



PREPARING FOR SPANISH B PAPER 2 (LISTENING) *QUESTION TYPES*

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About this Resource

This guide is designed to support your preparation for IB Spanish B Paper 2 (Listening Comprehension). It covers the main question types that appear in the exam, providing a clear explanation of each, a set of evidence-based exam strategies, and a guided practice exercise.

The resource draws directly on past paper analysis across multiple examination sessions at both Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL). Where SL and HL differ in their cognitive demands, this is clearly noted.



Paper 2 (Listening) at a Glance

Duration	HL: 1 hour SL: 45 minutes
Total marks	25 marks
Audio texts	3 audio texts (Texto A, B and C)
Listening format	Each text played TWICE with a 2-minute pause between playings
Reading time	4 minutes before each audio text begins
Answer language	All answers must be written in Spanish
Notes	A Notas space is provided on each page. It is not marked. Use it.



Question Types Overview

The table below summarises the main question types identified across a corpus of past listening papers. Detailed guidance and practice follow for each type.

Question Type	Instruction (Spanish)	SL	HL
Multiple Choice	<i>Elige la respuesta correcta</i>	✓	✓
True Statements (multi-select)	<i>Elige las X frases verdaderas</i>	✓	✓
Gap-Fill (max 3 words)	<i>Completa los espacios en blanco</i>	✓	✓
Open Questions	<i>Contesta a las siguientes preguntas</i>	✓	✓
Speaker Attribution Grid	<i>¿Quién dijo qué? / ¿A quién se refiere?</i>	✓	✓



Question Type 1 | Opción Múltiple

(Multiple Choice)


Contexto	Vas a escuchar	
Instruction	<i>Elige la respuesta correcta</i>	
What you do	Choose ONE correct answer from the options given (A, B, C).	
Marks	1 mark per question.	
SL vs HL	Present at both levels. At HL, distractors are closer in meaning and more frequently test implied meaning or speaker attitude rather than explicit facts.	

Exam strategy

STEP 1	During your 4 minutes of reading time, read all question stems and options carefully. Underline key words in each option particularly those that could be distractors (words like 'solo', 'nunca', 'siempre', 'todos').
STEP 2	On the first listening, focus on the question stem to identify the topic and what is being asked. Do not write your answer yet. Wait for confirmation.
STEP 3	On the second listening, confirm your answer. Be alert to words that change meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negatives (<i>no, nunca, nadie, jamás</i>), • quantifiers (<i>algunos, la mayoría, todos</i>) • hedging language (<i>a veces, puede que, parece que</i>) • connectors suggesting a shift (<i>a pesar de que, aunque, sin embargo</i>)
⚠ AVOID	Do not choose an option simply because you heard the same word. The correct answer paraphrases what was said; distractors often use words from the text.

Question Type 2 | Frases Verdaderas

(True Statements)


Instruction	Elige las X frases verdaderas	<p>Texto: A / B / C</p> <p>Vas a escuchar....</p> <p><i>Estímulo visual</i> </p> <p>Elige las cinco frases verdaderas</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> A. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> B. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> C. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> D. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> E. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> F. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> G. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> H. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> J. _____ </p>
What you do	Select a specified number of TRUE statements from a list of ten (A–J).	
Marks	This question is usually worth [4] or [5] marks in total.	
SL vs HL	At HL, statements frequently test speaker attitude and implied meaning. At SL, statements more often check factual accuracy.	

Exam strategy

STEP 1	During reading time, code each statement as you read it: mark those that seem likely true with a '+' and those likely false with '-'. This pre-loading activates your listening focus.
STEP 2	On the first listening, tick the statements you are confident about. Do NOT finalise your selection yet.
STEP 3	On the second listening, focus specifically on the statements you are unsure about. Check for negatives that invert meaning and hedging that qualifies certainty.
⚠ CRITICAL	You must select EXACTLY the number specified. Selecting 6 when the question asks for 5 scores ZERO — even if 5 of your choices are correct. Never guess by including an extra option.
⚠ AVOID	False statements often contain a word from the audio but change a key detail (a number, a negation, a qualifier). Read each option precisely, not globally.

Question Type 3 | Completar Espacios

(Gap-Fill)

<p>Instruction</p>	<p><i>Completa los espacios en blanco. Usa como máximo tres palabras por espacio.</i></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Texto: A / B / C</p> <p>Vas a escuchar</p> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Estímulo visual </p> </div> <p>Completa los espacios en blanco. Usa como máximo tres palabras por espacio.</p> <p>Texto:</p> <p>_____ [-12] _____ [-13] _____</p> <p>_____ [-14] _____</p> <p>_____ [-16] _____ [-15-] _____</p> <p>12. [-12-] <input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <p>13. [-13-] <input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> </div>
<p>What you do</p>	<p>Complete numbered gaps in a structured scaffold (e.g. a diary entry, a webpage, a set of notes) using a maximum of THREE words per gap.</p>	
<p>Marks</p>	<p>1 mark per gap.</p>	

Exam strategy

<p>STEP 1</p>	<p>During reading time, analyse the text carefully. Determine what grammatical category fits each gap (noun, adjective, verb phrase, number?) and what type of information is expected (a name, a description, a quantity?).</p>
<p>STEP 2</p>	<p>On the first listening, write a draft answer, even if you are not confident. Use the surrounding words to check for grammatical fit.</p>
<p>STEP 3</p>	<p>On the second listening, verify and refine. The answer is usually a near-verbatim phrase from the audio. Do not paraphrase. Accurate retrieval is the skill being tested.</p>
<p>⚠ CRITICAL</p>	<p>The three-word limit is strictly enforced. Writing four or more words will not gain the mark, even if the information is correct. Articles and prepositions count as words.</p>
<p>⚠ AVOID</p>	<p>Do not leave gaps blank. Always attempt every gap.</p>

Question Type 4 | Preguntas Abiertas

(Open Comprehension Questions)

Instruction	Contesta a las siguientes preguntas.
What you do	Write a short answer in Spanish to a direct comprehension question. Answers should be a concise phrase or sentence — not a single word, but not a long paragraph.
Marks	1 mark per question.
SL vs HL	At HL, questions more frequently require inferential reasoning (e.g. <i>¿Por qué...? ¿Qué implica...?</i>) rather than simple fact retrieval (<i>¿Cuándo...? ¿Quién...?</i>).
SL & HL	This question type can appear in combination with other question types (True statements, Gap filling and Speaker attribution).

Common question words

Make sure you know what each of these means.

	What the question demands
¿Qué...?	A thing, action, idea, or description.
¿Cómo...?	A manner, state, or description of how something is/was done.
¿Por qué...?	A reason or cause. Look for porque, puesto que, ya que, debido a ...
¿Cuándo...?	A time, date, or moment.
¿A quién...?	A person or group; the object of an action.
Menciona un tipo de...	A single, specific example from the audio. Do not list multiple.

Exam strategy

STEP 1	During reading time, identify the interrogative word in each question. This tells you exactly what kind of information to listen for.
STEP 2	On the first listening, note key words that answer each question. Do not write full sentences yet; note the information first.
STEP 3	Write your answers in clear, accurate Spanish. You may use near-verbatim phrases from the audio, but ensure your answer directly addresses the question as asked.
⚠ AVOID	Do not write just one single word. The answer box expects a phrase or short sentence. Equally, do not over-explain: a concise, accurate answer is all that is needed.

Question Type 5 | Atribución de Hablantes

(Speaker Attribution Grid)

Instruction	Marca [✓] una opción correcta. ¿Quién dijo qué?
What you do	Attribute each statement to one of two named speakers, or to 'Ambos' (both). You tick ONE box per row.
Marks	1 mark per row.
SL vs HL	At HL, statements often encode nuance (partial agreement, one speaker qualifying the other's view) making attribution challenging. At SL, the distinction between speakers is generally clearer.

Exam strategy

STEP 1	During reading time, note the names of both speakers. As you read each statement, make a preliminary prediction: which speaker sounds more likely to say this based on the context given?
STEP 2	During the first listening, focus on WHO is speaking at each moment. It helps to keep a simple two-column note: write key phrases next to the speaker's initial (e.g. C: / A:).
STEP 3	On the second listening, confirm your attributions. Pay special attention to statements you have marked 'Ambos'; both speakers must explicitly express the same idea for this to be correct.
⚠ CRITICAL	'Ambos' does not mean 'I am not sure.' It means BOTH speakers independently expressed this view. Only tick 'Ambos' when you have clear evidence from each speaker.
⚠ AVOID	Do not tick two boxes for the same row — only ONE answer per statement is accepted. Ticking two boxes will score zero for that item.

Quick-Reference Strategy Card: All Question Types

Each row reminds you of the critical move for each question type.

Question Type	Reading Time Action	Listening Action	Pitfall to Avoid
Multiple Choice	Underline key words in all options, especially distractors.	Listen for paraphrase; not the same words as the options.	Never choose an option just because it uses a word you heard. Double check
True Statements	Code each statement + or -. Count: know exactly how many you need.	Tick on 1st listening; verify on 2nd.	Selecting more than the specified number = zero.
Gap-Fill	Identify the grammatical type and information type for each gap.	Write a draft answer on 1st listening; verify on 2nd.	Exceeding 3 words = no mark, even if correct.
Open Questions	Identify the interrogative word. It tells you exactly what to find.	Note key information first; write your answer after.	A single word is not a sufficient answer.
Speaker Attribution	Note both speaker names. Pre-predict who might say what.	Track speakers in real time; note their key phrases.	'Ambos' ≠ 'unsure'. Both must clearly express the same idea.

REMEMBER - FOR ALL QUESTIONS TYPES:

- Use every second of the 4-minute reading time before each audio text.
- Never leave a question blank.
- Your notes (*Notas*) are never marked. use that space freely for drafts and jottings.
- Treat the first listening as a draft; the second as confirmation.

