



A level Spanish Transition Booklet

West Kirby Grammar School
Summer Preparation for Year 12

¡Bienvenidos al A-Level Español!

Spanish is the second most spoken native language in the world. A-Level Spanish gives you a deeper understanding of the language, culture, history, and current affairs of the Spanish-speaking world. This booklet contains summer tasks to help you transition successfully from GCSE.

1. WATCH AND RESPOND

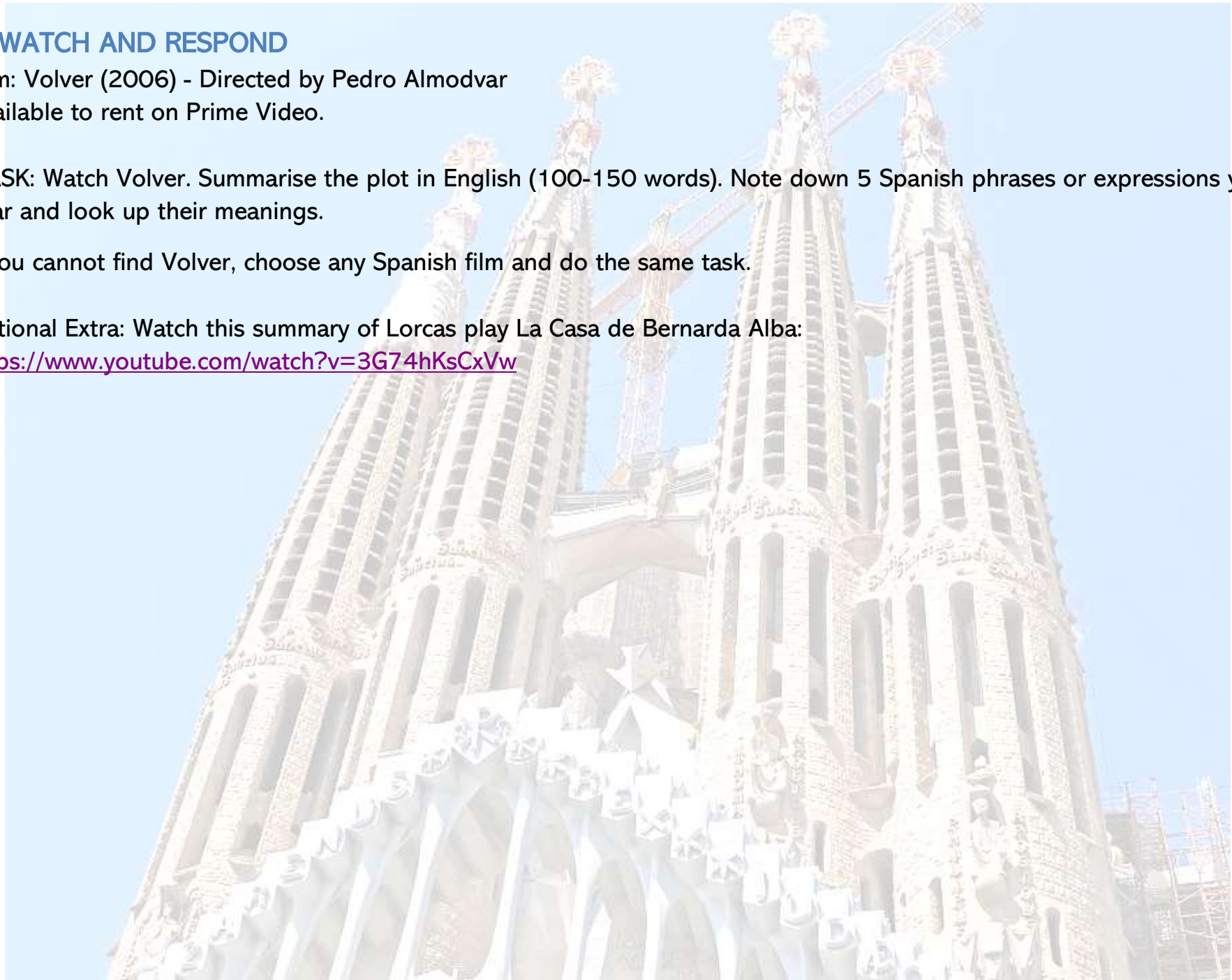
Film: *Volver* (2006) - Directed by Pedro Almodóvar
Available to rent on Prime Video.

TASK: Watch *Volver*. Summarise the plot in English (100-150 words). Note down 5 Spanish phrases or expressions you hear and look up their meanings.

If you cannot find *Volver*, choose any Spanish film and do the same task.

Optional Extra: Watch this summary of Lorcas play *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G74hKsCxVw>



2. READ AND RESPOND

Reading: A Brief History of Spain

KEY DATES IN SPANISH HISTORY

- 1100 BC.** Phoenician traders establish colony at Cádiz in southern Iberia.
- 228 BC.** Carthaginians occupy southern and eastern Iberia.
- 218-220 BC.** Romans defeat Carthage in Second Punic War and occupy Iberian Peninsula.
- 409.** Visigoths occupy Iberian Peninsula.
- 711.** Combined Arab and Berber force from northern Africa cross Strait of Gibraltar to occupy Iberian Peninsula.
- 913.** Having re-taken territories in northern Spain, Christians establish capital in León.
- 1013.** Powerful Caliphate of Córdoba breaks up due to internal strife; Moorish Spain split into small feuding kingdoms.
- 1212.** Decisive Christian victory at battle of Navas de Tolosa spells the beginning of the end of Moorish rule in Spain.
- 1492.** King Fernando and Queen Isabel's army capture Granada after a long siege, the final defeat of the Moors in Spain. Jews are forced to convert to Christianity; those who refuse are expelled from Spain. Christopher Columbus sets sail on his voyage of discovery.
- 1588.** Defeat of Spanish Armada sent to invade England. Spanish Empire is at the height of its power but is slowly declining.
- 1702-14.** War of Spanish Succession. Bourbon dynasty accedes to Spanish throne.
- 1808-14.** Peninsular War. Spaniards rise against Napoleon's occupying force. Combination of guerilla tactics and support from Wellington's army end in French defeat.
- 1931.** Spanish king is forced to abdicate. Spain becomes a republic.

1936-39. Spanish Civil War. Bloody conflict ends with General Franco's victory. Dictatorship established.

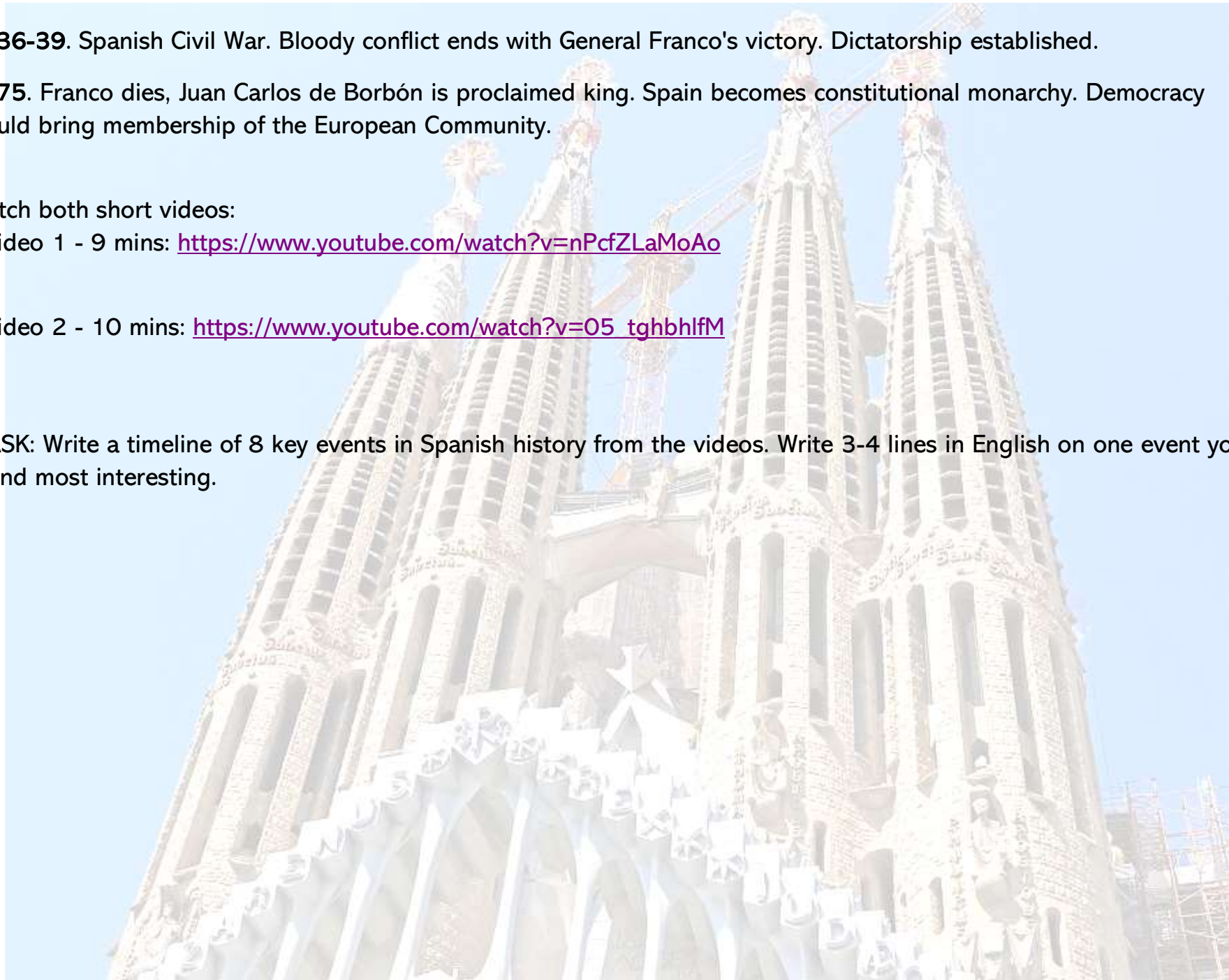
1975. Franco dies, Juan Carlos de Borbón is proclaimed king. Spain becomes constitutional monarchy. Democracy would bring membership of the European Community.

Watch both short videos:

- Video 1 - 9 mins: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPcfZLaMoAo>

- Video 2 - 10 mins: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05_tghbhlfM

TASK: Write a timeline of 8 key events in Spanish history from the videos. Write 3-4 lines in English on one event you found most interesting.



3. RESEARCH AND EXPLORE

Choose one of the following to research:

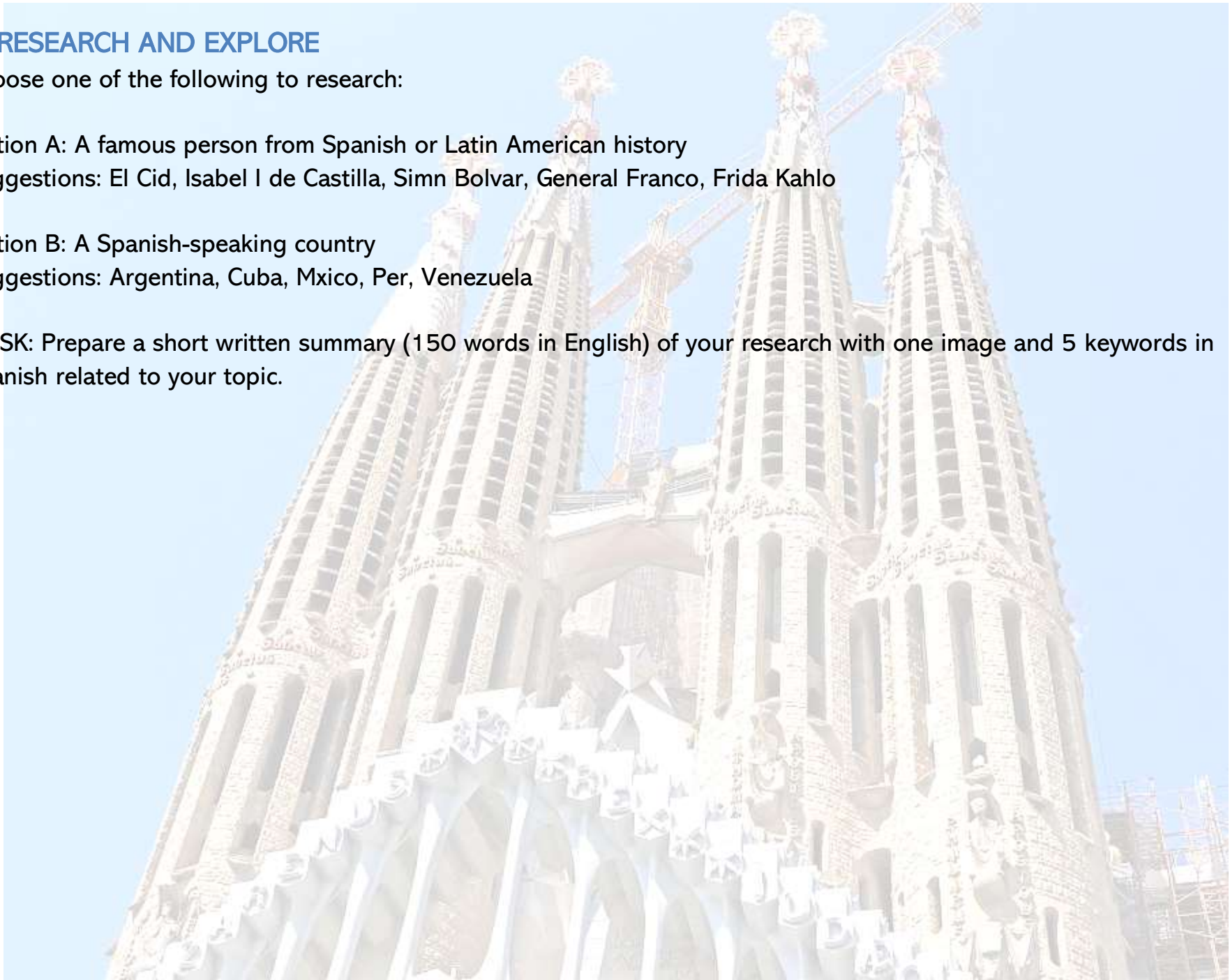
Option A: A famous person from Spanish or Latin American history

Suggestions: El Cid, Isabel I de Castilla, Simn Bolvar, General Franco, Frida Kahlo

Option B: A Spanish-speaking country

Suggestions: Argentina, Cuba, Mxico, Per, Venezuela

TASK: Prepare a short written summary (150 words in English) of your research with one image and 5 keywords in Spanish related to your topic.



4. GRAMMAR - VERB REVISION

Your September assessment will test your knowledge of Spanish verb endings from GCSE. You should memorise the regular verb endings for all key tenses.

Spanish Regular Verb Endings

Tense	-AR	-ER	-IR
Present	o, as, a, amos, áis, an	o, es, e, emos, éis, en	o, es, e, imos, ís, en
Preterite	é, aste, ó , amos, asteis, aron	í, iste, ió, imos, isteis, ieron	í, iste, ió, imos, isteis, ieron
Imperfect	aba, abas, aba, ábamos, abais, aban	ía, ías, ía, íamos, íais, ían	ía, ías, ía, íamos, íais, ían
Future	é, ás, á , emos, éis, án	é, ás, á , emos, éis, án	é, ás, á , emos, éis, án
Conditional	ía, ías, ía, íamos, íais, ían	ía, ías, ía, íamos, íais, ían	ía, ías, ía, íamos, íais, ían
Subjunctive (Present)	e, es, e, emos, éis, en	a, as, a, amos, áis, an	a, as, a, amos, áis, an