

A LEVEL SPANISH



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Learning a language is fun and useful!

Confidence in a foreign language can open doors for you: the chance to meet people from other countries and explore their lives and cultures. It adds an international dimension to your profile which many employers and higher education providers want. It gives you opportunities to work and/or study abroad – or to work for companies in the UK with international links.

Learning a language gives you transferable skills useful across different subjects and careers: confidence in communicating, independent research and critical thinking, the ability to analyse and to present ideas.

Our study of Spanish is based on four themes; we study Themes 1 and 2 in the first year and Themes 3 and 4 in the second year. Themes 1, 3 and 4 focus on Spain; theme 2 offers a wider view of the Spanish speaking world.

Theme 1: Evolving Spanish society: family / work / the impact of tourism

Theme 2: Music / The Media / Festivals and traditions

Theme 3: Immigration and Spain's multicultural society

Theme 4: Franco's dictatorship and the transition to democracy

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Staff in our department are highly qualified and experienced at A Level teaching.

- Discussions in groups and whole class
- 1 to 1 or 1 to 2 weekly oral lessons
- Pair work
- Presentations and lectures
- Individual and group research
- Using on-line resources and videos
- Comprehension and vocabulary
- Improving your note-making
- Devising arguments and debates
- Making links between texts
- Planning and writing essays
- Songs and Film Studies
- Cultural activities such as cinema visits
- Quizzes and learning games
- Effective revision

Students prepare lessons by reading and research; we have excellent on-line resources. Our students say they enjoy the mix of oral and written work and learning about the culture.

We also offer an optional Exchange Visit or trip to Spain – this is a fantastic way to extend your confidence in the language!

A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

If you follow the 2 year A Level course you will be assessed in the second year.

Paper 1 (Exam: 40%)

Based on vocabulary and structures learnt across all 4 themes.

- Listening: test of your comprehension of listening to spoken Spanish
- Reading: tests your understanding of various texts from different genres
- Translate a passage from Spanish into English


Paper 2 (Exam: 30%)

Written response to works and translation based on study of a film and a literary text

- Translate an unseen passage from English into Spanish
- Write about a literary text studied
- Write about a film studied

Paper 3: Speaking (Oral test: 30%)

An oral assessment in which you talk about and discuss in Spanish one of the 4 themes studied on the course and present a summary of independent research you have done followed by a discussion.



I enjoy the lessons and my Spanish has really improved! Everything is explained in a way I can understand.

ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

We require at least a grade 5 at GCSE Spanish and a minimum of level 4 at GCSE English or English Language (though we strongly recommend you have level 6 in English as the course involves well developed skills of reading and writing).

We aim to offer an optional exchange visit or trip and also other optional visits to the cinema and to lectures. (Students can apply for financial support to help with college trips.)

WHAT NEXT?

Spanish goes well with a very wide range of other subjects, adding a valuable international dimension to your study programme

The skills you learn are highly valued by employers in all areas of work.

Spanish A Level can lead to employment in business, marketing, journalism, teaching, health, the media, the law, creative industries in the arts and many other areas of work. An A Level in a Modern Foreign Language is accepted as a “facilitating subject” by most competitive universities.



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