



10 Essential Tips to Get a Grade 9 in GCSE Spanish

AQA Specification 2026 • Quick Grade-9 checklist

Created by Flavia's Language Academia — Native Spanish Teacher • GCSE Specialist

Use this guide as your daily reminder: upgrade your grammar, link ideas, and develop answers — especially in Speaking and Writing.

Ready for the next step?

Grab my FREE sentence starters + Grade-9 connectors (link in bio / lead page).

AQA Specification 2026

1

Master all the key tenses

Be confident using at least 6 tenses:

- Present (hablo – I speak)
- Preterite (hablé – I spoke)
- Imperfect (hablaba – I used to speak)
- Future (hablaré – I will speak)
- Conditional (hablaría – I would speak)
- Present subjunctive (aunque hable – even if I speak)

Tip: Create a verb table for each tense and practise forming regular and irregular verbs daily.

2

Use grade-boosting connectives

Show complexity by linking ideas with a range of connectors:

- además (furthermore)
- sin embargo (however)
- por un lado / por otro lado (on the one hand / on the other hand)
- dado que / ya que (since / because)
- a pesar de que (despite the fact that)

Tip: Memorise 10 powerful connectors and use at least 3 in every answer.

3

Include idiomatic expressions

Idioms give your language natural flair. Try:

- estar en las nubes – to be daydreaming
- no tener pelos en la lengua – to speak your mind
- vale la pena – it's worth it

Tip: Learn 1 idiom per topic and practise using it in writing and speaking.

AQA Specification 2026

4

Justify your opinions fully

Don't just say what you like — say why, using varied opinions:

- me encanta + infinitive + porque...
- prefiero... dado que...
- me interesa... ya que...

Tip: Use structures like “Lo bueno es que...” (The good thing is that...) for higher marks.

5

Learn topic-specific vocabulary

Cover all AQA themes with key vocab:

- School • Holidays • Technology • Social issues • Environment • Future plans

Tip: Make flashcards (or Quizlet) and practise 15 new words a day.

6

Practise role plays & photo cards strategically

Follow a simple formula:

- Greet politely
- Use formal/informal appropriately
- Give full answers with opinions and reasons

Tip: Anticipate the “surprise question” by revising starters like ¿Qué opinas de...?

7

Use complex sentence structures

Impress examiners with patterns like:

- Si + present + future (Si estudio, aprobaré.)
- Cuando + subjunctive (Cuando termine el cole, espero viajar.)
- Después de + infinitive (Después de hacer mis deberes...)

Tip: Practise rewriting simple sentences using these advanced structures.

AQA Specification 2026

8

Develop a speaking routine

Speak Spanish out loud daily:

- Record answers to sample questions
- Practise with a partner / teacher / tutor
- Mimic native pronunciation

Tip: Use voice apps to compare your pronunciation with native speakers.

9

Do timed practice with exam-style questions

Use past papers under timed conditions, especially for:

- Listening and Reading comprehension
- Translation tasks
- Writing (90-word and 150-word answers)

Tip: Highlight key words in questions and plan your answers before writing.

10

Know the mark schemes & what examiners want

Understand what gets top marks:

- Variety and accuracy of language
- Clear communication
- Appropriate and detailed content
- Accurate verb forms and spellings

Tip: Download AQA mark schemes and annotate model answers to see what earns a Grade 9.