **Pupils have been advised to start preparing for this exam NOW!**

   **Practice makes perfect!!!!**
General Information (continued)

6. For Higher candidates, it is important to have access to a decent Spanish – English dictionary, particularly for the exam.
7. All students should be using ‘Scholar’ as part of their coursework. This is a web based programme run by Heriot-Watt University and covers all the grammar elements of the course.
8. At present there are no commercial publications for Spanish SQA past papers at Higher. However, although some elements to the course have changed nevertheless, candidates are encouraged to download these from the SQA website.
9. All students must pass the prescribed elements of the course – Unit Assessments formerly known as NABS.
10. Following on from the success, of the National 5 book, it is hoped that an exclusive, similar book will be available shortly.
11. Weather permitting, the Higher prelims are scheduled to take place in January.
12. A specimen exam paper is available to download at: http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47909.html
13. Following on from the prelims, pupils will be advised on an individual basis on their performance.

How to determine grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>70% and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>60% – 69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>50% – 59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>45% – 49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Award</td>
<td>44% and below</td>
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Further information can be obtained from the National Qualifications website at www.ceq.org.uk/nq/
Higher Spanish Course Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the candidate must pass both component Units of the Course as well as the external assessment. External assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award. The Course assessment will be by means of a combination of internal assessment (externally verified) and external examination. The assessment will take the following form:

**Oral Assessment: Speaking**

Conducted internally and audio-recorded for external verification. It consists of a presentation (2 minutes long) followed by a conversation. Duration: six to eight minutes. **30 marks**

**Paper 1: Reading and Directed Writing - 1 hour 40 minutes**

**Section I — Reading**

Reading comprehension, involving written answers to questions in English (20 marks) and translation into English (10 marks). One passage of approximately 550–650 words will be set, related to the prescribed themes. A glossary may be provided and the use of a dictionary is permitted. There will be one question on the purpose of the text. (Inference /General Purpose Question).

- 20 marks will be for identifying and explaining significant aspects of detail.
- 10 marks will be for translating part of the text into English.
- It will make up 30% of the total grade. **30 marks.**

**Section II — Directed Writing**

Directed Writing task, based on a scenario given in English. Candidates will be required to provide specified information in a piece of writing from a choice of two scenarios. They must answer the relevant bullet points. 120–150 words.

The use of a dictionary is permitted. **10 marks**

**Duration:** one hour 40 minutes, of which approximately 80 minutes should be devoted to Section I and 30 minutes to Section II.
Paper 2 : Listening/Writing

Section A — Listening – 1 hour

Candidates will be required to listen to a monologue and conversation of 3-4.5 minutes duration, played twice, related to the prescribed themes, and make notes in response to questions in English. The content of the monologue and the conversation will be from the same context. The context for both parts will come from one of the following: society, learning, employability, and culture.

20 marks.

Section B — Writing

This follows on from the listening. Candidates will be required to write in the target language a personal response, based on the conversation they have heard in Section A. Length 120–150 words. The use of a dictionary is permitted.

10 marks.

Duration: 1 hour, of which approximately 20 minutes should be devoted to Section A and 40 minutes to Section B

Summary

Total marks for external assessment: 100

Total time for external assessment: two hours 40 minutes (excluding Speaking)
UNIT ASSESSMENTS (formerly known as NABS)

Modern Languages – Spanish : Understanding Language (Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop and extend reading and listening skills in the modern language, and to develop their knowledge and understanding of detailed and complex language in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture.

Modern Languages - Spanish: Using Language (Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop and extend talking and writing skills in the modern language, and to develop their knowledge and understanding of detailed and complex language in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture.

Developing skills through:

♦ reading, listening, talking and writing skills in a modern language in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture

♦ knowledge and understanding of detailed and complex language required to understand and use a modern language

♦ knowledge and understanding required to apply the language skills of translation

♦ applying grammatical knowledge and understanding

CANDIDATES MUST PASS THE UNIT ASSESSMENTS AND PERFORMANCE ELEMENT TO BE PRESENTED FOR NATIONAL 6 EXAM.
Advice for candidates to improve their reading skills

Reading Techniques - The Checklist

Introduction
The reading exam is based on one written text of approximately 550 – 650 words. You must have a sound basic knowledge of vocabulary and how the Spanish verb system works.

1. Skim read the passage first to get the gist of the text.
2. Do not panic if there are words you do not know or recognise.
3. Then look at the questions to develop your understanding of the text.
4. Underline/ mark/highlight the key words in the question.
5. Remember you are NOT asked to translate the passage but to find specific information relating to the question.
6. Check how many marks the question is worth.
7. If you have to use the dictionary, then make sure you write the meaning of any word you look up on your exam paper. This will save you time later if you have to go back to it.
8. Remember for verbs you have to look them up in the ‘infinitive’. In other words, you need to take off the verb ending and convert it back to its dictionary form. All Spanish verbs end in –ar, -er or –ir.
9. Similarly, nouns and adjectives must be looked up in their singular form.
10. In most reading passages, the questions and answers are in sequence. In other words, the answer to the first question is usually found at the beginning of the passage. There are exceptions so be careful.
11. Giving detail is important. At any level, one word answers will NOT do. You must provide much more information at Higher level even for one mark. Look out for words such as ‘además’ and ‘y’. These tell you that there is additional information to be given.
12. Use your dictionary sparingly. Too much time will be wasted if you refer constantly to your dictionary.
13. Do NOT look up words with capital letters unless they are at the beginning of a sentence. These are either people’s names, places or countries.
14. Manage your time. Do not spend too long on the one question.
15. You must attempt the translation part which is worth ten marks.
16. All questions should be answered in English only.
17. If you are unsure do NOT give alternative or additional answers. The examiner will ignore your answer. Be precise!!!!!
18. If you have any doubts over your answer or you just cannot find the answer, ensure that you highlight that question so you can go back to it towards the end of the exam.
19. There should be NO BLANKS in your answers. Always answer every question by making an ‘educated’ guess.
Advice for candidates to improve their listening skills

LISTENING TECHNIQUES Checklist.

“Bad habits are like a comfortable bed. Easy to get into and hard to get out of”.

1. Don’t panic. Listening exams are related to the topics you have covered in class.
2. Practice beforehand, particularly on the day. Studies in the USA demonstrated that on average, pupils who had been actively listening to Spanish, immediately prior to the exam did 15% better in their overall grade. Learning vocabulary is essential.
   Get your head ‘tuned into’ Spanish, don’t go into the exam hall ‘cold’.
3. Learn key words and phrases by saying them out loud. Go online and listen to the pronunciation of the vocabulary you have to learn.
4. Be positive. You already know a lot of Spanish already. Now you have to fill in the gaps in your knowledge by identifying the words you have to learn.
5. It may take you a while to learn the vocabulary depending on your current level. So do a few words EVERY night and get someone to test you.
6. The effort you put into learning vocabulary now will pay dividends later. You CAN do it!!!!!!!
7. Exam Techniques. As soon as you are told to do so, open the paper and read the questions. You are given two minutes to study the questions. This should help put yourself into context. Imagine yourself there. Make notes and UNDERLINE the key words Whilst reading the questions start predicting answers in your head.
8. At Higher Level you will hear the information twice:
   - Listen carefully the first time and take notes.
   - On the second hearing, write down your answer.
9. If you are unsure of an answer, mark the question in some way so that you can go back to it. E.g. circle the question number; mark an asterisk next to it.
10. The elimination process. If you are struggling to come up with an answer, try and work out what you know it is not.
11. Remember to try and write down the words that you think you hear USING the Spanish pronunciation rules. It is amazing how many pupils recognise a word after they have written it.
12. If you need to make any notes, put them at the side and make sure you cross them out later so as not to confuse the examiner.
13. Check how much each question is worth. 3 marks usually equals 3 points.
14. The Short Writing is based on the listening passage. It is important that you have a strategy to make sure you can write accurately about the topic. You should have prepared a general introduction and structure in advance.
15. Higher candidates are allowed the use of a dictionary. Use it wisely.
Spanish websites

These are suggestions. Additional websites can be found in the Department’s National 5 Book

Search engines
http://es.yahoo.com
www.google.es
www.lycos.es
http://terra.es/

Media sites
www.elmundo.es
El Mundo newspaper site
www.elpais.es
El País newspaper site
www.20minutos.es
News site
News in Spanish on BBC website (good for Latin American news)
http://es.news.yahoo.com/novedades
News from Yahoo
http://www.rtve.es/
Spanish TV and radio
www.mtv.es
Spanish MTV
www.cadena100.es
Spanish music radio station

Other Spanish sites
http://spanish.about.com
Links, forums, grammar etc
http://www.brighton.ac.uk/languages/recursos/index.html
Links to hundreds of good quality sites around the world, with brief comments in English on each site
www.wanadoo.es
Web guide
www.zut.org.uk
A site that contains online interactive activities organised by language and year group
www.mflgames.co.uk
Interactive games in Spanish and French
http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/
Interactive resources: grammar, vocabulary and topic based tasks
www.studyspanish.com
Online lessons, quizzes and tests, audio drills with native speakers (6th form)
www.realspanish.net
Free resources for teachers and learners of Spanish
www.donquijote.org/pdd
Lessons, games, word of day, verb conjugator, jokes, song lyrics, sayings
www.rincóndelvago
Study help site for Spanish students (6th form)
www.eltimon.com/horoscopos
Horoscopes in Spanish
http://www.spain.info/TourSpain/?Language=es
Plan your Spanish rail journeys
http://www.elhuevodechocolate.com/cuentos.htm
http://www.storyplace.org/sp/storyplace.asp
Fairytales and stories for children
http://cela-ve.com/test.mv
Venezuelan language school with online lessons and quizzes for students of Spanish
www.ihmadrid.com/comunicativo
Language resources from International House in Madrid

Useful Links
- www.essex.ac.uk/lang/span/socsp
- www.spanish.about.com
- www.studyspanish.com
- www.yahoo.es
- www.spanishlanguage.co.uk
- www.nacell.org.uk (National Advisory centre on Early Language Learning)
- www.globalgateway.org.uk
- www.linguanet.org.uk
- www.WordReference_com.htm
- www.20minutos.es
- www.mec.es (Consejería de Educación)
- www.es.wikipedia

Newspapers
- libraries.mit.edu/guides/types/flnews/spanish
- broadcast-live.com/newspapers/newspapers
- www.Mediatico.com
- BBC Mundo
- www.diariosur.es
- Primeras Noticias – el Periódico Juvenil
- www.educard.net - relates to the above
  www.el país.es
  www.elmundo.es
Radio
- rne.es Radio Nacional de España
- Radio 1 es la radio generalista de RNE. Sus programas llegan a todos los públicos. Noticias, entretenimiento, cultura, deportes...
- Radio 3 es la radio más joven, la preocupada por los temas de la juventud. Música, cine, teatro, libros, debates...
- Radio 5 es la radio dedicada al mundo de la actualidad, con noticias durante las 24 horas del día, todos los días del año.
- Radio Exterior de España (REE) es la voz de RNE en el exterior, la que difunde la cultura y la que acerca a los pueblos.
- Mediatico.com

Television
- Vía satélite
- broadcast-live.com/television/spanish.html
- Free direct online television (quality variable depending on equipment) via medinalia
- rtve.es
- www.eurotv.com
- www.antena3tv.com

Grammar Websites
- www.bbc.co.uk/education/languages/spanish/
- www.languagesonline.org.uk
- www.realspanish.net