

A level Spanish

Introduction – an outline of the course

¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome to A level Spanish. We are excited for you to join us in the A level Spanish course. During your two-year course in the sixth form, the delivery will be based around;

- Aspects of Hispanic speaking society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic speaking world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic speaking society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic speaking society
- Grammar
- Study of a book and film.

Book – La casa de Bernada Alba, Federico García Lorca

Film – Volver, Pedro Almodovar

You will build on your knowledge from GCSE, using all the skills developed in vocabulary and grammar and deepening your understanding of the Hispanic world.

There are 3 exams;

1. Paper 1 – Listening, reading and writing (2 hours 30 minutes) – 50%
2. Paper 2 – Writing (2-hours) 20%.
3. Paper 3 – Speaking (18-23 minutes) 30%

In addition to the main teaching time, you will also have a session a week with the foreign language assistant. Throughout the year, we hope to offer other immersion experiences which will be guided by your input.

What will we be studying in the first half term?

In September you will start with an intensive grammar focus, looking at grammar revision and new grammar to develop writing and speaking skills, in order to support and develop productive language skills (writing and speaking). Grammar will be linked to the sub themes within the themes of social trends and artistic culture.

The two main themes across the year will look at:

Aspects of Hispanic society

- Modern and traditional values (Los valores tradicionales y modernos)
 - Los cambios en la familia
 - Actitudes hacia el matrimonio/el divorcio
 - La influencia de la Iglesia Católica
- Cyberspace (El ciberespacio)
 - La influencia de internet
 - Las redes sociales: beneficios y peligros
 - Los móviles inteligentes en nuestra sociedad
- Equal rights (La igualdad de los sexos)
 - La mujer en el mercado laboral
 - El machismo y el feminismo

- Los derechos de los gays y las personas transgénero

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

- Modern day idols (La influencia de los ídolos)
 - Cantantes y músicos
 - Estrellas de televisión y cine
 - Modelos
- Spanish regional identity (La identidad regional en España)
 - Tradiciones y costumbres
 - La gastronomía
 - Las lenguas
- Cultural heritage (El patrimonio cultural)
 - Sitios turísticos y civilizaciones prehispanicas: Machu Picchu, la Alhambra, etc
 - Arte y arquitectura
 - El patrimonio musical y su diversidad

What can I do that will help me prepare for A level Spanish?

One of the best ways to prepare yourself for A level Spanish is to make sure you are familiar with all grammatical concepts and have a secure understanding of all grammatical topics covered at GCSE. We will then build on this throughout the first few weeks, to enable you to speak and write more freely and independently. Make sure that you keep your knowledge organisers, revision guide or exercise book as a reminder of the work that you have covered.

You may wish to use some of your summer to carry out some background reading and preparation. You could watch the film, or associated films by the director or read about the book. You would benefit from conducting some research on a topic or topics that would interest you for your independent research project (IRP).

Summer Gap Task and where to find this

The best way to prepare for your A level Spanish is to complete the summer gap task that has been set.

If you read the booklet and complete the tasks over the summer then you will be using the skills that you have developed during your GCSEs. It is easy to let these skills lapse which will make the start of your A levels more difficult because you will be trying to remember what you did at GCSE and learn new knowledge and skills.

On the [school website](#), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the Spanish link.

It is best to complete this work in stages, so do a bit each week when you don't have much else planned.

We are really looking forward to working with you in September and to help achieve your future aspirations using all the skills that language study brings.