

GCSE Spanish 2026 Speaking Exam – Grade 9 Pack



A comprehensive guide to achieving a Grade 9 in your GCSE Spanish speaking exam, with detailed strategies, vocabulary, and grammatical structures to help you excel.

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 **by Flavia's Language Academia**

Speaking Exam Structure



The speaking exam has three parts:

- Role Play: You respond to questions in a given situation.
- Photo Card: You describe a photo and answer follow-up questions.
- General Conversation: You answer questions on two themes.

To reach a **Grade 9**, you need to:

- Use **at least 3 tenses correctly** (past, present, future)
- Include **complex and justified opinions**
- Use **ambitious and topic-specific vocabulary**
- Speak **fluently, naturally and with confidence**
- Include **idioms, connectives and varied sentence structures**
- Use **subjunctive and conditional structures** appropriately

Complex and Justified Opinions



Grade 9 students are expected to express detailed, layered opinions with justification using a range of **connectors**, **reasons**, and **subordinate clauses**.

Core structure:

Opinion + connector + reason (+ extra detail)

Examples:

Spanish	English
Me encanta viajar porque me permite descubrir culturas nuevas.	I love travelling because it allows me to discover new cultures.
Odio levantarme temprano ya que me cuesta mucho despertarme.	I hate waking up early since I find it hard to get up.
Prefiero estudiar por la tarde dado que por la mañana no tengo energía.	I prefer studying in the afternoon as I have no energy in the morning.

Advanced justification with subordinate clauses:

Spanish	English
Me gusta leer libros históricos porque me interesa entender cómo vivía la gente en el pasado.	I like reading historical books because I'm interested in understanding how people lived in the past.

Use a variety of connectors:

- porque, ya que, dado que = because/since
- sin embargo = however
- aunque = although
- por eso = that's why
- mientras que = whereas

Topic-Specific and Sophisticated Vocabulary



You must use **precise and ambitious vocabulary** that is relevant to each theme. Below is a selection of advanced phrases and expressions across key GCSE topics:



Technology in Everyday Life

Paso demasiado tiempo pegado a la pantalla. (*I spend too much time glued to the screen.*)

La tecnología facilita la comunicación, pero también puede causar problemas de salud mental. (*Technology makes communication easier but can also cause mental health problems.*)



Free Time and Hobbies

Me apasiona la música en directo porque transmite emociones reales. (*I'm passionate about live music because it conveys real emotions.*)

En mi tiempo libre suelo practicar el senderismo en las montañas. (*In my free time, I usually go hiking in the mountains.*)



Customs, Traditions, and Festivals

Las Fallas en Valencia son espectaculares y reúnen a muchas personas. (*Las Fallas in Valencia are spectacular and bring many people together.*)

Me interesa aprender sobre las costumbres de otras culturas. (*I'm interested in learning about customs from other cultures.*)



School and Education

El sistema educativo puede ser estresante debido a la presión de los exámenes. (*The education system can be stressful due to exam pressure.*)

Mi asignatura favorita es la historia porque me ayuda a entender el mundo actual. (*My favourite subject is history because it helps me understand today's world.*)



Home and Local Area

Vivo en un barrio tranquilo rodeado de zonas verdes. (*I live in a quiet neighbourhood surrounded by green areas.*)

Mi casa ideal estaría cerca del mar y tendría un jardín enorme. (*My ideal house would be near the sea and would have a huge garden.*)

More Topic-Specific Vocabulary



Social and Global Issues

Es esencial luchar contra el cambio climático antes de que sea demasiado tarde. *(It's essential to fight climate change before it's too late.)*

La pobreza afecta a millones de personas en el mundo. *(Poverty affects millions of people in the world.)*



Healthy Living and Lifestyle

Llevo una dieta equilibrada y hago ejercicio cinco veces por semana. *(I follow a balanced diet and exercise five times a week.)*

El estrés puede tener consecuencias negativas para la salud física y mental. *(Stress can have negative consequences for physical and mental health.)*



Jobs, Career and Future Plans

Quiero estudiar medicina porque me interesa ayudar a los demás. *(I want to study medicine because I'm interested in helping others.)*

En el futuro, espero trabajar en el extranjero y adquirir experiencia internacional. *(In the future, I hope to work abroad and gain international experience.)*



Travel and Tourism

Prefiero viajar en avión aunque a veces sea estresante. *(I prefer travelling by plane even though it can be stressful.)*

Visité un lugar impresionante que tenía vistas al mar. *(I visited an impressive place with sea views.)*



Environment

Reciclo vidrio y plástico para cuidar el medio ambiente. *(I recycle glass and plastic to care for the environment.)*

Es importante reducir la huella de carbono. *(It's important to reduce the carbon footprint.)*

Use powerful adjectives:

- impresionante = impressive
- entretenido = entertaining
- agotador = exhausting
- enriquecedor = enriching
- impactante = striking/shocking

Time Markers & Multiple Tenses



Time Markers & Sequencing for Narrative Flow

Use time phrases and sequencing words to give structure and clarity to your answers.

Present:

- normalmente = normally
- suelo + infinitive = I usually...

Past:

- el año pasado = last year
- hace dos semanas = two weeks ago
- cuando era pequeño/a = when I was little

Future/Conditional:

- mañana = tomorrow
- el próximo verano = next summer
- si pudiera = if I could

Sequencing:

- primero = firstly
- luego = then
- después = after
- por último = finally

Example: El año pasado fui a España. Primero visité Barcelona, luego fui a Madrid y por último pasé dos días en Valencia. (Last year I went to Spain. First I visited Barcelona, then I went to Madrid and finally I spent two days in Valencia.)

Use of Multiple Tenses

Grade 9 students use a **range of tenses** confidently:

- **Present:** estudio, hago, tengo
- **Preterite:** fui, comí, visité
- **Imperfect:** solía, era, jugaba
- **Future:** voy a + infinitive, estudiaré, viajaré
- **Conditional:** me gustaría, sería, tendría

Example with 3 tenses:

Normalmente estudio en casa (present), pero la semana pasada estudié en la biblioteca (preterite). Mañana voy a repasar con mis amigos (near future).

Complex Sentences & Subjunctive



Grade 9 answers must include complex grammatical structures like **subordinate clauses**, **if clauses**, **relative clauses**, and the **subjunctive mood**.

Examples:

Spanish	English
Si tuviera más tiempo, me gustaría aprender otro idioma.	If I had more time, I would like to learn another language.
Es importante que estudiemos todos los días.	It's important that we study every day.
Cuando era pequeño, soñaba con ser astronauta.	When I was little, I dreamed of being an astronaut.

Useful subjunctive triggers:

- es importante que... = it's important that...
- quiero que... = I want that...
- ojalá que... = I hope that...

Idioms and Natural Expressions

Idioms help you sound like a native speaker and impress the examiner.

Examples:

Spanish	English
Estar en las nubes	To have your head in the clouds
No tener pelos en la lengua	To be very direct / not mince words
Ser pan comido	To be a piece of cake
Costar un ojo de la cara	To cost an arm and a leg
Me lo pasé bomba	I had a great time

Tip: Learn 3–5 idioms and practise including them naturally.

Grade 9 Speaking Skills Checklist



Use this checklist as your **speaking revision tracker**:

3+ tenses in answers

Ensure you use at least three different tenses in your responses, such as present, preterite, imperfect, future, and conditional.

Complex opinions with justifications

Express detailed opinions using connectors like porque, ya que, dado que, and include subordinate clauses for advanced justification.

Topic-specific vocabulary

Use precise and ambitious vocabulary relevant to each theme, including powerful adjectives like impresionante, entretenido, and agotador.

Time markers and sequencing

Structure your answers with time phrases and sequencing words like primero, luego, después, and por último.

Subjunctive and conditional sentences

Include complex grammatical structures such as si tuviera más tiempo, es importante que estudiemos, and ojalá que.

Idiomatic expressions

Incorporate natural Spanish idioms like estar en las nubes, ser pan comido, and me lo pasé bomba.

Fluency and confidence in speaking

Practice regularly to develop natural flow and confidence when speaking Spanish.