**IB Spanish Exam Review**

**Repaso del examen del Bachillerato Internacional**

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The goal of this work is to review the key concepts that we have learned in International Baccalaureate Spanish classes. I will be covering concepts in no particular order, and will cover concepts in the work in the order in which they occur to me, and will provide examples. This work should be a tool with which to study; some of the concepts that will be covered are:

El objetivo de este trabajo es repasar las ideas principales que hemos estudiado en las clases de español del Bachillerato Internacional. Yo hablaré de estas cosas por lo general, y hablaré de estas cosas en el trabajo en el orden en que me ocurren, y yo daré ejemplos de cada tema. Este trabajo debe ser una herramienta que ayuda a los alumnos a estudiar; unas cosas de que yo hablaré son:

1. Los usos del subjuntivo
2. Las clausulas que usan “si”
3. Pretérito o imperfecto
4. Saber o conocer
5. Por o para
6. Vocabulario útil

**The Subjunctive**

**Q: What is the subjunctive?**

A: The subjunctive is something that is very hard for English speakers to understand or appreciate. To begin with a misconception, the subjunctive is NOT a verb tense. The subjunctive is a mood, in which different verb tenses exist. The subjunctive is simpler than the indicative in my eyes because there are only two forms of subjunctive verbs; there are present tense verbs of the subjunctive mood, and there are past tense verbs of the subjunctive mood. The future subjunctive is archaic and will only be seen in pre-modern era Spanish writings.

**Q: How do you form the present subjunctive?**

A: The subjunctive is formed by taking the present tense indicative first person (yo) form of a verb, and adding the opposite endings. For example, an –ar verb would have –er endings added to it and vice versa.

Ex: Hablar

Yo hable Nosotros hablemos

Tú hables Vosotros habléis

Él hable Ellos hablen

This is, of course, problematic when dealing with verbs whose present tense indicative yo form does not end in –o, as in the following verbs, which are listed with their subjunctive present tense forms:

Saber Sepa, sepas, sepa, sepamos, sepais, sepan

Dar Dé, des, dé, demos, deis, den

Ser Sea, seas, sea, seamos, seais, sean

Ir Vaya, vayas, vaya, vayamos, vayais, vayan

Estar Esté, estés, esté, estemos, esteis, estén

Haber Haya, hayas, haya, hayamos, hayais, hayan

**Q: How do I form the past subjunctive?**

A: The past subjunctive is formed by taking the third person plural form (ellos, ellas, ustedes) of the indicative preterit tense, taking off the –on at the end, and adding the endings –ra, -ras, -ra, -ramos, -rais, and –ran. Luckily, though complicated in use, all verbs will follow this pattern.

Example: Comer. 3rd person plural preterit: comieron

Past subjunctive: comiera, comieras, comiera, comiéramos, comierais, comieran

More irregular you say?

Example: Saber. 3rd person plural preterit: supieron

Past subjunctive: supiera, supieras, supiera, supiéramos, supierais, supieran

Notice the accent mark in the nosotros form. Remember that in Spanish the natural accent falls on the second to last syllable if the word ends with n, s, or a vowel, and on the last syllable if it ends in any consonant that is not n or s. Thus, to preserve the sound of the verb, we place the accent over the third to last syllable in the nosotros form.

Also, an alternative set of endings are sometimes used in the imperfect subjunctive; these endings are –se, -ses, -se, -semos, -seis, and –sen. Neither is wrong; it is merely a difference that will vary from region to region.

Example: Saber

Past subjunctive 2: supiese, supieses, supiese, supiésemos, supieseis, supiesen

**Q: When do you use the subjunctive?**

A: The subjunctive is used to demonstrate influence on another subject. Furthermore, there is no one size fits all type of rule for the subjunctive. Rather, one must memorize and get used to the various uses of the subjunctive, of which I will now give examples.

1. *Will, hope, or influence*
2. Quiero que ustedes aprendan español.
3. Ellos esperan que yo coma la cena.
4. Nosotros mandamos que él nos diga la verdad
5. *Doubt*
6. Dudo que ellos hayan encontrado las llaves.
7. Es dudoso que yo encuentre las llaves.
8. *Ojalá (que)*
9. Ojalá que ellos tengan un buen día.
10. Ojalá que tengamos buena suerte.
11. *Impersonal expressions*

Note: Impersonal expressions, unless they directly negate an otherwise subjunctive clause, are almost always in the subjunctive because they lack a subject, and therefore the following clause will always have a change in subject.

1. Es bueno que ellos estudien.
2. Es interesante que tú conozcas a Pablo.
3. Es una lástima que él gaste dinero

BUT

1. Es claro que tenemos más dinero que él.
2. Es evidente que yo espero sacar una novia.
3. *When expressing uncertainty or a lack of existence*
4. Yo busco una casa que tenga una piscine.
5. No hay ninguna mujer que me pueda ayudar.

**Q: Are there any times that I should always use the subjunctive, regardless of context?**

A: Actually, yes there are. Following is a list of phrases that are always followed by the subjunctive:

1. Como si As if
2. Sin que Without
3. Antes (de) que Before
4. Para que In order that
5. A menos que Unless
6. A no ser que Unless
7. A fin de que In order that
8. Con tal que Provided that
9. En caso de que In case that, supposing that

Here is a list of phrases NEVER followed by the subjunctive:

1. Puesto que Since, inasmuch as
2. Mientras que Whereas
3. Ya que Since, now that
4. Ahora que Now that

And here is a list of phrases that can be followed by either subjunctive or indicative:

1. Cuando When
2. Después que After
3. Hasta que Until
4. Aunque Even though, even if
5. Mientras While, as long as
6. En cuanto, tan pronto como, luego que, así que As soon as
7. De manera que So as, so that
8. De modo que So that
9. A pesar de que In spite of the fact that
10. Siempre que Provided that, whenever
11. Porque Because, so that
12. Como Since, as

**Q: How can I know when to use the subjunctive or the indicative with the list that can be used with either one?**

A: You must keep in mind the uses of the subjunctive. Remember, if something is contrary to fact it is subjunctive. If something is unlikely it is subjunctive. Often, the indicative or subjunctive can be used but will change the overall meaning of the statement. Examples?

1. *Ellos siempre salen cuando suena la alarma.*

They always leave when the alarm goes off; it is a habitual action.

1. *Ellos saldrán cuando llegue el profesor.*

They will leave when the professor arrives; he has not yet arrived, therefore it is contrary to fact.

1. *Ellos salen cuando el niño se pone triste.*

They leave when the boy gets sad; it is habitual, and what they normally do.

1. *Ellos saldrán cuando el niño se ponga triste.*

The will leave when the boy gets sad; the boy is not yet sad, but they will leave when he is.

As you can easily see, the subjunctive is usually used in such cases to demonstrate something that is contrary to fact. With this in mind, the indicative is often used with present tense indicative or imperfect because those tenses are frequently used to describe habitual actions. However, the subjunctive is often used in future or conditional constructions because those by definition have not yet happened or may not happen. It is noteworthy that the conditional tense is often used with the imperfect subjunctive much the same as it is in English. Examples?

1. *Yo iría si tuviera un traje.*

I would go if I had a suit; I don’t have one, but IF I did I would go.

1. *Yo vendría si hubiera comido más temprano.*

I would come if I had eaten earlier; I’m not coming, but I would IF I had eaten earlier.

Again, it can easily be seen that the past subjunctive often follows si clauses because they often denote something that did not actually happen (i.e. contrary to fact).

**Haber**

**Q: Can you explain the different tenses of haber?**

A: Yes. Let’s first examine haber in English. Take for example the following phrases:

1. I have eaten
2. I had eaten
3. I would have eaten
4. I will have eaten

These are all phrases that can easily be expressed in Spanish through the use of haber. What I personally do to help me clarify what a given tense of haber means is to put in perspective of the speaker, and then make a timeline. For example,

1. He comido.

I have eaten. The point of reference is right now, but the action is in the past.

1. Había comido.

I had eaten. The point of reference is in the past, and the action is also in the past and occurred before the time of reference.

1. Habría comido.

I would have eaten. The point of reference is in the past, and it expresses something that did not actually happen. This can often be seen with si clauses, as in

1. Habría comido si hubiera tenido hambre.

I would have eaten if I had been hungry.

1. Habré comido.

I will have eaten. The point of reference in the future, and the action is in the past (from the point of reference).

In order to help demonstrate these concepts, I will provide a timeline that expresses an order of events combining haber, the preterit, the imperfect, the present, the future, and the conditional.

1. Yo comía.

I used to eat. An action far in the past, or repeated action.

1. **Yo había comido.**

I had eaten. Often seen with words such as cuando to express related events.

1. Había comido ya cuando llegaron mis padres.
2. Yo comí.

I ate. A past action.

1. **Yo habría comido.**

I would have eaten. Thus, I did not eat and thus the hypothetical refers to the past, but I am referencing it from the present.

1. **Yo he comido.**

I have eaten. I’m in the present, but I’m referencing an action that only occurred in the past.

1. Yo como.

I eat. Something that I am in the habit of doing. In other words, it happened in the past, up to and including right now.

1. Estoy comiendo.

I am eating right now. Not in the past, now and only now.

1. Yo comeré.

I will eat. Something that has not yet occurred, but the point of reference is right now.

1. **Yo habré comido.**

I will have eaten. The action has not occurred, and the point of reference is in the future. Often seen with the subjunctive.

1. Cuando lleguen mis padres, ya habré comido.

My parents haven’t yet arrived, but when they do I will already have eaten.

One must of course not ignore yo haya comido and yo hubiera comido; however, these do not fit on the timeline because they are merely of a different mood. For example,

1. Él espera que yo haya comido.

He hopes that I have eaten.

1. Yo no tendría hambre si yo hubiera comido.

I wouldn’t be hungry if I had eaten.

**Preterit or Imperfect?**

**Q: When do I use the preterit?**

A: The preterit is something that is difficult for English speakers to understand because in many ways the English past tense is easier to understand. However, the general rule for when to use the preterit is fairly straightforward: the preterit is used to reference completed actions that took place in the past. Here are some examples.

1. A narrative, or chain of events.
2. Ella se levantó, se duchó, y salió.

She got up, showered, and left.

1. To say when something began.
2. Yo empecé a escribir la carta.

I began to write the letter.

1. To describe a single event.
2. Ellos comieron a las cinco.

They ate at 5.

1. To describe something that was repeated a specific number of times.
2. Yo comí tres veces.

I ate three times.

**Q: When do I use the imperfect?**

A: The imperfect is more or less used to describe events that do not have a definite beginning or end. It is used for habitual actions. Examples:

1. To tell one’s age in the past.
2. Cuando tenía cinco años…
3. To describe what was going on when something else interrupted.
4. Yo comía la cena cuando sonó el teléfono.
5. To talk about the weather.
6. Llovía ayer.
7. To tell time.
8. Eran las seis.
9. To talk about what people used to do (habitually, with no set number of times).
10. Él caminaba por el parque.

**Por vs. Para**

**Q: When should I use para?**

A: Out of the two, para is much easier to learn in my opinion because there are fewer uses. Unfortunately, there is no easy way to categorize the instances in which they are used, so I will cite examples and do my best to make it clear what the uses are in English.

1. Expression of special destination (i.e. where you are going, emphasis on destination not process)
2. Voy para la playa.
3. To designate the recipient of an object.
4. Este regalo es para mi novia.
5. To say what the purpose of something is (i.e. in order to).
6. Trabajo para pagar las cuentas.
7. To refer to deadlines in time or due dates.
8. La asignación es para el viernes.
9. To express an ability that is surprising.
10. Para un jóven, tú hablas muy bien.
11. To introduce a perspective or say what somebody thinks.
12. Para mi madre, la cena debe ser rica.
13. To express that you work for someone (i.e. are employed by).
14. Yo trabajo para una empresa que vende cinturones de seguridad.

**Q: When should I use por?**

A: The easiest way to remember answer to this question is that you should use por when you know that you do not need to use para. Of course, it isn’t as simple as it sounds, so I will again provide examples of what to do and when. Por is used to express:

1. Movement through, around, by, along, etc.
2. Camino por el pasillo.
3. Él entra por la puerta.
4. Manejo por la ciudad.
5. To express a cause or a motive.
6. Llegué tarde por el tráfico.
7. Mi madre me regaña por pelear con mi hermano.
8. To express a duration of time.
9. Yo estudio por cinco horas.
10. To say doing on behalf of someone or something else.
11. Quiero votar por nuestro presidente.
12. Mi amigo trabajó por mí ayer. (worked in my place)
13. To express a payment or a trade of currency.
14. Yo te doy cinco pesos por esas camisas.
15. To express rates or frequency (i.e. the word “per” in English).
16. Trabajo 40 horas por semana.
17. To express how things are done (through what means).
18. Me gusta viajar por tren, y también por avión.
19. To indicate who made something.
20. El libro fue escrito por Cervantes.
21. To express thanks.
22. Gracias por tu ayuda.
23. To express approximate time.
24. Yo trabajo por la mañana.
25. To express what you need on an errand.
26. Yo voy a la tienda por pan y leche.

**Pronouns**

**Q: Can we go over what pronouns are one more time?**

A: Yes. There are 4 important types of pronouns in Spanish, and I will discuss them one by one.

1. *Subject pronouns.*

Subject pronouns are used to tell in a sentence who is performing an action. These are often omitted due to the fact that a verb conjugation can in many cases indicate who is speaking. The subject pronouns are:

1. Yo I
2. Tú You (familiar)
3. Él/ella/usted He/she/you (formal)
4. Nosotros (as) We
5. Vosotros (as) You all (Spain)
6. Ellos/ellas/ustedes They/they/you all (Latin America)
7. *Direct object pronouns.*

Direct object pronouns are pronouns that answer the question, “Who?” or the question, “What?” The direct object pronouns are as follows:

1. Me Me
2. Te You (familiar)
3. Lo/la Him/her/it/you (formal)
4. Nos Us
5. Os You all (Spain)
6. Los/las Them/those/you all (Latin America)

Examples:

1. ¿Conoces a Pablo?

No, no lo conozco.

No, I don’t know him.

1. Te quiero.

I like you.

1. *Indirect object pronouns.*

Indirect object pronouns are used to answer the question, “To whom?” or “For whom?” The indirect object pronouns are listed here:

1. Me To me
2. Te To you (familiar)
3. Le To him/her/you (formal)
4. Nos To us
5. Os To you all (Spain)
6. Les To them/to you all (Latin America)

Examples:

1. Yo le envié una carta a Pablo.

I sent a letter to Pablo.

1. Él me habló ayer.

He spoke to me yesterday.

One important thing to note is the order of these pronouns in any given construction. In Spanish, the indirect object pronoun **must** precede the direct object pronoun, and both must always come before the conjugated verb **unless** the verb is an infinitive or an **affirmative** command.

1. No me lo digas.
2. Dímelo.
3. Algún día, yo espero decírtelo.
4. ¿Tú ya diste las camisas a Juan?

Sí, ya se las di.

In the above example, it is important to note that se and not le is used to reference Juan. In any given construction, if the indirect object pronoun is le or les and the direct object pronoun is lo, la, los, or las, the indirect object pronoun must be changed to se.

1. *Reflexive object pronouns.*

Reflexive object pronouns, in direct contrast to direct and indirect object pronouns, are used to indicate that an action was performed on oneself. Reflexive object pronouns are difficult to understand at times because they make little sense in English. These pronouns are often used with verbs of preparation. The reflexive object pronouns are as follows:

1. Me Myself
2. Te Yourself (familiar)
3. Se Himself/herself/yourself (formal)
4. Nos Ourselves
5. Os Yourselves (Spain)
6. Se Themselves/yourselves (Latin America)

Examples?

1. Me lavo las manos.
2. Ella se despertó, se duchó, se vistió, y salió.

T**he comparative and superlative**

**Q: What are the comparative and superlative?**

A: The comparative and superlative are, most simply put, the ways in which things and people can be compared. In English, we frequently see phrases such as better than, worse than, more than, and less than. The comparative and superlative are how we would express such things in Spanish. Some useful words to know regarding the comparative and superlative are:

1. Mejor Better
2. Peor Worse
3. Mayor Older
4. Menor Younger
5. Más More
6. Menos Less
7. Que Than

In order to compare with adjectives, the phrase “más que” is used, with the adjective coming between más and que, unless you would like to refer to the number of things being compared, in which case the phrase “más de” is used.

1. Yo soy más inteligente que mi madre.
2. Hay más de quinientos libros aquí.

In order to express equality of some sort, the phrases “tan como” and “tanto como” are used. Tan como is used with adjectives, with the adjective coming between tan and como; tanto como is used with nouns, with the noun coming between tanto and como.

1. Mi madre es tan inteligente como yo.

My mother is as smart as I am.

1. Mi madre tiene tanto dinero como yo.

My mother has as much money as I do.

To form the superlative, we must take a definite article (el, la, los, or las) and place it before the adjective form of the comparative.

1. Yo soy el estudiante más inteligente de la clase.
2. Soy el más feliz.

**Saber o conocer, and llevar o traer**

**Q: How do I know which word to use in Spanish?**

A: The best way to avoid word confusion in Spanish is to begin practicing and gain exposure to the words to avoid confusion. Here I will outline words that I hear confused commonly and outline their differences.

1. *Saber and conocer*

Saber and conocer both mean “to know”. However, saber is used for factual information or knowledge, while conocer is used to indicate being familiar with something or someone; conocer in the preterit also translates to “to meet”.

1. Sé que existen manzanas.
2. Conocí a una mujer ayer.
3. Conozco bien las calles de Madrid.
4. *Llevar and traer*

The difference between llevar and traer is more difficult to explain due to the fact that both words can have multiple meanings, such as the use of llevar to say to wear clothing. However, the meaning that is most often confused is that traer means to bring, and llevar means to take with. In order to keep this in mind, I again look at the perspective of the speaker or bringer, and their intention. For example, I take my backpack with me to school, but I bring my friend a cookie.

1. Esta noche, yo llevé mi mochila a mi casa.

Tonight, I took my backpack to my house. It is mine, and I took it with me on my person to my house.

1. Papá, ¿Usted podría traerme la mochila?

Dad, could you bring me my backpack? I don’t have the backpack with me, and I need someone else to bring it to me.

**Additional practice**

**Q: Where can I get more practice to accurately assess where I am in terms of verb conjugation?**

A: I will attach some additional verb practice and translation practice. If you can complete all of it with relative accuracy, then you probably do just fine with verb conjugation.

1. Conjugate the following verbs.
2. Hablar
3. Comer
4. Irse
5. Dormir
6. Balbucear
7. Cruzar
8. Criar
9. Erguir
10. Yacer
11. Placer
12. Rellenar
13. Reírse
14. Venir
15. Tener
16. Afeitarse
17. Constituir
18. Dar
19. Desvestirse
20. Explicar
21. Raer
22. Satisfacer
23. Hacer
24. Traducir
25. Morder
26. Leer
27. Translate the following sentences into English.
28. Yo sólo te ayudaría so pena de muerte.
29. Yo haría la tarea si yo tuviera más tiempo.
30. Ellos nos tratan como si no se lo diésemos.
31. Dentro de cincuenta años, habremos alcanzado un punto en que no sea necesario cosechar órganos para salvar la vida de los que sufren por el cancer. **(Challenge)**
32. Yo que tú.,lo intentaba conmigo. **(Challenge)**
33. Translate the following sentences into Spanish.
34. If I hadn’t eaten so much, I wouldn’t be so full.
35. I wouldn’t do that if I were you.
36. There are six more books on the table than on the ground.
37. I had already studied when we took the test.
38. I know that my friend knows is familiar with the city, because he knows how to make a knife out of wood.
39. I brought a pencil to school so that my friend had something to write with.