

A LEVEL SPANISH



Course description

Awarding Body: AQA

Examinations

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (including translation) (50% of A Level)

Paper 2: Essay-writing (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Non-Examined Assessment N/A

Course content

The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where Spanish is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in Spanish. The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes so that, for example, the play *La casa de Bernarda Alba* could be linked to the sub-theme modern and traditional values while the film *Volver* could be connected to the sub-theme equal rights.

Paper 1 assesses aspects of Spanish speaking society, artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world, aspects of political life and Spanish grammar. We revise basic grammar and start advanced, more complex structures. Amongst the topics studied are contemporary Spanish music, Spanish cinema, immigration and diversity, current social trends and social problems such as homelessness and crime. Students acquire translations skills, which will be useful in any future career and help them to improve their written English.

For Paper 2 students will answer an essay question in Spanish for each of the two works they have studied (this can be a book and a film). Students will have a choice of two questions on each book/film. All questions will be in Spanish and will require a critical and analytical response.

The speaking exam (paper 3) the test will be in two parts. Part 1 will be the discussion of one sub-theme from those studied for Paper 1 and Part 2 will be the presentation and discussion of the student's individual research project. They may wish to relate it to their other A level subjects and research a historical figure or scientist of the Spanish-speaking world. Sixth-Form students work with our Spanish language assistant to develop their speaking skills in weekly sessions, both at AS-Level and A-Level.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 in GCSE Spanish

Future opportunities

The A Level course is intended for those students who want to study the language at university either on a traditional languages course or on one of the many business, scientific, legal or engineering courses which now include a language component. These are a direct result of the rising awareness within business and academic circles of the increasing desirability of advanced skills in at least one foreign language which are clearly now recognised as an asset within the job market. A higher level of linguistic competence can greatly enhance employment and career opportunities. "One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way." – Frank Smith

Further information

Students have the opportunity to take part in an exchange programme in Madrid to discover the main cultural landmarks of the Spanish capital city. Students are encouraged to speak the target language only whilst in Spain which be excellent preparation for the AS and A2 oral exams.