

Newstead Wood School

Sixth Form

September 2026

Spanish Handbook



WELCOME TO A LEVEL SPANISH

Congratulations on choosing to study Spanish at an advanced level. As the second most widely spoken native language in the world, this course will not only help you to develop your communication skills but also deepen your understanding of the cultures, histories and societies of 21 Spanish-speaking countries across 3 continents.

COURSE OVERVIEW

You will have **5 periods of Spanish per week + 30 minutes of weekly 1-2-1 speaking sessions** with our language assistant.

Throughout the course, you will:

- develop your linguistic skills:
 - **listening, speaking, reading and writing**
 - **vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation**
- develop a deep cultural understanding of Spain, in particular, and across the Spanish-speaking world by exploring:
 - **current affairs**
 - **key artistic, cultural, social and political themes**

SOCIAL ISSUES AND TRENDS					
ASPECTS OF HISPANIC SOCIETY			MULTICULTURALISM IN HISPANIC SOCIETY		
Los valores tradicionales y modernos	El ciberespacio	La igualdad de los sexos	La inmigración	El racismo	La convivencia

POLITICAL AND ARTISTIC CULTURE					
ARTISTIC CULTURE IN THE HISPANIC WORLD			ASPECTS OF POLITICAL LIFE IN THE HISPANIC WORLD		
La influencia de los ídolos	La identidad regional de España	El patrimonio cultural	Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos del mañana	Monarquías y dictaduras	Movimientos populares

(grey area: Year 12 topics / white area: Year 13 topics)

- study
 - **one film** (*Volver* by P Almodóvar)
 - **one literary text** (*La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by F García Lorca)

Our set textbook is '**AQA Spanish A level Year 1 and AS**' by Bond et al, Oxford University Press.

EXAMINATION

Exam board: AQA

When: at end of Year 13

What:

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing (50% of grade)
- Paper 2: Writing (Film/Novel) (20% of grade)
- Paper 3: Speaking (30% of grade)

EXPECTATIONS

Success in this course requires both **classroom learning** (including set homework) and **independent work / research**. Regular revision is mandatory. Therefore, time management is essential. Both your ability to communicate ideas clearly and accurately in spoken and written Spanish and to understand authentic, contemporary materials will improve greatly if you dedicate approximately five hours per week to studying Spanish outside of school. This time should include completing homework, learning / revising vocabulary and grammar, engaging in independent reading and listening, and preparing for your oral lessons.

Ideas for independent learning

Revision of vocab and grammar	Schaum's Grammar Spanish https://conjuguemos.com/ https://www.wordreference.com/conj/esverbs.aspx https://studyspanish.com/ https://www.wordreference.com/
Songs	Spotify, YouTube https://lyricstraining.com/
Series, films and TV programmes	'Easy Spanish' videos on YouTube and podcasts on Spotify for every day FILMS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• El Laberinto de Fauno• Diarios de Motocicleta• La Lengua de las Mariposas• Ocho Apellidos Vascos• Como Agua para Chocolate• Cien Años de Soledad• El Secreto de sus Ojos• El Hijo de la Novia• Thi Mai If you can't find something you like, watch your favourite programmes with Spanish voiceover and Spanish subtitles. That may not help you develop

	your cultural understanding of Spanish-speaking countries but will still improve / extend your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.
What's happening in the Spanish-speaking world?	www.rtve.es www.elpais.com www.elmundo.es www.elmundo.es www.clarin.com https://www.lanacion.com.ar https://www.pagina12.com.ar www.eluniversal.com.mx https://www.jornada.com.mx www.newsinslowspanish.com www.londres.cervantes.es/en

Spanish A level Bridging Unit

To make a good, confident start in September it is very important that your understanding of the main GCSE tenses and grammar points are secure. Before you start the course please do the following work:

Written Work:

We would also like you to write about 150 words about one of the three **presentations** below:

1) Your family and home

- a description of your family and how you get on with them
- where you/your parents are from, including a paragraph about your grandparents, where they used to live, what they used to do when they were younger (in the imperfect tense) – you may invent details.
- the type of family life you would like in the future – where you would live, with whom etc

2) A Spanish speaking celebrity

- Please research “un ídolo hispanohablante” and write about why you like this person and why they are popular amongst young people.

3) A Spanish speaking Latin American country of your choice

- write about its most famous tourist attractions (monuments, fiestas etc)
- food and traditions.

Please make sure you use a variety of vocabulary and verb tenses. We expect you to submit your chosen presentation by the end of the first week of term.

Grammar:

We strongly advise you **to revise your basic Spanish grammar** before embarking on your AS course. You should revise:

- the conjugation of regular and most common irregular verbs in the present, preterit, imperfect, perfect, future and conditional tenses

Infinitivo	To do	Hacer
Gerundio	Doing	Haciendo
Participio	Finished Lived	Terminado Vivido

Presente	I do	hago
Presente continuo	I am doing	Estoy haciendo
Futuro simple	I will do	Haré
Futuro inmediato	I am going to do	Voy a hacer
Pretérito	I did	Hice
Imperfecto	I was doing/ I used to do	hacía
Pretérito perfecto	I have done	He hecho
Condicional	I would do	Haré

- adjectival endings
- use of 'ser' and 'estar'
- use of 'por' and 'para'
- use of 'saber' and 'conocer'
- direct object pronouns (lo/la/los/las)

For the first week in September, do the work in the pages below.

Name:

Bridging unit work

SER

I am the youngest in the family

.....

The party will be in Pedro´s house

.....

John was the youngest boy in the class

.....

When Jo was little, she was late (llegar tarde) every day

.....

ESTAR

I am tired but not bored.

.....

We were ill yesterday.

.....

My ideal house would be in Mallorca

.....

TENER:

We have some yellow roses in our garden.

.....

Marta will have a baby next month.

.....

I had many problems at school.

.....

When I was young, we had a cat

.....

If my family had more money, I would have a Ferrari.

.....

IR

My parents are going to Spain to see their friends.

.....

The girls will go to the shopping centre.

.....

We went to Peru to spend some time with our family.

.....

The children used to go to church every Sunday.

.....

HACER:

I am making a birthday cake for you.

.....

You will make some pancakes for your grandmother.

.....

The children made a sand castle on the beach.

.....

We used to do our homework every day after school.

.....

TERMINAR

I am finishing my breakfast very quickly.

.....

She will finish school in two months.

.....

We finished our homework and went to the tennis club.

.....

The boys were finishing their test when the teacher came in.

.....

In an ideal world, you would finish your work and your mum would be happy.

.....

PODER

I can come to your house in half an hour.

.....

María will not be able to continue her studies.

.....

You were able to go on holiday in March.

.....

We used to be able to play with our friends every day.

.....

In an ideal world, she would be able to read many books.

.....

VER

John sees his children every month.

.....

I will see my friends next year.

.....

Last weekend we saw a Spanish film.

.....

We used to see our grandparents at the weekend.

.....

VERBOS REFLEXIVOS

Levantarse

Me levanto

Te levantas

Se levanta

Nos levantamos

Os levantáis

Se levantan

Llamarse

Me llamo

Te llamas

Se llama

Nos llamamos

Os llamáis

Se llaman

The children get up at seven o'clock.

.....

My sister is relaxing at home.

.....

The boys stay in a hotel on holiday.

.....

I wash my hair three times a week.

.....

We can't remember where he lives. (acordarse)

.....

POR & PARA

You can use the links below to revise this topic before completing the exercises

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfMRC-y9LxQ>

<https://www.spanishdict.com/quizzes/10/por-vs-para>

Traduce en Español

- The train leaves for Madrid in fifteen minutes.
- I made this necklace for Martha because it is her birthday.
- Pedro paid sixty euros for your engagement ring.
- They went to the gym three time a week to keep fit.
- I'm not going out now as it is about to rain

SABER & CONOCER

Completa los huecos con la forma adecuada / correcta de saber y conocer.

- ¿..... (tú) la dirección de la embajada?
- ¿... .. (vosotros) a mi amigo José?
- No..... (yo) la solución a este problema.
- (nosotros) cocinar muy bien. Nuestra madre nos enseñó desde pequeños
- ¿..... (ellos) el camino más corto para ir a la playa?
- ¿..... (usted) bien Barcelona?
- ¿.....(vosotros) si vuestro padre ha llegado?
- ¿..... (ustedes) hablar español?
- Mi hermana no te Te la voy a presentar.