

Oxford Revise | AQA Spanish Foundation | Update

Since publication of the *Oxford Revise AQA GCSE Spanish Foundation* revision guide, the examination board AQA have made some changes to the GCSE Spanish exam specification. The following chart gives you guidance to support you in your 2026 exams in light of these updates.

What has AQA changed	Oxford Revise Page(s)	What you need to know
<p>You are expected to understand how the meaning of core words on the AQA set vocabulary list can be changed using certain suffixes. Previously, these word formation rules only applied to the Reading paper. Now, they can be used in other papers as long as the original base word is clearly recognisable in the new word formed.</p> <p>Some words have been removed from the set vocabulary list and the base forms added instead. This is because the derived forms can be tested using the word formation rules.</p> <p>(Spec ref: 3.2 Grammar and 3.2.1.2 Derivational morphology)</p>	161	<p>Your book says 'you only need to be able to work out the meanings of words using these suffixes in the Reading paper. They won't be required in any other paper'. However, now you may need to recognise and apply the rules for word formation using suffixes in any of the four papers (Listening, Speaking, Reading or Writing papers).</p> <p>You should understand that words which appear in a base form in the vocabulary list, like <i>completo, final, normal, probable, rápido, libro, hermano</i> or <i>guapa</i>, may appear in the exam with a suffix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>completamente</i> (completely)- <i>finalmente</i> (finally)- <i>normalmente</i> (normally)- <i>probablemente</i> (probably)- <i>rápidamente</i> (quickly)- <i>librito</i> (little book)- <i>hermanito</i> (little brother)- <i>guapísima</i> (very beautiful)

Previously, only the singular forms of reflexive verbs and singular reflexive pronouns were required at Foundation tier. This has been changed to include plural forms of reflexive verbs and plural reflexive pronouns, along with reciprocal meanings. (Spec ref: 3.2.1.1 Grammar)	153, 28, 138	For Foundation tier, you now need to know how to use all forms of reflexive verbs, including the plural reflexive forms for <i>nosotros</i> , <i>vosotros</i> and <i>ellos / ellas</i> . Here is an example of these forms in the present tense for the reflexive verb <i>lavarse</i> (to wash oneself): <i>nos lavamos</i> – we wash (ourselves) <i>os laváis</i> – you wash (yourself / yourselves) <i>se lavan</i> – they wash (themselves) You also need to understand how reflexive pronouns can be used with any verb to give a reciprocal meaning of doing the action ‘to each other’. For example: <i>nos escribimos</i> (we write to each other) <i>os entendáis</i> (you understand/ get on with each other)
The reflexive verb <i>llevarse</i> (‘to get on with’) has been added to AQA’s set vocabulary list at Foundation tier. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)	138	Make sure you know that the reflexive verb <i>llevarse</i> (‘to get on with’) has a different meaning from the verb <i>llevar</i> (‘to carry/ take / wear’). For example: <i>Me llevo bien con mis profesores</i> . I get on well with my teachers.
The reflexive verb <i>mantenerse</i> (to keep oneself) has been added to AQA’s set vocabulary list at both tiers. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)	33, 36	Make sure you know that the verb <i>mantener</i> (to keep, maintain) has a reflexive form, <i>mantenerse</i> (to keep oneself). For example: <i>Mantenerse en forma</i> . Keeping (oneself) in shape.

The reflexive verb <i>prepararse</i> (to prepare oneself) has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at both tiers. (<i>Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary</i>)	138	Make sure you know that the verb <i>preparar</i> (to prepare) has a reflexive form, <i>prepararse</i> (to prepare oneself). For example: <i>Me preparo para el colegio.</i> I get myself ready (prepare myself) for school.
The expressions <i>antes de</i> + infinitive ('before ...ing') and <i>después de</i> + infinitive ('after... ing') have been added at Foundation tier. (<i>Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary</i>)	137	Make sure you know that the structures <i>antes de</i> and <i>después de</i> must be followed by the infinitive form of the verb, not the present participle. For example: <i>antes de hacer los deberes-</i> before doing your homework.
The expression <i>hace (dos años)</i> has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at both tiers. (<i>Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary</i>)	141	Make sure you know that <i>hace</i> can be used with a time expression to mean 'ago', for example: <i>Hace dos años.</i> Two years ago.
The verb <i>gastar</i> ('to spend') now has the added definition of 'to use up' at Foundation tier. (<i>Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary</i>)	63, 64	You need to know that the verb <i>gastar</i> has multiple meanings depending on context, for example: <i>No quiero gastar mucho dinero.</i> I don't want to spend a lot of money. <i>Gastaron todo el papel en clase.</i> They used up all the paper in class.
AQA have stated that some words listed under one part of speech in the vocabulary list (for example as nouns) may now be used in other parts of speech as well (for example adjectives) when the meaning is obvious. (<i>Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary</i>)	104, 106, 159, 186	Make sure you know that some words on the vocabulary list may be used flexibly when the meaning is still clear, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>plástico</i> can be used as an adjective or a noun - <i>final</i> can be used as an adjective (final) as well as a noun (end / ending) - <i>abierto</i> (opened, unlocked) can be used as an adjective as well as a past participle.