Course notes

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Language ab initio · SL

IB Language ab initio first assessment 2020; Spanish focus

Spanish ab initio is the explicit beginner focus, not Chinese or a universal language course. Themes: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization, sharing the planet. No HL course.

SL only: writing Paper 1 60 min 25%, listening/reading Paper 2 50%, visual-stimulus individual oral 25%. Two writing tasks of 70–150 words each in the current course. Future 2029 course stays separate.

Identities; social organization · Spanish introductions and agreement

Me llamo gives your name; soy describes identity or role. ¿Cómo te llamas? asks a familiar person's name.

Spanish adjectives often agree in gender and number: un libro nuevo, dos casas nuevas.

> ■ **Checked example**
>
> Soy estudiante works without adding a gender ending to estudiante in this phrase.
> La casa es nueva uses a feminine singular adjective.
> Change to las casas son nuevas when both noun and description become plural.

■ Limits and practice

Not every noun ending predicts gender, and not every adjective changes for gender.

Learn articles and useful phrases with words; do not translate each English word mechanically.

Which phrase correctly describes two new houses?

Answer: Dos casas nuevas.

Experiences; daily life · Spanish routine, time and purposeful messages

Present-tense verbs describe routines: estudio, vivo, tengo. A las ocho gives a clock time.

A simple message should state why you write, the arrangement and any action needed from the reader.

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■ Checked example

Hola, Ana. Nos vemos el jueves a las cuatro en la biblioteca. ¿Puedes traer el libro? gives day, time, place and a request.

For the current exam, expand the relevant task content within the 70–150-word range instead of repeating the greeting.

■ Limits and practice

The short model is a teaching sentence, not a complete exam-length response.

No listening recording is provided here; teacher-supplied Spanish audio and live interaction remain necessary.

Where will the meeting take place in the model?

Answer: En la biblioteca: in the library.

Sharing the planet; oral · Spanish visual description and cultural comparison

Hay means there is or there are. Location phrases such as al lado de and delante de place objects.

Build from description to a supported interpretation, then a specific cultural comparison studied in class.

■ Checked example

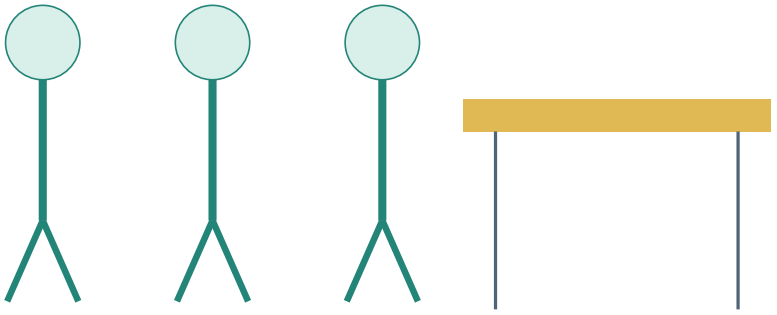
En la foto hay tres personas en un mercado. Están al lado de una mesa can describe an original classroom visual.

A follow-up about food can use me gusta or prefiero with a reason, while avoiding claims about every Spanish-speaking country.

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Describe what the original image actually shows

Una escena original: tres personas en un mercado



Hay tres personas. Están al lado de una mesa.

Limits and practice

A cultural connection needs a specific place or practice and reliable learning material.

Spanish differs from English B; this beginner course does not meet another language's vocabulary, grammar or listening requirements.

Which sentence states a visible detail rather than an unsupported assumption?

Answer: En la foto hay tres personas.

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