

# Spanish

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Higher Level 5<sup>th</sup> year

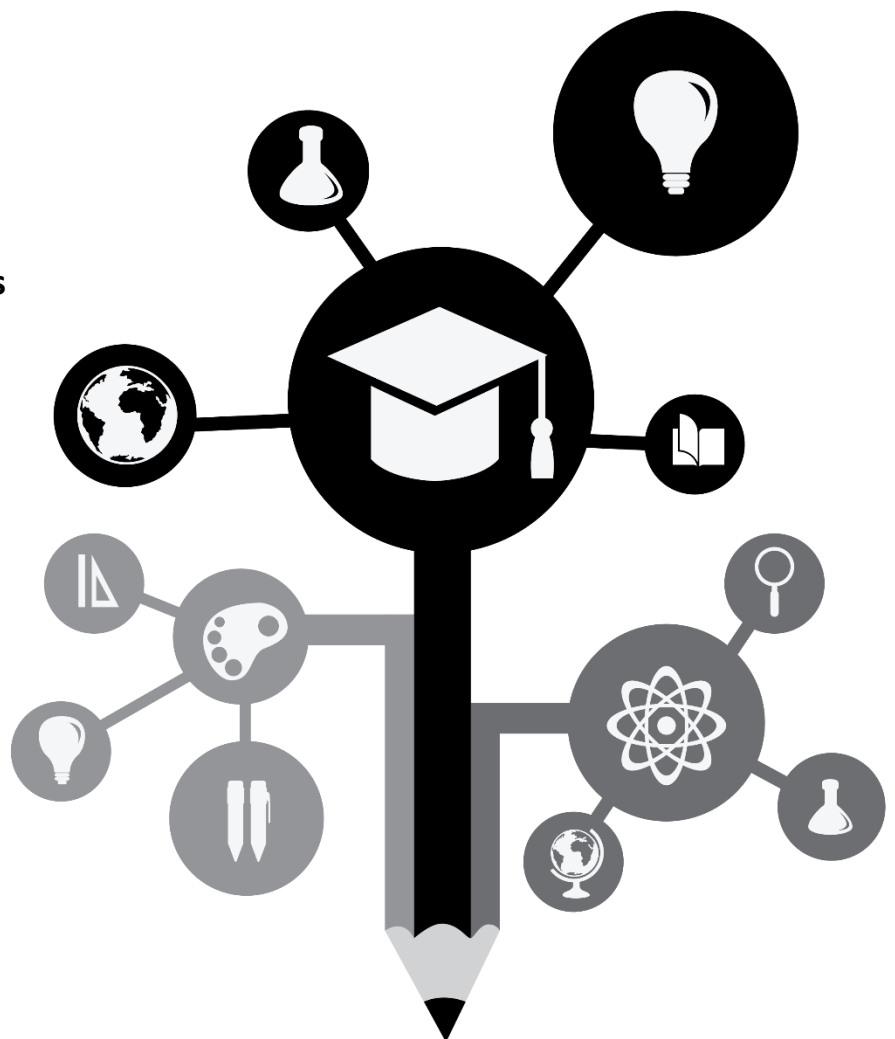
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## TOPIC

Grammar

Reading comprehensions

The note



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## 1. The imperfect tense

**El pretérito imperfecto** refers to actions which took place in the past. The important point to remember is that the specific length of time the action took place or the point in time at which it started or finished is not given.

**El pretérito imperfecto** - is used to express a repeated or habitual action in the past:  
*used to.*

- is used to describe people and things in the past. The emphasis is on *how things were* rather than what happened. The verbs **ser** and **estar** are frequently used for descriptions in the past.

- is always used to refer to the time of day or to a person's age in the past.

- is used to express **was/were ...ing.**

### How to form the imperfect tense?

For **ar** verbs, drop the ending **ar** and add *aba, abas, aba, ábamos, abais, aban.*

For **er** and **ir** verbs, drop the endings **er** and **ir** and add *ía, ías, ía, íamos, íais, ían.*

There are only 3 irregular verbs in the imperfect tense:

<b>VER (to see)</b>	<b>SER (to be)</b>	<b>IR (to go)</b>
<b>Veía</b>	<b>era</b>	<b>iba</b>
<b>Veías</b>	<b>eras</b>	<b>ibas</b>
<b>Veía</b>	<b>era</b>	<b>iba</b>
<b>Veíamos</b>	<b>éramos</b>	<b>íbamos</b>
<b>Veíais</b>	<b>erais</b>	<b>ibais</b>
<b>Veían</b>	<b>eran</b>	<b>iban</b>

Below is a list of the more common time expressions associated with the imperfect tense:

<b>A menudo</b>	<i>often</i>	<b>mientras</b>	<i>while</i>
<b>Muy a menudo</b>	<i>very often</i>	<b>muchas veces</b>	<i>many times</i>
<b>Algunas veces</b>	<i>sometimes</i>	<b>rara vez</b>	<i>rarely</i>
<b>A veces</b>	<i>at times</i>	<b>todas las mañanas</b>	<i>every morning</i>
<b>Nunca</b>	<i>never</i>	<b>todos los años</b>	<i>every year</i>
<b>Casi nunca</b>	<i>hardly ever</i>	<b>todos los días</b>	<i>every day</i>
<b>Siempre</b>	<i>always</i>	<b>generalmente</b>	<i>generally</i>
<b>Casi siempre</b>	<i>almost always</i>	<b>por lo general</b>	<i>generally</i>
<b>De vez en cuando</b>	<i>from time to time</i>	<b>por un rato</b>	<i>for a while</i>
<b>Todo el tiempo</b>	<i>all the time</i>	<b>frecuentemente</b>	<i>frequently</i>

**Escribe la forma correcta del verbo en el pretérito imperfecto entre paréntesis:**

- 1) Él \_\_\_\_\_ en Nueva York. (vivir)
- 2) Los niños \_\_\_\_\_ después del colegio. (jugar)
- 3) Nosotros \_\_\_\_\_ de vacaciones a Galicia cada año. (ir)

**Escribe en español.**

- 1) She used to swim every morning before breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) He used to speak Spanish all the time when he was in South America \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The children were very tired \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember!**

**Hay** → *There is/there are*

**Había** → *There was/there were.*

**Habr** → *There will be*



### 3. Reading comprehensions

#### The Journalistic text and Section B (linked to the opinion).

- When starting a text, you should first look at the title of the text and any picture that may accompany it.
- Then read the instructions for each set of questions. Spend about 30 minutes on each long comprehension.
- Next, read the questions, underlining the key words, doing so will help you locate the answers in the text. Pay attention to “What does Ana say about...”, more than likely you are looking for quotation marks in the paragraph.
- Make sure you look for the answer in the right paragraphs (numbers are in bracket at the end of the question).
- You do not need to understand every single word in the text to have an idea of what the section is about, look at the context!
- Answer in as much relevant detail as you can, you will not be penalised for writing too much information (be careful not to contradict yourself though!), but you will be penalised if you leave out part of the required answer.

#### Translations

- Be careful not to translate the sentence/expression word by word so that you end up with a sentence in English that makes no sense.
- Read the paragraph the sentence/expression appears in to have a better idea of the context.
- Use your grammar awareness, identify the tenses, look out for adverbs and adjectives.

#### Synonyms

- You are required to find a synonym for a word or an expression in a specific paragraph (number given in brackets)
- No extra or omitted word(s) allowed, that will result in a 0. Your answer must be exact.
- First, try to understand/translate the words/phrases you have been given.
- Secondly, if you have no idea what the words/phrases mean, analyse them: is it a noun, an adverb, an adjective, a preposition, a verb, a noun with an adjective, a verb with an adverb.... Usually, your answer will have the same structure.
- If it is a verb, look at the ending and figure out the tense and person. More than likely the answer will be in the same tense and same person.
- Knowing the grammar and vocabulary is important for the synonym section.

**Rewriting a Spanish phrase in Spanish**

- You are asked to choose from two phrases in Spanish and rewrite it in Spanish with your **own** words/synonyms.
- Some candidates make the mistake of translating the phrase in English, unfortunately doing so will not get any marks!
- You can choose to rewrite both phrases if you so wish, the higher mark will be taken into consideration.
- Find those phrases in the text (the number of the paragraph in which they are will be in brackets) as the context will help you understand the bit (or bits) that has been taken out and that you have to rewrite with your own words.
- Use the same tenses in your answer (if there are verbs).
- Use simple Spanish and you do get rewarded for trying so give it a go!

2023

**Question 1 (b) Journalistic Text.**

**(50 marks)**

Read the article about heatwaves in Spain and answer the accompanying questions.

**AUMENTAN LAS OLAS DE CALOR EN ESPAÑA**

1. El veintiuno de junio es la fecha tradicional del comienzo del verano en España. Como todo el planeta, en los últimos años España se está calentando. Una de las consecuencias para sus habitantes son las olas de calor cada vez más intensas y frecuentes. Para combatir el calor intenso los españoles han cambiado su manera de disfrutar el verano y el tiempo que pasan al aire libre. En los últimos años, durante julio y agosto, la gente española suele pasarse los días encerrada en casa, con las persianas bajadas y con el aire acondicionado a tope.



2. Según los datos analizados por AEMET, la Agencia Estatal de Meteorología, en la última década se han registrado veintitrés olas de calor en España, una estadística muy grave. Un portavoz de AEMET, Juan Alonso, comenta: “las olas de calor empiezan más pronto en el verano, duran más tiempo y afectan a la mayor parte del país.” Los científicos han investigado varias maneras de aliviar las consecuencias peligrosas que conllevan las olas de calor para la gente.

3. En el año 2020 la ciudad de Barcelona introdujo un proyecto innovador para ayudar a los ciudadanos a combatir el calor intenso. Se trata de un sistema de *refugios climáticos*, cuyo objetivo es que la gente pueda escaparse de las olas de calor, además de reducir las muertes y limitar las enfermedades en la población. Estos espacios están especialmente adaptados con aire acondicionado, y en ellos se puede descansar y refrescarse de las altas temperaturas. Hoy cuenta con más de doscientos lugares bien señalizados, con zonas de descanso y agua potable, ubicados a menos de diez minutos a pie para el 95% de los residentes de la ciudad.

4. Cristina Linares, experta en cambio climático, salud y medio ambiente, afirma que las ciudades españolas deben ampliar este sistema de *refugios climáticos*. Estos espacios pueden estar en centros comerciales, bibliotecas, polideportivos o estaciones de transporte público. Asimismo, un gran número de centros escolares antiguos han tenido que instalar aire acondicionado en los edificios, para que los alumnos estén cómodos mientras aprenden. Recientemente, en un instituto sevillano, los alumnos fueron enviados a casa para huir de las temperaturas de más de 40°C.

5. Varios estudios han mostrado que el calor extremo modifica el comportamiento de la gente, haciéndola más propensa a la ansiedad o a la violencia. Los médicos subrayan la importancia de evitar el calor sofocante, en particular para las personas más vulnerables como ancianos, mujeres embarazadas o personas con problemas respiratorios. La raza humana siempre se ha adaptado a su entorno y España, como todos los países mediterráneos, tiene que seguir buscando soluciones como los *refugios climáticos* para soportar las olas de calor.

Adaptado de: www.abc.es

**1. Answer the following questions in ENGLISH.**

**(a)** What changes have Spaniards made to combat the intense heat?

**(para 1)**


(b) What does Juan Alonso say about heatwaves? (para 2)


(c) What is the objective of *climate refuges*? Give **full** details. (para 3)


(d) What happened recently in a school in Seville? (para 4)


(e) According to doctors, who should avoid the intense heat? (para 5)


2. Escribe en ESPAÑOL en los espacios correspondientes las palabras o frases del texto que tengan el mismo sentido (más o menos) que las siguientes:

(a) ciudadanos (1)

--

(b) es posible relajarse (3)

--

(c) altera la conducta (5)

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*This question continues on the next page.*

#### 4. La nota

- Remember, you do the note or the diary entry (If you do both, both will be corrected and the highest mark will be taken).
- Include all points, but no need to expand them! Students have a tendency to write too much in the note, make mistakes and lose marks.
- Pay attention to the tenses you need to use.
- Use simple correct Spanish, word for word translation doesn't work. If you find a particular point difficult to express, think of a simpler way to say it.
- Topics usually include:
  - **Mentioning something that has happened.**
  - **Talking about a trip that you are going to do.**
  - **Giving a message about someone who has telephoned/called in.**
  - **Saying you are going out and when you will be back.**
- Useful vocabulary:
  - **Te dejo este mensaje para decirte** que *I am leaving this message to say that...*
  - **Ana ha llamado esta tarde** *Ana called this afternoon*
  - **Durante tu/su ausencia** *During your absence*
  - **Él/ella no puede venir** *He/she can't come*
  - **Él/ella quiere que la/lo llames lo antes posible** *He/she wants you to ring him/her as soon as possible*
  - **Él/ella llamará esta noche** *He/she will call tonight*
  - **Voy a salir ahora** *I am going out now*
  - **Nos vamos/me voy al centro/ a la playa con** *I am/ we are going to the city centre/to the beach with...*
  - **Vuelvo a las/ antes de las** *I'll be back at/ before (+ time)*
  - **No te preocupes** *Don't worry*
  - **Lláname cuando puedas** *Call me when you can*
  - **Él/ella ha dicho que** *he/she said that*
  - **He ido a** *I've gone to*
  - **Recoger** *to collect*
  - **Énviame un mensaje de texto** *Send me a text message*
  - **Tengo ganas de** *I am looking forward to/ I really want to*
  - **I've been invited/given me** *ha(n) invitado/dado*

