



Language Learning Scotland

HIGHER SPANISH

ASSIGNMENT GUIDE

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OVERVIEW

Similar to the assignment at National 5, you will complete a piece of writing during class time, based on a given context. This should be in the format of a short discursive essay, ranging approximately between 200-250 words.

Due to the discursive nature of the assignment, it is important that you can develop clear and well structured points. This gives you a great opportunity to demonstrate your ability to use detailed language while covering various different ideas and viewpoints.

Although you can prepare for your assignment and may be given example prompts to write practice essays from, you will see the exact stimulus that you will be writing under exam conditions until the day of your first write-up.

After writing your first attempt, your essay will be marked by your teacher before you are given a second chance to correct any of the mistakes indicated by your teacher.

The writing assignment is worth 12.5% of your overall grade for Higher Spanish.

STRUCTURE

There are a few different approaches that you can take in regard to structuring your essay, but these few suggestions will make it not only easier for you to write, but also for the marker to read.

- Clearly state your points.
- Further develop points with extra information.
- Ensure that your personal opinion is clearly stated somewhere in your piece of writing.
- Focus on fully addressing the title.
- Use paragraphs to separate ideas.
- Try to link your paragraphs if possible, so that your essay flows nicely.
- If possible, incorporate a variety of tenses into your work, even if it is only for short phrases or sentences.

Below is an example structure:

Introduction - outline what you will be writing about, in relation to your title.

Personal opinion - using detailed language, this is where you should express your own thoughts on the subject.

Main body - a couple of short paragraphs here covering different points in relation to your topic. As this is a discursive style essay, you should cover arguments both 'for' and 'against'.

Conclusion - summarise what you have already written and relate it back to your title.

This is not the only way to structure your essay and your teacher may suggest alternatives - just make sure that regardless of what structure you choose to follow, that your writing is organised and easy to follow.

VOCABULARY

In your writing assignment it is very important to demonstrate a range of complex vocabulary - especially of a discursive nature. This can also be a good opportunity to try using some idiomatic expressions as these will really make your writing stand out if used correctly.

Aunque - although

Se debate con frecuencia - it is often debated

Por lo general - in general

El primer problema - the first problem

Dicho eso - having said that

En lugar de - instead of

Al fin y al cabo - after all/at the end of the day

Por otro lado - on the other hand

Nos hace pensar - it makes us think

Por ejemplo - for example

Merece/vale la pena - to be worthwhile/worth it

Para empezar - to begin with

Sin embargo - nevertheless

Hay que tomar en cuenta - you have to take into account

A causa de - because of

En conclusión - in conclusion

Finalmente - finally

Para concluir - to conclude

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