

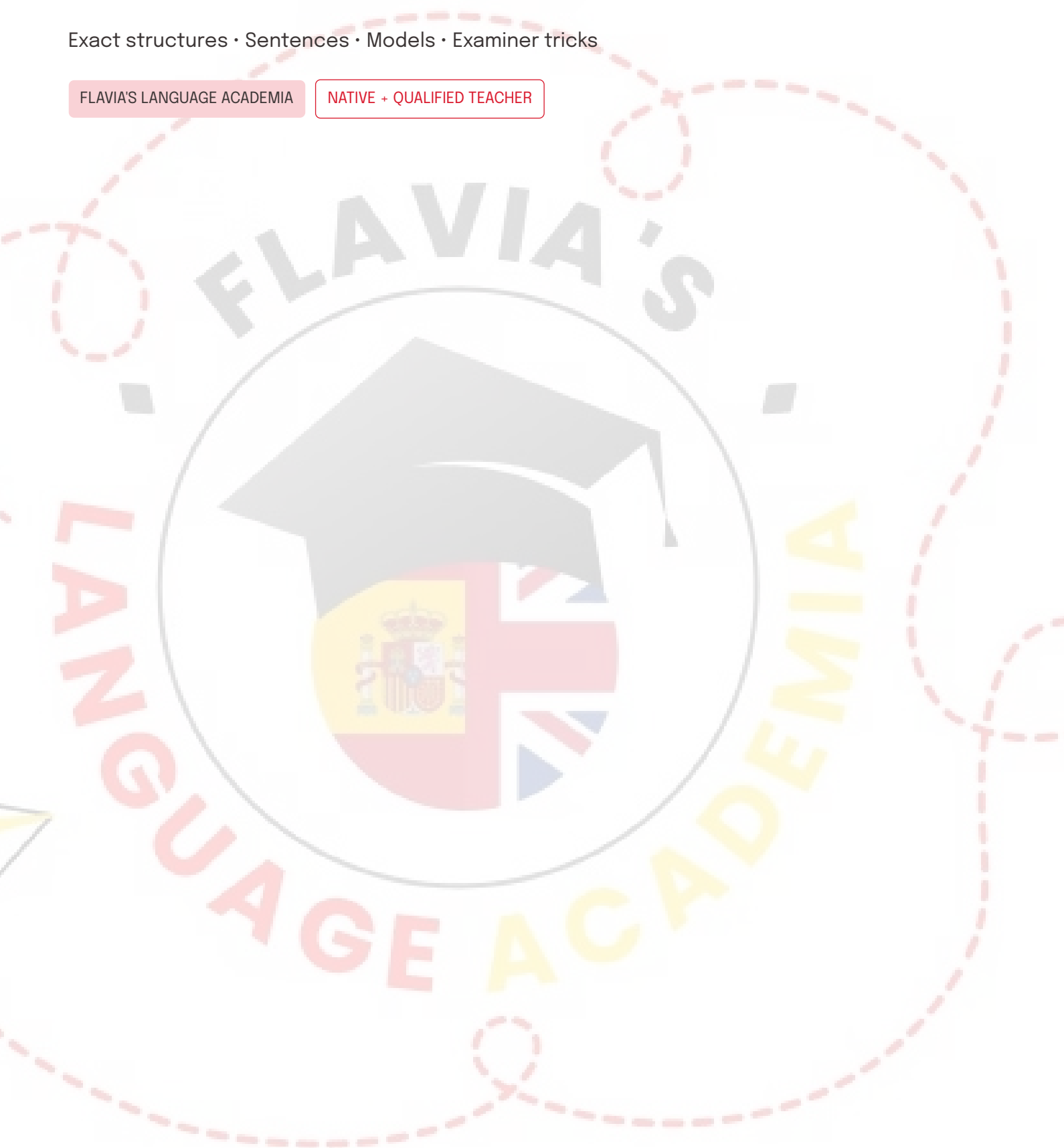
GCSE Spanish Grade 9 Writing Pack

2026 Higher Tier Success Kit

Exact structures • Sentences • Models • Examiner tricks

FLAVIA'S LANGUAGE ACADEMIA

NATIVE + QUALIFIED TEACHER



Why students lose marks in Writing

Most students struggle with:

- Translating word by word from English
- Repeating "porque" over and over
- Forgetting to use past and future tenses
- Writing only 60-80 words instead of the full requirement
- Panicking under exam pressure

So even **GOOD Spanish students** end up with Grade 5-6 when they're capable of much more.

What this pack gives you

- Ready-made sentences you can memorise and adapt
- Easy paragraph structures that work every time
- High-grade phrases that impress examiners
- Model answers for every GCSE topic
- A foolproof checklist so you never forget tenses

The formula is simple: Memorise the structures, adapt them to any question, and succeed in your exam.

The 90-Word Structure (Grade 7+)



Write enough detail

Aim for substance, not just word count



Use present + past + future

Three tenses minimum for Grade 7



Give opinions

Show what you think and feel



Justify everything

Never leave an opinion unexplained

The 90-word question typically appears in **Question 2 or Question 3** of your writing exam. It's worth approximately 16 marks and is your opportunity to demonstrate that you can write coherently across multiple tenses whilst expressing and justifying opinions. Many students treat this as a simple list of facts, but examiners are looking for **connected, flowing writing** that shows linguistic maturity. The key is to follow a logical structure that naturally incorporates all the required elements. If you write fewer than 90 words, you risk losing marks for content. If you write significantly more, you may run out of time for the 150-word question. The sweet spot is typically 95–110 words, giving you enough space to show off your Spanish whilst staying focused and concise.

Do this consistently = **Grade 7+**

The 90-Word Formula (MEMORISE THIS)

01

Present tense

What you normally do or what usually happens

02

Past tense

What you did (last week, last year, when you were younger)

03

Future tense

What you're going to do (next week, next year, in the future)

04

Opinion + reason

What you think and why you think it

05

Extra detail + conclusion

Add one more supporting idea and wrap it up

Follow this order every single time. It becomes automatic after practice, and you'll never panic about what to write next. This structure works for *any* 90-word question, regardless of the topic.

Sentence Starters (Spanish + English)

These sentence starters are your **safety net** in the exam. When you're unsure how to begin a paragraph or transition between ideas, reach for one of these. They're versatile, appropriate for formal writing, and signal to the examiner that you understand how to structure extended writing in Spanish. Memorise them until they become second nature.

Para empezar...

To start with...

Normalmente...

Normally...

El año pasado...

Last year...

El próximo año voy a...

Next year I am going to...

Además...

Furthermore...

En general, creo que...

Overall, I think that...

Fill-in Template (EXAM SAFE)

This is your **emergency template** for the exam. If your mind goes blank, simply fill in the gaps with vocabulary relevant to the question. It guarantees you'll hit all the required elements and gives you a solid Grade 7 baseline. The beauty of this template is its flexibility—you can adapt it to absolutely any topic, from hobbies to holidays to health.

Copy and adapt:

Para empezar, normalmente [present activity].

To start with, I normally...

El año pasado [past], **lo cual fue** [opinion].

Last year I... which was...

El próximo año voy a [future] **porque** [reason].

Next year I am going to... because...

Además, [extra detail].

Furthermore...

En general, creo que [final opinion].

Overall, I think...

Pro tip: Write out this template on a flashcard and practise filling it in with different topics. Time yourself—can you complete a 90-word answer in 15 minutes? That's your target speed for the real exam.

90-Word Model Answer

Tema: Tiempo libre (Free time)

Spanish:

Normalmente juego al fútbol con mis amigos después del instituto porque es divertido y saludable. El año pasado participé en un torneo y ganamos, lo cual fue increíble. El próximo verano voy a apuntarme a un gimnasio para estar más en forma. Además, escucho música cuando descanso. En general, creo que el deporte es esencial ya que reduce el estrés.

English:

Normally I play football with my friends after school because it is fun and healthy. Last year I took part in a tournament and we won, which was incredible. Next summer I am going to join a gym to get fitter. Furthermore, I listen to music when I relax. Overall, I think sport is essential as it reduces stress.

Word count:
95

Tenses: 3
(present,
preterite,
future)

Opinions: 3
(divertido,
increíble,
esencial)

Connectors: 4
(porque, lo
cual, además,
ya que)

Notice how this answer **flows naturally** from one idea to the next. It's not a list of disconnected sentences—each point builds on the previous one. The opinions are justified (fun *and* healthy, incredible because we won, essential because it reduces stress). This is exactly what examiners want to see. Study this structure, then try writing your own version about a different hobby or activity.

The 150-Word Structure (Grade 8–9)

The 150-word question is where **Grade 8–9 students distinguish themselves**. This is typically Question 4 or Question 5 in your exam, worth around 32 marks, and it requires not just accuracy but sophistication. Examiners aren't impressed by long, rambling sentences full of errors. They want to see **smart, varied, ambitious writing** that demonstrates genuine linguistic competence.



3–4 tenses

Mix present, past, future, and conditional or imperfect



Opinions justified

Never state an opinion without explaining why



Complex sentences

Use subordinate clauses, not just simple statements



Variety

Don't repeat the same sentence structure or vocabulary



Ambitious vocabulary

Go beyond basic words—use synonyms and idioms

Remember: **NOT long sentences. SMART sentences.** A Grade 9 answer isn't necessarily longer—it's more sophisticated in its language and structure.

The Grade 9 Paragraph Plan

1

Present

What normally happens or what you usually do



Past

A specific experience or what you used to do



Future or conditional

Plans or hypothetical situations



Opinions + contrast

What you think, with a counter-argument or balanced view



Strong conclusion

Wrap up with a final thought or hope for the future

Memorise this order. For a 150-word answer, you might write 2–3 sentences per section. The key is *balance*—don't spend 100 words on the past and then rush the future. Plan your time and word count carefully.

Grade 9 Power Phrases

These phrases are **Grade 9 gold dust**. Each one signals to the examiner that you're operating at a sophisticated level. They show you can express nuanced opinions, make comparisons, discuss hypothetical situations, and structure complex arguments. Don't try to use all of them in one answer—choose 2–3 that fit naturally with your content.



Desde mi punto de vista...

From my point of view...



Sin embargo...

However...



Por una parte... por otra parte...

On one hand... on the other hand...



Si tuviera más tiempo...

If I had more time...



Me gustaría que...

I would like that...



Ojalá pudiera...

I wish I could...



Lo mejor fue...

The best thing was...

FULL 150-Word Grade 9 Model

Tema: Vacaciones (Holidays)

Spanish:

El verano pasado fui a España con mi familia y nos alojamos en un hotel cerca de la playa. Todos los días nadábamos y probábamos comida típica, lo cual fue inolvidable. Normalmente prefiero viajar al extranjero porque me permite descubrir otras culturas; sin embargo, a veces es caro. El próximo año voy a trabajar para ahorrar dinero. Si tuviera más tiempo, viajaría por América Latina. Desde mi punto de vista, viajar es fundamental ya que amplía la mente. En conclusión, espero repetir la experiencia pronto.

English:

Last summer I went to Spain with my family and we stayed in a hotel near the beach. Every day we swam and tried typical food, which was unforgettable. Normally I prefer travelling abroad because it allows me to discover other cultures; however, it is sometimes expensive. Next year I am going to work to save money. If I had more time, I would travel around Latin America. From my point of view, travelling is essential as it broadens the mind. In conclusion, I hope to repeat the experience soon.

150

Words

Exactly the target
length

4

Tenses

Preterite, present,
future, conditional

6

Connectors

lo cual, porque, sin
embargo, ya que, en
conclusión

3

Grade 9 phrases

Si tuviera, desde mi
punto de vista, en
conclusión

Study how this answer **balances simplicity with sophistication**. The sentences aren't overly long or convoluted, but they contain complex structures (subordinate clauses, conditional tense, justified opinions). This is the sweet spot for Grade 9 writing.

High-Grade Language Bank

Stop saying "porque"

Upgrade your Spanish

- **porque** → because
- **ya que** → since
- **puesto que** → given that
- **debido a** → due to
- **gracias a** → thanks to

Using synonyms shows linguistic range and maturity.

Top Connectors

- **Además** – furthermore
- **Sin embargo** – however
- **Aunque** – although
- **Mientras que** – whereas
- **Por eso** – therefore
- **Por lo tanto** – consequently
- **Para terminar** – to finish
- **Como conclusión** – in conclusion

Idioms (GRADE BOOSTERS)

- **Me lo pasé bomba** → I had an amazing time
- **Vale la pena** → It's worth it
- **Tengo ganas de** → I feel like
- **Acabo de + infinitive** → I have just
- **Solía + infinitive** → I used to
- **No soporto** → I can't stand

Examiners LOVE these.

Final Exam Checklist

Before You Submit - Check These!

- ☐ Present tense used
- ☐ Preterite tense used
- ☐ Imperfect tense used (for Grade 8-9)
- ☐ Future tense used
- ☐ Conditional tense used (for Grade 8-9)
- ☐ At least 2-3 opinions expressed
- ☐ Opinions justified with reasons
- ☐ Connectors used (porque, ya que, además, sin embargo, etc.)
- ☐ At least one idiom or advanced phrase
- ☐ Word count met (90 or 150 words)
- ☐ Spelling and accents checked

If you can tick all these boxes → Grade 8-9 level

Topic Model Paragraphs

This section is where the pack becomes truly invaluable. Instead of wondering how to adapt generic templates to specific exam topics, you'll have **ready-made model paragraphs** for all the major GCSE themes. These models follow the same structural principles you've learnt—present, past, future, opinions, connectors—but they're tailored to each topic with relevant vocabulary and authentic phrasing. Parents and teachers particularly appreciate this section because it gives students **concrete examples** to study, memorise, and adapt. You're not starting from scratch—you're building on proven foundations. Each model demonstrates exactly how to incorporate high-grade language naturally into topic-specific writing.

The following cards break down key GCSE topics with visual examples, essential vocabulary, and full model paragraphs in both Spanish and English. Use these as your revision toolkit in the weeks leading up to your exam. Read them aloud, copy them out by hand, test yourself on the vocabulary, and practise writing your own variations.

Pro revision strategy: Choose one topic per day. Read the model paragraph carefully, identify the tenses and connectors used, then close the book and try to recreate a similar paragraph from memory. Check your work against the model and note any mistakes. This active recall technique is far more effective than passive reading.

Free Time & Hobbies



Key vocabulary

- **el ocio** – free time
- **quedar con amigos** – to meet friends
- **entrenar** – to train
- **relajarse** – to relax
- **tocar un instrumento** – to play an instrument
- **pasear** – to go for a walk

Model paragraph (Spanish):

En mi tiempo libre, me gusta quedar con mis amigos porque es divertido y me ayuda a relajarme después del instituto. El mes pasado fuimos al cine y vimos una película de acción, lo cual fue emocionante. Normalmente prefiero hacer deporte ya que me mantiene en forma. El próximo fin de semana voy a entrenar con mi equipo de baloncesto. Si tuviera más tiempo libre, aprendería a tocar la guitarra. Desde mi punto de vista, tener pasatiempos es esencial para reducir el estrés.

Model paragraph (English):

In my free time, I like to meet up with my friends because it's fun and helps me relax after school. Last month we went to the cinema and watched an action film, which was exciting. Normally I prefer doing sport as it keeps me fit. Next weekend I'm going to train with my basketball team. If I had more free time, I would learn to play the guitar. From my point of view, having hobbies is essential for reducing stress.

School



Key vocabulary

- **las asignaturas** – subjects
- **aprobar** – to pass
- **suspender** – to fail
- **las normas** – rules
- **el uniforme** – uniform
- **las prácticas laborales** – work experience
- **el profesorado** – teaching staff

Model paragraph (Spanish):

Mi asignatura favorita es la biología porque me fascina la ciencia y quiero ser médico en el futuro. El año pasado hice mis prácticas laborales en un hospital, lo cual fue muy útil e interesante. Normalmente tengo mucha tarea y a veces me resulta estresante. El próximo año voy a elegir ciencias para mis A-levels. Sin embargo, no me gustan las normas estrictas de mi instituto, sobre todo llevar uniforme. En general, creo que la educación es importante ya que abre muchas puertas.

Model paragraph (English):

My favourite subject is biology because science fascinates me and I want to be a doctor in the future. Last year I did my work experience in a hospital, which was very useful and interesting. Normally I have a lot of homework and sometimes I find it stressful. Next year I'm going to choose sciences for my A-levels. However, I don't like the strict rules at my school, especially wearing uniform. Overall, I think education is important as it opens many doors.

Holidays



Key vocabulary

- **el tiempo** - weather
- **el transporte** - transport
- **alojarse** - to stay
- **el hotel** - hotel
- **hacer turismo** - to go sightseeing
- **tomar el sol** - to sunbathe
- **el vuelo** - flight

Model paragraph (Spanish):

El verano pasado viajé a Italia con mi familia y nos alojamos en un hotel cerca de la costa. Hizo buen tiempo y cada día nadábamos en el mar y hacíamos turismo por las ciudades históricas, lo cual fue inolvidable. Normalmente prefiero las vacaciones activas porque me aburro en la playa todo el día. El próximo verano voy a ir a Francia para mejorar mi francés. Si pudiera, viajaría por todo el mundo. Desde mi punto de vista, viajar es fundamental ya que amplía nuestros horizontes culturales.

Model paragraph (English):

Last summer I travelled to Italy with my family and we stayed in a hotel near the coast. The weather was good and every day we swam in the sea and went sightseeing around the historic cities, which was unforgettable. Normally I prefer active holidays because I get bored on the beach all day. Next summer I'm going to go to France to improve my French. If I could, I would travel around the whole world. From my point of view, travelling is essential as it broadens our cultural horizons.

Family & Relationships

Key vocabulary

- **la familia** – family
- **me llevo bien con** – I get on well with
- **mis padres** – my parents
- **mis hermanos/as** – my siblings
- **mis abuelos/as** – my grandparents
- **apoyar** – to support
- **discutir** – to argue
- **la relación** – relationship
- **quedar con amigos** – to meet friends
- **pasar tiempo juntos** – to spend time together

90-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

En mi familia somos cuatro personas y me llevo muy bien con todos. Normalmente cenamos juntos y hablamos de nuestro día, lo cual es agradable. El fin de semana pasado visité a mis abuelos y me divertí mucho con ellos. El próximo mes vamos a celebrar el cumpleaños de mi hermana. Además, siempre me apoyan cuando tengo problemas. En general, creo que la familia es muy importante porque nunca te abandona.

English:

In my family there are four people and I get on very well with everyone. We normally have dinner together and talk about our day, which is pleasant. Last weekend I visited my grandparents and I had a great time with them. Next month we are going to celebrate my sister's birthday. Furthermore, they always support me when I have problems. Overall, I think family is very important because they never abandon you.

Family & Relationships (150 words)

150-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

Desde mi punto de vista, la familia es una parte fundamental de mi vida. Normalmente paso mucho tiempo con mis padres y mis hermanos, ya que nos llevamos de maravilla. El año pasado hicimos un viaje juntos y fortalecimos nuestra relación, lo cual fue muy especial. Aunque a veces discutimos por cosas pequeñas, siempre resolvemos los problemas hablando. El próximo año me gustaría organizar más actividades familiares. Si tuviera más tiempo, ayudaría más en casa. Además, puedo contar con mis amigos cuando lo necesito. En conclusión, las buenas relaciones nos hacen más felices.

English:

From my point of view, family is a fundamental part of my life. I normally spend a lot of time with my parents and siblings since we get on wonderfully. Last year we went on a trip together and strengthened our relationship, which was very special. Although we sometimes argue about small things, we always solve problems by talking. Next year I would like to organise more family activities. If I had more time, I would help more at home. Furthermore, I can rely on my friends when I need them. In conclusion, good relationships make us happier.

Health & Lifestyle

Key vocabulary

- **el estilo de vida sano** – healthy lifestyle
- **comer sano** – to eat healthily
- **hacer ejercicio** – to exercise
- **mantenerse en forma** – to keep fit
- **la dieta equilibrada** – balanced diet
- **la comida basura** – junk food
- **el bienestar** – well-being
- **el estrés** – stress
- **relajarse** – to relax
- **dormir ocho horas** – to sleep eight hours
- **la salud mental** – mental health

90-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

Intento llevar una vida sana todos los días. Normalmente como fruta y verduras y bebo mucha agua. Después del instituto hago ejercicio en el parque con mis amigos. El año pasado dejé de comer comida rápida y me sentí mejor. El próximo mes voy a apuntarme a un gimnasio para estar más en forma. Además, duermo ocho horas cada noche. En general, creo que la salud es lo más importante.

English:

I try to lead a healthy life every day. I normally eat fruit and vegetables and drink a lot of water. After school I exercise in the park with my friends. Last year I stopped eating fast food and I felt better. Next month I am going to join a gym to get fitter. Furthermore, I sleep eight eight hours every night. Overall, I think health is the most important thing.

Health & Lifestyle (150 words)

150-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

En mi opinión, mantener un estilo de vida saludable es esencial para sentirse bien. Normalmente sigo una dieta equilibrada y hago ejercicio tres veces por semana, ya que quiero estar en forma. El año pasado participé en una carrera solidaria y fue una experiencia muy motivadora. Sin embargo, a veces como demasiados dulces, lo cual no es ideal. El próximo año voy a cambiar mis hábitos y cocinar más en casa. Si tuviera más fuerza de voluntad, dejaría completamente la comida basura. Desde mi punto de vista, la salud vale más que el dinero. En conclusión, debemos cuidarnos todos los días.

English:

In my opinion, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is essential to feel good. I normally follow a balanced diet and exercise three times a week since I want to be fit. Last year I took part in a charity race and it was a very motivating experience. However, I sometimes eat too many sweets, which is not ideal. Next year I am going to change my habits and cook more at home. If I had more willpower, I would completely stop eating junk food. From my point of view, health is worth more than money. In conclusion, we must look after ourselves every day.

Technology & Social Media

Key vocabulary

- **las redes sociales** – social media
- **el móvil** – mobile phone
- **la pantalla** – screen
- **chatear** – to chat
- **perder el tiempo** – to waste time
- **ser adictivo/a** – to be addictive
- **útil** – useful

Grade 9 phrases

- **Hoy en día...** – nowadays
- **Por un lado... por otro lado...** – on one hand... on the other hand...
- **Si pudiera...** – if I could...
- **Desde mi punto de vista...** – from my point of view...

90-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

Uso la tecnología todos los días para estudiar y comunicarme con mis amigos. Normalmente utilizo mi móvil para enviar mensajes y ver vídeos, ya que es muy práctico. El año pasado mis padres me compraron un portátil nuevo y me ayudó mucho con los deberes. El próximo año voy a intentar pasar menos tiempo delante de la pantalla. Además, prefiero quedar con mis amigos en persona. En general, creo que la tecnología es útil pero puede ser peligrosa si la usamos demasiado.

English:

I use technology every day to study and communicate with my friends. I normally use my phone to send messages and watch videos since it is very practical. Last year my parents bought me a new laptop and it helped me a lot with my homework. Next year I am going to try to spend less time in front of the screen. Furthermore, I prefer to meet my friends in person. Overall, I think technology is useful but it can be dangerous if we use it too much.

Technology & Social Media (150 words)

150-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

Hoy en día la tecnología forma parte de nuestra vida cotidiana y es casi imposible vivir sin ella. Normalmente utilizo mi móvil y mi ordenador para hacer los deberes, buscar información y chatear con mis amigos, ya que es muy cómodo. El año pasado pasaba demasiadas horas jugando videojuegos, lo cual afectó a mis notas. Sin embargo, decidí organizar mejor mi tiempo y ahora soy más responsable. El próximo año voy a limitar el uso de las redes sociales. Si pudiera, apagaría el móvil por la noche para dormir mejor. Por un lado, la tecnología es muy útil; por otro lado, puede ser adictiva. Desde mi punto de vista, debemos usarla con moderación. En conclusión, es una herramienta fantástica siempre que no abusemos de ella.

English:

Nowadays technology is part of our daily life and it is almost impossible to live without it. I normally use my phone and my computer to do homework, search for information and chat with my friends since it is very convenient. Last year I spent too many hours playing video games, which affected my grades. However, I decided to organise my time better and now I am more responsible. Next year I am going to limit my use of social media. If I could, I would turn off my phone at night to sleep better. On one hand, technology is very useful; on the other hand, it can be addictive. From my point of view, we must use it in moderation. In conclusion, it is a fantastic tool as long as we do not overuse it.

Environment & Climate

Key vocabulary

- **el medio ambiente** – environment
- **la contaminación** – pollution
- **reciclar** – to recycle
- **ahorrar energía** – to save energy
- **el cambio climático** – climate change
- **proteger el planeta** – protect the planet

Grade 9 phrases

- **Me preocupa...** – I am worried about...
- **Si todos colaboráramos...** – if we all collaborated...
- **Es fundamental que...** – it is essential that...
- **Para las próximas generaciones** – for future generations

90-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

Me preocupa mucho el medio ambiente porque la contaminación está aumentando cada año. Normalmente reciclo en casa y apago las luces para ahorrar energía. El año pasado participé en una limpieza de la playa con mi colegio y recogimos mucha basura. El próximo año voy a usar más la bicicleta en lugar del coche. Además, intento utilizar menos plástico. En general, creo que todos debemos proteger el planeta para el futuro.

English:

I am very worried about the environment because pollution is increasing every year. I normally recycle at home and turn off the lights to save energy. Last year I took part in a beach clean-up with my school and we collected a lot of rubbish. Next year I am going to use my bicycle more instead of the car. Furthermore, I try to use less plastic. Overall, I think we must all protect the planet for the future.

Environment & Climate (150 words)

150-Word Model Paragraph

Spanish:

Desde mi punto de vista, el cambio climático es uno de los mayores problemas del mundo actual. Normalmente reciclo, ahorro agua y voy al instituto en bicicleta para reducir la contaminación, ya que quiero cuidar el planeta. El año pasado participé en una campaña ecológica y plantamos árboles en mi barrio, lo cual fue muy gratificante. Sin embargo, mucha gente todavía no se preocupa por el medio ambiente. El próximo año voy a intentar convencer a mi familia de usar menos plástico. Si todos colaboráramos, la situación mejoraría rápidamente. Además, es fundamental que el gobierno invierta más en energías renovables. En conclusión, debemos actuar ahora para proteger el planeta para las próximas generaciones.

English:

From my point of view, climate change is one of the biggest problems in today's world. I normally recycle, save water and go to school by bicycle to reduce pollution since I want to look after the planet. Last year I took part in an environmental campaign and we planted trees in my neighbourhood, which was very rewarding. However, many people still do not care about the environment. Next year I am going to try to convince my family to use less plastic. If we all collaborated, the situation would improve quickly. Furthermore, it is essential that the government invests more in renewable energy. In conclusion, we must act now to protect the planet for future generations.

Your Path to Grade 9 Success

What You've Learned

- The exact 90-word and 150-word structures
- High-grade phrases and connectors
- Model answers for every major topic
- How to avoid common mistakes
- The examiner's checklist

Your Next Steps

1. Memorise the sentence starters and power phrases
2. Practice writing one model answer per day
3. Time yourself - 15 minutes for 90 words, 25 minutes for 150 words
4. Get feedback from your teacher
5. Review this pack the night before your exam

You now have everything you need to achieve Grade 9 in GCSE Spanish Writing. Trust the process, practice consistently, and believe in yourself.

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¡BUENA SUERTE!