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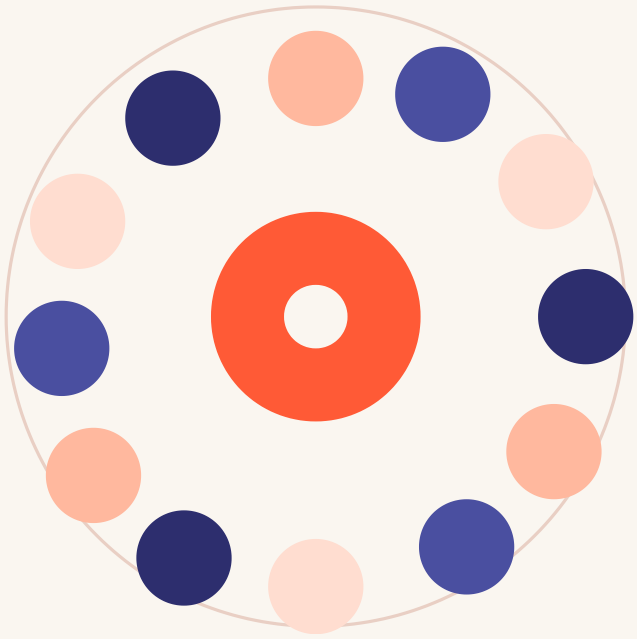

Leaving Cert Spanish

SAMPLE DIARY ENTRIES

TOPIC · DIARY ENTRY

Querido diario

Dear diary

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01 How to write a diary entry

Tips for writing diary entries

● Writing a diary entry is an optional question on Leaving Cert Spanish papers. Students have to choose between writing a diary entry or writing a note. While the diary often requires writing more than the note, the note is more literal than the diary, giving you less room to paraphrase.

● The diary entry question is worth 20 marks, so five marks per point. You should not spend more than 15 minutes to complete this question.

● Your diary should include four points. The exam paper will provide five points, and you will choose four of them. You must include all four to receive full marks.

● Very often you will be asked to include four points that include something in the present, the past (usually the preterite tense) and the future. Make sure you have a good command of these tenses prior to the exam to ace this question.

● There's no need to elaborate on the four points. The more you write, the more mistakes you will make. Students often lose marks by overcomplicating their diaries and writing too much. Sticking to the basics can earn you full marks as long as you cover all the points clearly and accurately in Spanish.

● It's a good idea to learn one or two phrases before the exam that you can use to smoothly open and close your diary entries. Having these set phrases prepared will help you start your writing confidently and give it a polished, well-rounded feel. These phrases can save time during the exam and ensure your diary has a cohesive structure, making a strong first and last impression on the examiner.

● It is not necessary to start a new paragraph for each point. If you write one sentence per point, you'll end up with several single-sentence paragraphs.

● As with any written assignment, it's important to review your answer carefully once you've finished. Take the time to check for spelling errors, accent marks, adjective agreements, and verb endings. This final review is crucial in order to correct big and small mistakes and achieve full marks. You should be particularly vigilant with verb tenses and adjective agreement.

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02 Diary sample number 1

Campsite holiday

You have spent your holiday in a campsite with your family. It didn't go well. Write a DIARY ENTRY in SPANISH mentioning all of the following points:

- Everything was awful: the facilities, the food, the weather.
- You were fighting non-stop with your siblings and even with your parents.
- There weren't enough things to do and you were bored.
- You missed your friends while you were away.
- You have made lots of plans to do with your friends this weekend.

Querido diario

Acabamos de **volver** de unas vacaciones en un campamento. ¡Qué horror! Todo **era** un desastre. **Había** muy pocas instalaciones para tanta gente. La comida era horrorosa y encima… ¡llovió todos los días! **No paré de** discutir con mis hermanos y hasta con mis padres algunas veces. No había nada que hacer y me aburrí mucho. Pude leer algunos libros pero no podíamos hacer actividades al aire libre a causa de la lluvia.

Además, eché de menos a mis amigos. **Lo bueno es que** tengo muchos planes para hacer cosas con ellos este fin de semana. Vamos a ir al cine, de fiesta y también jugaré un partido de fútbol el sábado por la noche en el polideportivo. Me voy a divertir mucho más que durante las vacaciones.

Ahora voy a acostarme.

¡Hasta mañana!

NOTES

Acabamos de + infinitive: we just… — very useful construction.

For description in the past (*era, había*) it is preferable to use the imperfect rather than the preterite.

No parar de + infinitive: useful expression to describe repetitive actions in the past.

Lo bueno es que: the good thing is that.

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03 Diary sample number 2

Stuck at home in a storm

Today all of the schools, offices and shops were closed because of a storm. Write a DIARY ENTRY in SPANISH mentioning all of the following points:

- You were bored at home all day with nothing to do.
- Your parents stayed in and you played some card games.
- Your younger brother was interrupting you while you were trying to study.
- The internet was down.
- You hope the storm is over soon because your parents need to buy more food.

Querido diario:

Hoy todos los colegios, tiendas y oficinas **han estado** cerrados **a causa de** la tormenta. ¡Qué aburrimiento! No me gusta estar en casa todo el día sin nada que hacer.

Como mis padres no fueron a la oficina, **durante un rato** jugamos a las cartas todos juntos pero luego nos cansamos. Después intenté estudiar pero mi hermano pequeño **no dejaba de** entrar en mi habitación a interrumpirme cada poco. ¡Es muy pesado! **Para colmo**, no funcionaba el internet y no podía ni siquiera hablar con mis amigos. ¡Un día horrible!

Espero que mañana ya abran las tiendas porque mis padres necesitan ir al supermercado a comprar más comida. Somos muchos en casa y comemos mucho. Además, quiero volver al cole. Así por lo menos puedo charlar con mis compañeros.

Mañana escribo más, ahora me voy a dormir.

¡Hasta pronto!

NOTES

Because we are describing events that have occurred today (a period of time that is not over yet), it is preferable to use the present perfect.

a causa de: due to.

In this case **como** translates as "since" (since my parents didn't go to the office).

durante un rato: for a while.

no dejar de / no parar de + infinitive: useful to describe repetitive actions in the past.

para colmo: to top it all off.

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04 Diary sample number 3

The party at home

You were alone in the house for the weekend and decided to organise a party on Saturday evening. Your parents don't know about it. Write a DIARY ENTRY in SPANISH mentioning all of the following points:

- The party was good but very few people came, you wonder why.
- Your best friend was in charge of the music.
- You had little time to organise food and drinks.
- You met some new people.
- It was a lot of work preparing everything and cleaning up afterwards.

Querido diario:

Este fin de semana he organizado una fiesta en casa porque mis padres no estaban. Me lo pasé bien aunque vino muy poca gente… y la verdad no sé por qué. Creo que los invité muy tarde y por eso no pudieron venir.

Mi mejor amigo **estaba al cargo de** la música. Lo hizo muy bien y ¡todo el mundo estaba bailando! Creo que podría ser dj profesional.

Tuve poco tiempo para organizar la comida y la bebida, así que fui a **la tienda de la esquina** para comprarlo todo, pero era muy caro. Preparar todo para la fiesta **me llevó** un montón de tiempo y limpiar después incluso más. **¡Es muy cansado!** Creo que **me lo pensaré dos veces** antes de volver a organizar una fiesta en casa.

Lo bueno es que conocí a algunas personas que vinieron a la fiesta, amigos de amigos. Eran muy simpáticos y espero volver a verles. ¡Quizás en la próxima fiesta!

Me voy a acostar porque estoy muy cansado.

¡Hasta mañana!

NOTES

al cargo de: in charge of.

la tienda de la esquina: the local shop.

me llevó un montón de tiempo: it took me a lot of time (*un montón de* = mucho).

es muy cansado: it's very tiring (cleaning), as opposed to *estoy muy cansado* (I am very tired).

me lo pensaré dos veces: I'll think twice.

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05 Diary sample number 4

The new school uniform

It is the month of September and you are in 6th year. Your school has just introduced a new school uniform. Write a DIARY ENTRY in SPANISH mentioning all of the following points:

- You don't like it at all. The old uniform was a lot nicer.
- You don't want to wear it but the school is not giving you a choice.
- Your mum is complaining that she has to spend money on a new uniform.
- Everyone else feels the same but everyone is going to wear it without a complaint.
- You are already looking forward to the end of the school year.

Querido diario:

Estamos a primeros de septiembre y el colegio ha cambiado de uniforme. El nuevo es más feo y más incómodo. ¡No me gusta nada! No quiero ponérmelo pero en el colegio me obligan a llevarlo. **Encima**, mi madre se está quejando porque tiene que gastar más dinero para comprar otro uniforme. El principio de curso **supone** muchos gastos y ahora ¡esto!

A ninguno de mis amigos le gusta el nuevo uniforme pero todos van a llevarlo **aunque sea** por obligación. ¡Qué rabia! Ya tengo ganas de que acabe el curso y ¡aún no hemos empezado! Prefiero sin duda llevar mi propia ropa.

Mañana escribo más ya que ahora estoy cansada.

¡Hasta mañana!

NOTES

a primeros de: at the beginning of.

encima: on top of that.

supone: involves.

a ninguno de mis amigos: remember that *gustar* is a "backwards verb", so you don't say "my friends like", you say "it is pleasing to my friends".

aunque sea: even if it is (*sea* is subjunctive).

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06 Diary sample number 5

Summer holiday with friends

You are just back from a summer holiday with your two best friends. Write a DIARY ENTRY in SPANISH mentioning all of the following points:

- The weather was good but the sea water was cold.
- France is interesting but shops and restaurants are very expensive.
- You enjoyed swimming every day and relaxing on the beach.
- You went out every day… you are more tired than you were before the holiday.
- You spent a lot of time together… too much.

Querido diario:

Acabo de volver de unas vacaciones en Francia con mis mejores amigos. ¡Me lo he pasado muy bien!

Me encanta Francia. Es un país muy interesante pero **hay que decir que** las tiendas y los restaurantes son muy caros.

Hemos nadado casi todos los días aunque el agua del mar estaba bastante fría. Sin embargo ha hecho un tiempo fantástico, ha hecho sol y calor todo el tiempo. **Me fascina** ir a la playa y poder nadar a diario, porque desafortunadamente eso en Irlanda no es posible. He pasado un montón de horas relajándome en la arena.

Para colmo, hemos salido todos las noches. ¡Estoy más cansado que antes de las vacaciones!

Es verdad que es más divertido cuando hay más gente. Los tres hemos estado mucho tiempo juntos. Al final, es un poco pesado estar todo el rato con las mismas personas.

Mañana escribiré más porque me tengo que acostar.

¡Hasta pronto!

NOTES

hay que decir que: it must be said that.

For events in the recent past it is correct to use the present perfect as well as the preterite.

me fascina: same as *me encanta*.

para colmo: to top it off.

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07 Useful phrases when writing diary entries

SPANISH	ENGLISH
INTRODUCTION PHRASES	
Querido diario…	Dear diary…
Estoy escribiendo estas líneas desde la cama.	I'm writing these lines in bed.
DESCRIBING TODAY	
Hoy ha sido un día especial.	Today has been a special day.
Hoy ha sido un día emocionante.	Today has been an exciting day.
FEELINGS	
Estoy muy ilusionado/a. / Estoy muy emocionado/a.	I'm very excited.
Me hace mucha ilusión.	I'm very excited.
Tengo muchas ganas de… / Me apetece mucho… / Estoy deseando…	I'm looking forward to…
Estoy un poco preocupado/a.	I'm a bit worried.
Estoy un poco preocupado por el examen de mañana.	I'm a bit worried about tomorrow's exam.
Estoy un poco nervioso/a.	I'm a bit nervous.
Echo de menos a mi familia.	I miss my family.
LIKES AND DISLIKES	
Lo que más me gusta es…	What I like the most is…
Me encanta caminar por la playa.	I love walking on the beach.
Me gusta pasar tiempo en la naturaleza.	I like to spend time in nature.
Me encanta aprender cosas nuevas cada día.	I love to learn new things every day.
Me gustaría celebrar mi cumpleaños con mi familia.	I'd like to celebrate my birthday with my family.
Espero hacer amigos pronto.	I hope to make friends soon.

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07 Useful phrases (continued)

SPANISH	ENGLISH
WHAT HAPPENED TODAY	
Acabo de llegar a España.	I've just arrived in Spain.
Llegué a España ayer.	I arrived in Spain yesterday.
He hecho muchos amigos nuevos.	I have made a lot of new friends.
Hoy he conocido a una persona interesante.	Today I met an interesting person.
Hoy he pasado tiempo con mi familia y ha sido divertido.	Today I spent time with my family and it was fun.
Hicimos muchas cosas interesantes.	We did lots of interesting things.
Después del cine fui a una fiesta.	After the cinema I went to a party.
Lo pasamos muy bien.	We had a great time.
Me he divertido mucho.	I have had a lot of fun.
Me he aburrido mucho.	I have been very bored.
CLOSING PHRASES	
Continuaré mañana.	I'll write more tomorrow.
Con estas palabras, acabo por hoy.	With these words, I will finish for today.
Termino por hoy, pero continuaré mañana.	I will finish for today, but I'll continue tomorrow.
Adiós por ahora.	Goodbye for now.
Es todo por hoy.	That's it for today.

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