

Oxford Revise | AQA Spanish Higher | Update

Since publication of the *Oxford Revise AQA GCSE Spanish Higher* 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><i>(Spec ref: 3.2 Grammar and 3.2.1.2 Derivational morphology)</i></p>	<p>167</p>	<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, such as <i>afortunado</i>, <i>completo</i>, <i>final</i>, <i>normal</i>, <i>probable</i>, <i>rápido</i>, <i>libro</i>, <i>hermano</i> or <i>guapa</i> may appear in the exam with a suffix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>afortunadamente</i> (fortunately) - <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)

<p>The reflexive verb <i>llevarse</i> ('to get on with') has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at Higher tier.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>138</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The reflexive verb <i>mantenerse</i> (to keep oneself) has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at both tiers.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>33, 36</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The reflexive verb <i>prepararse</i> (to prepare oneself) has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at both tiers.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>139</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The verbs <i>relajar, relajarse</i> (to relax) have been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at Higher tier.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>33, 36, 121, 141, 155, 192</p>	<p>Make sure you know the verbs <i>relajar, relajarse</i> (to relax) as well as <i>descansar</i> (to rest, relax), for example: <i>Si estás enfermo, debes descansar/relajarte y dormir</i>. If you are ill, you must rest/relax and sleep.</p>
<p>The verb <i>descargar</i> (to download, unload) has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at Higher tier.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>89, 90</p>	<p>Make sure you know the verb <i>descargar</i> (to download, unload), for example: <i>He descargado una app</i>. I have downloaded an app.</p>

<p>The expression <i>hace (dos años)</i> has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list at both tiers.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>97, 142</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>104, 106, 110, 178, 191</p>	<p>Make sure you know that some words on the vocabulary list may be used flexibly when the meaning is still clear, for example:</p> <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) <p>Some past participles can also be used as adjectives, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>abierto</i> (opened, unlocked) • <i>cubierto</i> (covered) • <i>escrito</i> (written) • <i>hecho</i> (done, made) • <i>visto</i> (seen)