Spanish Continuers – text types

# What are texts (text types)?

Texts (text types) are various forms of spoken and written language, such as articles, conversations, letters and so on. Each text type varies in its characteristics of format, style, and language. In the Spanish Continuers HSC written examination, the following text types are specified for production:

1. article
2. diary entry
3. email
4. letter
5. message
6. note
7. notice
8. postcard
9. recount
10. report
11. script of an interview
12. script of a speech/talk.

Note: In the oral examination, you participate in a conversation.

In the written section of the HSC examination, you are required to produce 2 different styles of writing:

* the first style is informative or descriptive
* the second style is reflective, persuasive or evaluative, and could require you to explain or justify a point of view.

Using the correct text type and including the correct style of content is important.

# Sample tasks and practice questions

Past HSC papers can be downloaded from the [NESA website](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/Understanding-the-curriculum/resources/hsc-exam-papers). Some past HSC questions have been used as sample tasks in this document.

**For each task, identify the following:**

* **What is the purpose?**
* **Who is the audience?**
* **What is the context?**
* **What is the required text type?**
* **What is the style?**

## The texts (text types)

### 1 – article

#### Purpose

* to sustain an argument
* to describe
* to inform, persuade, amuse or entertain

#### Structure

* titles/headings (if appropriate)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* statement of conclusion or advice

#### Language features

* range of tenses (past, present, future, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the article)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. You have been asked to write an article for your local paper about a festival held recently in your area, including an evaluation of how successful it was.

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### 2 – diary entry

#### Purpose

* a personal reflection on a theme, place or situation

#### Structure

* date
* opening (*Querido diario*)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* concluding statement (for example *Adiós, Es todo por hoy*)
* sign off with name (optional)

#### Language features

* written in the first person (keep the tone/perspective of the character from whose perspective you are writing)
* usually written in past tense (simple past, imperfect, past perfect)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal register

#### Sample questions

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. You have been given a pet but your parents are not in favour of you keeping it. Write a diary entry in which you reflect on the situation.

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Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. Your best friend is thinking about leaving school and has asked you for your opinion. Write a diary entry in which you reflect on the positive and negative aspects of your friend’s decision before talking to him/her about it.

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### 3 – email

#### Purpose

* to use technology-based methods of communication
* to send greetings
* to retell events
* to inform
* to seek a response

#### Structure

* email conventions (you are not usually required to write an email address in the exam)
* specific details without elaboration
* salutation (for example *Estimado señor, Estimada señora, Querido…, Querida…, Hola*)
* conclusion (for example *Saludos cordiales, Un saludo, Un abrazo, Estamos en contacto*)

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, imperfect, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the email)

#### Sample questions

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in SPANISH. You have just returned from your Year 12 farewell luncheon. Write an email to your best friend, who was unable to attend, describing your experience.

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Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. Your friends support the proposal to replace the local park with a shopping centre. You do not agree with this proposal. Write the text of an email to your friends to persuade them to change their point of view.

2014 Higher School Certificate Examination, Spanish Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2014

### 4 – letter

#### Purpose

* to communicate in writing with acquaintances, friends, family or the public
* to inform, amuse, persuade

#### Structure

* your name and address on the right side with the address to which you are writing on the left (formal)
* town and date under the address to which you are writing
* salutations (for example *Estimado señor, Estimada señora, Querido…, Querida…*)
* letter conventions (for example *Muchas gracias por su/tu respuesta, Espero sus/tus noticias*)
* ending (for example *Saludos cordiales, Cordialmente, Aprovecho la ocasión para enviarle un cordial saludo, Con cariño, Estamos en contacto, un abrazo*)

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, future, imperfect, conditional)
* descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example, letter to a friend or letter to a newspaper)

#### Sample questions

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. You have decided to travel for a year before making any decisions about your future. Write a letter to your best friend persuading him/her to join you.

2010 Higher School Certificate Examination, Spanish Continuers, Section III, Question 13(b) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2010

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. You are working part time in an after-school centre. Write a letter to the person in charge persuading him or her to introduce the learning of Spanish into the after-school program.

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### 5 – message

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type, such as voicemail message, text message, email, social media.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the message)
* frequent use of colloquial language if to a close friend/family member

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in SPANISH. Your friend did not turn up to your birthday party and has not given you an explanation. Write a message to him/her in which you express your disappointment.

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### 6 – note

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type such as voicemail message, text message, email.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the note)

#### Sample questions

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in SPANISH. Write a note to your grandmother thanking her for your birthday present.

2011 Higher School Certificate Examination, Spanish Continuers, Section III, Question 11 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2011

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in SPANISH. You are looking for someone to share your apartment but you have special requirements. Write a note to place on the noticeboard in your local shopping centre.

2018 Higher School Certificate Examination, Spanish Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2018

### 7 – notice

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to seek a response (for example looking for a roommate to share accommodation)

#### Structure

* heading/addressee
* specific details without elaboration
* statement of conclusion or advice (for example giving contact details)

#### Language features

* often written in the present tense
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in SPANISH. You are intending to rent an apartment at the end of the school year. Write a notice to be placed in the school bulletin asking if anyone wants to share an apartment with you.

Adapted from 2016 Higher School Certificate Examination, Italian Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2016

### 8 – postcard

#### Purpose

* to provide information, amuse or entertain
* to retell events and experiences (for example who, where, what, when)

#### Structure

* salutations (*Querido…, Querida…, Hola…*)
* brief description or message
* formulaic ending (*Besos, Hasta pronto*)

#### Language features

* descriptive language
* personal impressions
* present or past tense, for example what it is like, or where you went, what you did, what you saw

#### Sample question

Write approximately 75 words in SPANISH. You have been travelling throughout a Spanish speaking country. Write a postcard about your experiences to the primary school soccer team you coached last year.

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### 9 – recount

#### Purpose

* to inform or entertain
* to retell past events or experiences
* to retell a series of events

#### Structure

* introduction/orientation (set the scene – who, what, where, when)
* events sequenced in chronological order
* closing statement

#### Language features

* often told in the first person
* descriptive language
* often told in past tense (imperfect, perfect)
* time words to connect events (for example *en primer lugar, luego, finalmente, cuando, mientras tanto*)
* words which tell us when, where, with whom and how
* linking words (for example *si, porque, pero*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. Write a recount for your school blog reflecting on a special family celebration.

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### 10 – report

#### Purpose

* to present information about a class of things (to classify) OR
* to describe the way things are
* to organise facts
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* general statement or classification
* series of paragraphs that describe
* logical progression
* concluding statement or summary

#### Language features

* supporting evidence, such as statistics, examples
* factual
* language specific to the topic
* objective language
* linking words (for example *si, porque, pero*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. Recent studies have shown that students who work part-time for more than six hours per week will suffer adversely in terms of their levels of performance and achievement. You have spoken with a significant number of students in Years 11 and 12. Write a report based on these students? comments for your school principal in which you identify and discuss the issues.

Adapted from 2005 Higher School Certificate Examination, Spanish Continuers, Section III, Question 13(b) (9 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2005

Note: This question is now worth 10 marks.

### 11 – script of an interview

#### Purpose

* to find out information (for example a story or a response)
* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* salutations
* clear idea of the purpose of the interview (*Me gustaría hablar sobre…*)
* question and response sequence (initials followed by a colon, for example A: and B:)
* use of filler expressions (*¿no es así?, pero, pero no, por supuesto, de hecho*)
* conclusion (for example *Gracias por su atención*)

#### Language features

* question forms (by the interviewer)
* register – use polite language (for example *Usted*)
* phrases to delve deeper (for example *¿Qué piensas de...? porque*)
* transition strategies when switching topics (*Ahora me gustaría hablar de otro tema, hablemos de, hablando de, para pasar al siguiente tema*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. You have interviewed a youth group leader for your local newspaper. Write the script of the interview in which the leader reflects on the experience of working with young people.

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### 12 – script of a speech/talk

#### Purpose

* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to entertain
* to persuade
* to welcome
* to thank

#### Structure

* salutations (for example *Queridos compañeros, Estimados señoras y señores, Buenos días/buenas tardes, señoras y señores*)
* introductory statement of purpose (for example *Hoy hablaré de..., Me dirijo a ustede*s)
* ideas and information organised and linked
* concluding remarks (for example *para terminar, por último, os doy las gracias por*)

#### Language features

* choice of expressions to engage the audience
* descriptive words
* range of tenses
* usually subjective language (this depends on the context)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in SPANISH. You are going to give a speech in honour of someone important in your life at his/her birthday celebration. Write the script of the speech.

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