

Support material for Higher Spanish

Listening monologue: society: marriage

You listen to Martina being interviewed about her thoughts on marriage.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	What was Martina looking into?	the age people get married round the world		1
2	What does she tell you about her older sister? State two things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> she has been studying/at uni in the US she got home a week ago 		2
3	What did her sister say about young people in America?	they can drive when they are 16		1
4	What was surprising for her sister?	people in the US get married much younger than in Spain		1
5	How old are Spanish women on average when they marry?	29		1
6	Who is getting married next week?	her cousin		1
7	Overall, which statement best reflects Martina's views? Tick (✓) the correct statement.	Martina is interested in the idea of marriage	x	1
		Martina is considering getting married soon		
		Martina would not like to be married		

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Listening dialogue: society: marriage

You hear an interview with professor Emilio Gutiérrez, a sociologist specialising in the topic of marriage.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	What does Emilio say about the use of wedding planners?	it is not frequent/ not usual	1
2	Who have usually helped people plan their weddings until now?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • families • friends 	2
3	Is using a wedding planner an expensive thing? Give details.	they can organise an economical wedding or they don't waste money	1
4	Emilio discusses several concerns people have about weddings. State any two of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the wedding dress • the invitations • a good hotel or restaurant (any two)	2
5	What two traditional aspects of weddings does Emilio discuss?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the white clothes • the marriage takes place in a church 	2
6	Where is the wedding normally held, if the couple come from different towns?	in the bride's home town	1
7	How has the economic crisis affected weddings in Spain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people don't have the wedding they want • they don't have enough money 	2
8	What are more and more people choosing not to do?	not get married	1
9	What do they do instead?	they have children and have a family without getting married	1

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Listening monologue: society: politics

You listen to Clara giving her thoughts on politics.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	What did Clara think of politics when she was young?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it was boring • it did not affect her personally 	2
2	Why did she not have to worry about money?	her parents were both working	1
3	When did things change?	2008	1
4	Why have things changed for three of her friends?	their parents are unemployed/they don't have enough money to pay for the basics	1
5	What does she now do almost every day?	reads the newspaper	1
6	What, for Clara, has been a positive side of the economic crisis?	young people have started to be informed/ have opinions on important issues	1
7	Overall, which statement best reflects Clara's views? Tick (✓) the correct statement.	She feels politics are responsible for the crisis	
		She has become more interested in politics	x
		She thinks politics are of no use for young people	

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Listening dialogue: society: politics

You listen to Claudia being interviewed about a project she has started.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	When did the project start?	two years ago	1
2	Who helped her set up the project?	two school friends	1
3	When did she start to be interested in politics?	when she was at school	1
4	What was her problem at first? How did she start to resolve this problem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • everything seemed complicated • she read and asked parents and teachers questions (all details needed) 	2
5	What are the aims of the project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to inform young people • to help them understand politics better 	2
6	Why does she think it is important?	<p>political decisions affect us all or we need to be informed to vote for one or other political party</p>	1
7	She talks about things the group organise. State any two.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • debates • meetings to talk about interesting topics • inviting experts to talk about topics <p>(any two)</p>	2
8	What kind of things do they discuss?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social problems of young people • e.g. drugs • eating disorders like anorexia <p>(any two)</p>	2

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Listening monologue: learning: university

Laura talks about the choices she faces before university.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	What decision do Laura and her classmates have to make this year?	what to do when they have finished school	1
2	What has she always wanted to do?	to go to university	1
3	What has been her main focus in school recently?	studying science	1
4	Why might she go to study Biology?	her two friends are going to do that as well	1
5	What advantage would this bring?	they wouldn't have to worry about not knowing anyone/ or / they could share a flat	1
6	Where is she going next week and why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the university • it is an open day 	2
7	Overall, which statement best reflects Laura's views? Tick (✓) the correct statement.	Laura is unsure whether to go to university or find a job.	
		Laura is unsure of what to study.	x
		Laura is unsure of which university to go to.	

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Listening dialogue: learning: university

Silvia talks about how she chose her university.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	How long was Silvia at her school?	six years	1
2	What is she now studying?	medicine	1
3	Why did she find it difficult deciding what to study? State two reasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at school she liked both sciences and arts (humanities) she had good marks in almost every subject 	2
4	Which subject did she find hardest? Why is this a problem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English it is important, because lots of conferences about medicine are held in English 	2
5	What is she doing about the problem?	she goes to English classes twice a week in the evening	1
6	Why did people think she would study literature at university?	her father is a professor of literature	1
7	Why did her friend Ana find it easy to make a decision about what to study?	she knew since she was a child she wanted to study maths	1
8	What advice does she give about choosing what to study? Give details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> get to know what every career involves think about what you like to do and study 	2
9	What will be the result of this?	you will study harder and get better marks or you will find it easier to get a job that makes you happy	1

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Listening monologue: learning: languages

You listen to Sebastian talking about his knowledge of languages.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	At what age do pupils start learning English in Spain?	six	1						
2	Why did he think learning English was a waste of time when he was young?	he wanted to be in Spain and everyone speaks Spanish	1						
3	How old was he when he changed his mind?	10	1						
4	Where exactly was he when he made this decision? Give two details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France • Disneyland • Paris (any two) 	2						
5	Why does he now think it is important to learn languages?	to get a good job	1						
6	What other language is he now learning?	German	1						
7	Overall, which statement best reflects Sebastian's views? Tick (✓) the correct statement.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>He is learning languages because he has to.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>He finds it difficult learning languages.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>He is learning languages because he wants to.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	He is learning languages because he has to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He finds it difficult learning languages.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He is learning languages because he wants to.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
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He finds it difficult learning languages.	<input type="checkbox"/>								
He is learning languages because he wants to.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								

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Listening dialogue: learning: languages

You listen to Manuel, a young tennis player, being interviewed about his life. *You have one minute to study the questions*

1	What does Manuel's job involve?	travelling all over the world	1
2	Why are languages important for him?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he has to travel a lot for his work • not everyone speaks Spanish 	2
3	What is the most important thing for him?	Speak English to be able to communicate	1
4	He discusses several sets of people he has to talk to. Give any two of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • journalists • people who work in hotels and restaurants • fans (any two)	2
5	Why does he think it important to talk to the last set of people he mentioned?	he should be able to communicate with them and thank them	1
6	When is he most nervous talking another language?	in TV interviews	1
7	Why does he think young people should study a language?	to get a good job you need to be able to speak languages	1
8	What language is he learning now?	Japanese	1
9	Why is he doing so? State two reasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • his wife is Japanese • he wants his children to be bilingual 	2

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Listening monologue: employability: a gap year

Sonia talks about the possibility of taking a gap year.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	Who first told Sonia about a gap year?	her English teacher	1	
2	Who was she told often took a gap year?	young Britons	1	
3	What do people spend their time doing on the gap year, according to Laura?	travelling and working (both needed for the mark)	1	
4	Why would such a thing be difficult for young Spanish people?	their parents would not allow it or their parents would think it too dangerous	1	
5	Why does Sonia think it would be a good idea for her? Give details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • she does not know what she wants to study • a year would give her better perspective 	2	
6	How and where would Sonia like to travel, if she could make such a trip?	by train	1	
7	Overall, which statement best reflects Sonia's views? Tick (✓) the correct statement.	The gap year is an interesting idea.	x	1
		The gap year is only for rich young people abroad.		
		The gap year is a chance to visit Australia.		

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Listening dialogue: employability; a gap year

Marcos describes his gap year.

You have one minute to study the questions

1	When did Marcos return home?	a week ago	1
2	Why did he find the trip difficult at first?	he was far from family and friends	1
3	What helped him get over that?	he met other young people who were also on a gap year	1
4	How well could he speak Italian before he went there?	not very well	1
5	What did he find helped him at the start?	most young Italians speak at least a little English	1
6	What did he do to help himself?	he went to Italian classes (twice a week)	1
7	Who did he live with? Give details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three other young men • one Italian, one Mexican, one Scottish (any two for the mark) 	2
8	Where exactly did he stay?	in a flat in the centre of town or in an old and beautiful neighbourhood	1
9	What two jobs did he have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he worked in a cafe • he was a museum guide 	2
10	How long did he work for?	6 months	1

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Listening monologue: culture, stereotypes

You hear a podcast whose topic is stereotypes. You have one minute to study the questions

1	What is the stereotypical view of the English?	they only drink tea	1
2	What is one stereotype associated with Italians?	they always eat pasta or they wave their hands a lot when they talk	1
3	The speaker refers to several stereotypes of Spain. State any two.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they enjoy life • they are lively/happy people • the sun is always shining 	2
4	She mentions some negative stereotypes of Spain. State any one of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they never work • always on holiday/celebrating 	1
5	What is the danger of stereotypes?	it can lead to racism/xenophobia	1
6	What does she feel we should do?	keep an open mind or not judge people though prejudices	1
7	Overall, which statement best reflects the speaker's views? Tick (✓) the correct statement.	Stereotypes are a useful shortcut for understanding other cultures.	
		Stereotypes have a basis in reality.	
		Stereotypes are unreliable and possibly dangerous.	x

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Listening dialogue: culture, stereotypes

Sonia is being interviewed for the high school newspaper about a high school play whose topic is stereotypes.

You have one minute to study the questions.

1	Who is the play about?	five school pupils/students	1
2	Where do the characters meet?	in an airport	1
3	What is their situation?	they are stuck, as there is too much snow	1
4	What is the initial problem they face? Give details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are shy • they don't get on with each other (understand each other) 	2
5	What two initial prejudices does Sonia talk about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Spaniard will like flamenco • the American will play basketball or baseball 	2
6	The protagonists have to collaborate on a problem. What does this help them do?	get to know each other and see that stereotypes are not always true	1
7	Sonia talks about various stereotypes. Give any two of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nationality • the music you listen to • the way you look (any two)	2
8	Who wrote the play they performed?	pupils at the school	1
9	What kind of things did pupils do apart from appearing as actors?	working on the set or costumes (either one)	1