

School Curriculum

Task: Foreign languages in the educational curriculum

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **foreign languages in the educational curriculum**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Some serious developments in learning a foreign language, particularly English, has been being pushed forward in the school curriculums in Spain. By the same token, French has also found its way back into the classrooms. When this started, it was particularly hard for those that were in their last year of school before job hunting or going to University. In addition to this, University students have found that they need a minimum of B1 level in a foreign language to be able to complete their degree before they are issued their University diploma. **I may be wrong, but don't you think** that this might be **totally** rushing it on students that are so obviously unprepared?

So to continue, the question forms why the need and rush to have the future generation learning a foreign language so quickly. Surprisingly enough, in spite of being one of the countries in Europe that receives the most tourism, it is also the one that has one of the worst levels in English. Back in 2019, Spain was listed as the 25th out of 33 countries, of having a lower level of using English. In fact, the age group from 25 to 34 years of age, has seem to have **turned a blind eye** to progressing strategies, since an improvement in these statistics has not been seen in the last ten years, when compared to Italy, Portugal and Greece. These countries were **basically** at a similar level to that of Spain. That being said, those that know the Spain of twenty years ago, will have noticed a difference in the level of English.

Spain is certainly more English-friendly than it was in the not-to-long-ago past. Considering some of the reasons may be the fact that there has been some pressure from the European Union to bring the English level of the citizens up. Furthermore, many University students are studying in English speaking countries, such as England, so all their courses will naturally be in English. For those that to aren't leaving their country, not only do they have to have a B1 level to finish their degree, but they also find that this is the minimum level that is needed in order to compete in the job market, and usually is considered the starting point on rather an individual is going to **sink or swim**. Many employers these days are looking for B2 and C1 levels in a future employee. In addition to this, they even have the luxury to ask for multiple foreign language acquisition, due to the fact that there are a lot of competitive applicants interested in finding a job. This allows each time for an employer to ask for more and more formation. Unfortunately, this seems to make Spain one of the countries that has the most educated unemployed in Europe. Really, it is no surprise that Spain has lost many of their more qualified professionals to richer countries that will pay them for all this



knowledge acquisition. Finally, here is hoping that Spain continues to push forward and make a move on their education skills amongst their citizens, but are also able to do this by balancing it with more available employment.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, information about Spain's progress in English and why it is needed.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, information about Spain's progress in English and why it is needed. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• may be rushing students that are unprepared
Information about Spain's English progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25th in 33 countries of low level of English• no improvement in the last ten years• Italy, Portugal and Greece were at a similar level and are now more advanced• notice a difference in level in the last 20 years
Why it is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lots of tourism• study in English speaking countries• to finish degrees• compete in the job market• employers ask for more

Marks: +_ / +10



Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but.... / Don't you think it might be....?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off