

Book review of "A-Z for Spanish B" by Noelia Zago (Elemi)

My first impressions about this book are that it is very well organized. The layout with different colors makes it easy to find the topic and it is attractive to the reader. I also think the amount of information it contains is just about right, not too long and heavy and not too superficial either. A good touch is the inclusion of phrases for the Internal Assessment and a compilation of useful connectors.

As an IB Spanish B teacher I would make this book mandatory because it is a great way to easily find appropriate vocabulary for each topic the students might be working on. Sometimes, finding the right entry in a dictionary can be overwhelming and students can feel assured that in this book they will obtain the correct word. I believe that it would make students learn in a more confident way and overall it would help them achieve great results in their IB exams.

About the exams themselves, I think the contents of this book will support students in their Paper 1 (Writing), Paper 2 (Reading-comprehension and Listening-comprehension) and the Internal Assessment.

I would personally let my students use the book when working on any assignments leading to their mock exams and then the official exams. Learning vocabulary can be difficult unless it is put in context and IB students know that a specific choice of words can make a difference on their final grade. I find that they struggle sometimes to keep their vocabulary lists organized and having this little book in hand would be very practical. I strongly believe in "learning by doing" and so using this book effectively would clearly help the students. The more they use it, the more they will learn and remember accurate vocabulary at the time of their exams.

I think the students like the fact that it is small and easy to use. I noticed the reference to other sections of the book and I think it's a great way for the students to realize how much the IB topics blend into each other. It is something that I always mention to them and here they can find this evidence. Again, it is a matter of understanding context.

Overall, I think it's a great resource for Spanish B students. Here they will find not only needed vocabulary but also practical oral communication phrases, an overview of the types of texts, a brief revision of how to structure an argumentation and a list of linking words to consolidate their task.

If I had to add anything, perhaps it would be useful to have a couple of blank pages at the end of each topic so that students can contribute to the list with their own findings and yet keep everything together in the same volume.

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