

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT

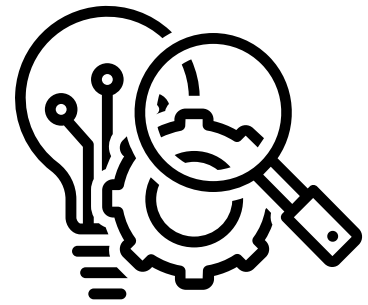
(IRP)

The Student Guide

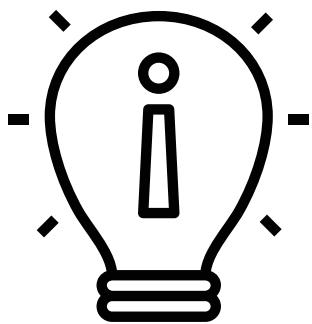
IRP STUDENT GUIDE

What is the Individual Research Project (IRP)?

The IRP is a key component of the speaking section in A-Level Spanish exam. It allows students to select a subject or key question of personal interest that relates to a country or countries where the target language is spoken. Students will conduct independent research in the target language, drawing from various sources including online resources. The primary goal is to develop research skills, and students will demonstrate their ability to independently research, analyse, and summarise findings for discussion during the speaking assessment (Paper 3).



Selecting a Suitable Topic:



Students can choose a subject related to the themes or sub-themes studied in class, or a work of literature or film that has been explored. However, the research must not be based on the same text(s) or film(s) featured in the written assessment. While there is no preference for specific areas of study, the topic must be engaging and sufficiently complex to allow for a detailed discussion. The topic should involve at least two sources and enable students to express opinions, analyse information, and argue different perspectives. Students may select an alternative work by a writer or director previously covered in class.



IRP STUDENT GUIDE

The Assessment

Presentation

(2 minutes)

&

Discussion

(9–10 minutes)

35 marks

Step-by-Step Student Checklist

1. Selecting a Topic:

- ☐ Which topic interests me the most?
- ☐ Have I conducted some preliminary reading in both my first language and the target language?
- ☐ Have I compiled a list of potential topics and discussed them with my teacher to identify the most suitable ones?

2. Suitability of the Topic:

- ☐ Does the topic relate directly to the target language society?
- ☐ Are appropriate resources accessible?
- ☐ Does the topic allow for the development of meaningful ideas, analysis, and opinions?
- ☐ Is the topic appropriately scoped (neither too broad nor too narrow)?



IRP STUDENT GUIDE

3. Choosing Sources and Collecting Information:

- ☐ Have I organised my research materials into a separate file or section in my A-Level folder?
- ☐ Have I identified at least 2 (but no more than 10) sources, both printed and online?
- ☐ Have I printed online resources and highlighted key points for annotation?
- ☐ Have I used audio or video sources to enrich my research?
- ☐ Have I noted important vocabulary and concepts from my printed sources?
- ☐ Have I collected relevant statistics, facts, and/or quotations to cite in my speaking assessment?
- ☐ Have I maintained a complete list of references for accurate citation?

4. Organising Ideas

- ☐ Have I planned my 2-minute presentation, clearly outlining key points?
- ☐ Have I anticipated potential follow-up questions based on my presentation and headings?
- ☐ Have I prepared responses to the expected and possible questions?
- ☐ Have I considered answers for unexpected questions that may arise during the discussion?



IRP STUDENT GUIDE

5. Answering Questions during the Discussion

- ☐ Can I back up my answers with a strong knowledge of the topic?
- ☐ Can I accurately quote my sources during the discussion?
- ☐ Have I focused on analysing and evaluating information in depth?
- ☐ Am I prepared to defend my viewpoint in response to counter-arguments?
- ☐ Do I have the language skills necessary to describe, analyse, and evaluate complex issues?
- ☐ Am I ready to give extended, developed responses to questions?
- ☐ Do I have useful phrases to maintain the flow of the conversation (e.g., "On the one hand... on the other," "Some argue...," "You could say...," "According to...," "I don't agree because...," "In my view...," "The figures suggest that...," "If you compare...")?
- ☐ Am I prepared to incorporate advanced grammar and idiomatic expressions?

6. Revision

- ☐ Have I created mind maps, notes, or a PowerPoint presentation to organise my material?
- ☐ Have I practised my presentation and discussion with someone else (teacher, assistant, or peer)?
- ☐ Have I recorded myself to assess my speaking speed, clarity, pronunciation, and intonation?



IRP STUDENT GUIDE

Examples of Potential IRP Titles

- The impact of reggaeton music on the youth of Latin America.
- Spanish gastronomy: The role of the Mediterranean diet in modern culture.
- The symbolism in Frida Kahlo's works: An exploration of her personal pain.
- How Diego Rivera's murals reflect Mexico's history and struggles.
- The representation of magical realism in "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel García Márquez.
- The legalisation of same-sex marriage in Spain: A milestone for equal rights.
- The influence of social media on political movements in Latin America.
- The rise of veganism in Spain: Modern trend or necessary change.
- The impact of drug trafficking on contemporary Colombian society.
- Bullfighting in Spain: its origins, historical development, and contemporary debates.
- The role of tourism in Barcelona: successes and challenges for the future.
- The rivalry between Real Madrid and Barcelona: historical and modern perspectives.