



# SPANISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #21

## USING VERBS AND TENSES

### Introduction

You are required to be familiar with a range of tenses. This is an integral part of language learning.

Verbs are the key to any good structured sentences.

An understanding and knowledge of how to use verbs correctly and accurately will provide opportunities to access the higher mark bands.

Spend time learning the rules and endings connected to each tense and practice applying them accurately in your work.

### Assessment

Your ability to use language [verbs and tenses] is assessed throughout the AS and A2 examinations.

### Assessment Objective/s

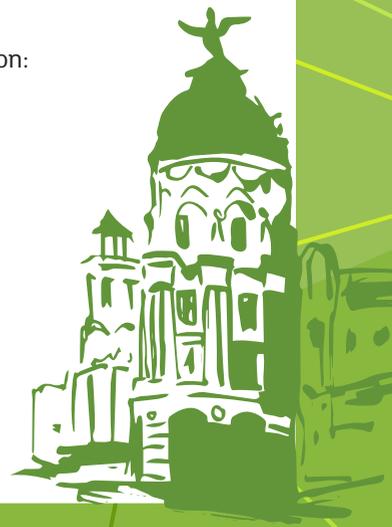
You will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a range of lexis and structure.

You should be able to:

- manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a range of lexis;
- transfer meaning; and
- understand and accurately apply the grammatical system and a range of structures.

These are considered as core skills. The key to success is final proof-reading.





## Skills

You are required to be familiar with a range of verbs and tenses. These are listed in Appendix 5 of the Specification.

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area.

- Use online guides, outlines and summaries to review tenses and verb conjugations.
- Study verbs and tenses by grouping them into categories and patterns.
- Design your own personalised tense and verb charts to help you memorise.
- Use online verb websites to practise such as the ones suggested in Appendix 2 of the specification.
- Remember to study verbs and tenses in context to help you integrate them naturally into your speech.
- Read as much as you can in Spanish to assimilate correct verb and tense usage.
- Ensure you understand how each tense translates into English.
- Pay careful attention to irregular verbs in each of the tenses and use them as much as possible so that you become familiar with them in both written and spoken work.
- Ensure that you apply accents to verbs where necessary as these can sometimes alter the meaning of the verb.
- Learn verb endings and practise them by saying them aloud.
- Be aware of how verbs are pronounced in different tenses.
- Avoid changing tenses unless it is specifically requested.
- Pay attention to time references like “mañana/hace un mes/cuando termine el colegio/esta tarde...”-these are important tense triggers.
- Remember that in Spanish the position of the verb in a sentence can be changed without altering the meaning of the sentence e.g. Salió el tren a las doce, El tren salió a las doce, A las doce salió el tren.
- Pay special attention to the use of the subjunctive. It is widely used in both spoken and written Spanish. The examiners will expect you to use it confidently especially with simple constructions like using cuando to refer to something in the future e.g. cuando tenga 18 años.