

A Level Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

This recently revised A Level course in Spanish is to enable students to communicate competently and accurately in Spanish, both orally and in writing, and to understand the written and spoken word. The teaching also seeks to foster a positive interest in the language, culture and society of the Spanish-speaking world. This A Level develops a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. Good linguistic skills are nurtured and the course is designed to be academically challenging and enjoyable as well as practical. Spanish AS Level is available at the end of Year 12 for students just studying the AS.

The course is taught by two members of the Department in order to give both variety and a balanced approach. We also have the help of a Spanish assistant. In order to study a foreign language at this level, students should normally have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills for GCSE at higher tier (or iGCSE) in the relevant language.

Content

This is a linear qualification which incorporates the topic areas:

- Current trends in Spanish-speaking society (traditional and modern values, modern technology, equality)
- Artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world (influence of music/film/tv stars, regional identity in Spain, cultural heritage)
- Multiculturalism in Spanish-speaking Society (immigration in Spain, racism, integration)
- Political life in the Spanish-speaking world (young people today, monarchy and dictatorship, unions and protests)
- Students will also be expected to study one literary text and one film or two literary texts over the course of the two years
- In the second year of study, students also undertake an independent research task in which they identify one subject or key question which is of interest and which relates to a Spanish-speaking country. This research task may be linked to one of the A Level topics or literary works or film.

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Assessment

The Spanish A Level assesses students in three examinations:

- Paper 1 (listening and reading tasks and short translations to and from the target language).
- Paper 2 (two essays in the target language requiring a critical appreciation of the set texts and/or film).
- The oral consists of a discussion of one of the topic areas based on a stimulus card in addition to a presentation and discussion of the student's individual research project.

General

We offer students a broad range of further language opportunities ranging from our annual MFL Quiz to a Spanish trip to Andalucia. Students should undertake a period of study or work experience in the target country at some stage during the A Level course. The department has a wide range of learning resources available, including a range of online sites, DVDs, books, magazines and games.

