

Newstead Wood School

Sixth Form (year 13)

September 2017

Spanish

Handbook



Name _____

Welcome to Spanish at A2

We aim to enable our students to:
communicate
investigate
enjoy

Who's who in the Spanish department

Mrs. E. Ballaster (Head of Department)

Mr. P. Moren (Partnership manager)

Ms I. Montero García

Sra Isabel Sadler (Language Assistant)

Introduction

Congratulations on surviving Y12 and welcome back to the A2 languages course! This guide will set out what you should do to achieve your target grade at A2, what our expectations of you are and what you can expect from us. You will also find out about opportunities for leadership and enrichment, be able to consult the exam specification and mark schemes, and get an idea about options beyond the A2 level.

What is the course like?

As it's a linear course everything you've done in Y12 will form part of the A2 exam, with a few extras, as you can see in the exam structure is set out below. The aspects which are specific to A2 are marked *:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What's assessed

- Aspects of Hispanic-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Questions

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

All questions are in Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in Spanish (30 marks)

- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

All questions are in Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in Spanish (50 marks)

- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)
- Translation into Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (e.g. the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film). Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.

3: Speaking

What's assessed

- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes i.e. Aspects of Hispanic society or Artistic culture in the Hispanic world or Multiculturalism in Hispanic society or Aspects of

3: Speaking

political life in Hispanic society

How it's assessed

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

Questions

- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project*(35 marks).

How to succeed

The same principles apply as at Y12: independent study is the key to getting a high grade. We have covered most of the grammar already during the AS course but we will be consolidating and building on this. You should be dedicating 3-4 hours per week to each of your A2 subjects; this includes time to do homework, independent work and preparation for your oral lessons. You should log the independent work you do so that you can inform your teachers about what you are doing.

Some tips for success:

- Review your lesson notes and do **corrections** for any assessed homework or class work. You will find having a “good” copy of this work a very useful revision tool.
- Use the internet to practise your reading and listening. Kerboodle is particularly useful but there is a list of useful websites on Moodle.
- Download podcasts from Spanish websites to practise your listening and keep you informed.
- Listen to music in Spanish.
- Try and watch Spanish films that you can access from the library or TV programmes you can watch on line.
- Note down vocabulary clearly, catalogue it & learn it.
- Revise and test yourself on vocabulary in short bursts; regular practice for short periods is more effective than long, intensive sessions for most students.
- Identify any grammar points you need to consolidate, practise them with the help of the Internet or your grammar book and ask your teacher if you don't understand.

- Read magazines and newspapers in print or on the Internet. Most magazines come in a variety of languages and can read online or ordered on the internet. In addition there are useful summaries of news and articles on the net in papers such as El Mundo and El País and short news features with transcripts on e.g. RTVE. This awareness is really essential for you to be able to debate topical issues.
- Try to go to Spain/a Spanish speaking country during the course. We hope to arrange another visit to Madrid but you may wish to organise your own visit too!

Classes with the language assistant.

The oral exam is 30% of your A2 final grade. You will be allocated a weekly slot with the language assistant, in one of your free periods or at lunchtime. It is *compulsory* to attend these sessions every week. If you know you are going to be away you must inform the assistant *beforehand* and she will try to re-arrange your session. Please arrive on time and to get the most out of these sessions you must prepare for them, not just linguistically but in thinking about the issues and developing your views. Part of your allocated homework will be to prepare for these sessions carefully.

Please take a pen and paper and your materials with you and always arrive a few minutes early. Your attendance of and preparation for conversation lessons will count towards your EWL assessment.

Enrichment

Try and go up to London and experience some of the cultural events organised at the Instituto Cervantes. Study days aimed at A level language students are offered by this and other institutions. You will be informed about particularly relevant opportunities but should also try to keep aware of such events yourself.

Primary Conversation Classes

We have had links with several local primary schools over the years and some of our Year 13 students have played a part in the way we help them to develop their language skills. Some students have taught Spanish to small groups and others have helped to run whole day activities to focus on both cultural awareness and language learning. Please see Mr. Moren for more details.

Mentoring Year 10 & 11 students

You can use your subject to knowledge and study skills to help students in Years 10 and 11 improve. You will be matched up with a student who finds your language difficult and you can then meet up with them once a week to help them. This is rewarding work if you see them develop over time and become more successful in their studies. At the same time you will be revising your own grammar.

Expectations in MFL

In order to provide you with the most effective support in your learning, the following processes will be maintained across the department: These expectations apply equally to class lessons and INDIVIDUAL ORAL LESSONS with the assistant.

- **Punctuality:** You are expected to arrive to lessons on time. The first time you are late the teacher will speak to you about the reason. If you are late for a second time this information will be logged. You may be required to complete the work missed after school in a support session.
- **Absence:** You should notify the teacher *in advance* if you know you will be absent from a lesson e.g. for a study visit. The teacher will organise with you how to catch up on the work you will miss. If it is an unplanned absence e.g. sudden illness you should contact the teacher *before* the next lesson to complete any work missed. A failure to do so or unauthorised absences will mean that your EWL assessment will be Red in this area.
- Repeated lateness or absence from oral lessons with the assistant will carry the risk of your losing this one – to – one time altogether.
- **Deadlines:** You will always be given sufficient time to complete work. You should see the teacher *before* the work is due in and explain why the deadline cannot be met when necessary. You and the teacher will decide on the appropriate strategy together.
- **Consequences of missed deadlines:** If a deadline is missed for the first time and there is no appropriate explanation, you will be expected to complete the work by the following day. If a second deadline is missed the information will be communicated via e monitoring and you will be expected to complete the work in a support session. More than one missed deadline will mean your EWL assessment will be Amber, more than two will mean Red.
- **Learning Environment:** Class discussions are based on readings and prior learning – you should come to the lesson fully prepared in order to be able to engage meaningfully in the discussions.
- **Study periods and independent study:** You should use your independent study time to consolidate your class notes and make revision notes. In addition you should use this time to engage in wider reading and listening, as detailed elsewhere in this guide.

- **Resources and equipment:** Please bring a pair of suitable headphones to sessions in the language lab as without them you may not be able to use the listening material.
- You will need a copy of the text book, AQA A Level Year 2 Spanish Publisher: OUP ISBN: 9780198366874 You will be provided with supplementary material e.g. worksheets, film booklets on the films studied, and access to the digital textbook and resources on Kerboodle free of charge.

How we will support you:

Learning Conversations – you will be given continual feedback about your work and will be encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification on how to improve to achieve your personal target grade. This support will include constructive comments on your written work and meetings to clarify and explain ideas. In the run up to the oral exam extra time will be available for one-to-one sessions with the language assistant.

And if you are stuck.....

Class teacher

Your teachers are available throughout the day to speak to. A good time to catch your teacher might be after the lesson, at break, lunchtime or after school. They will arrange specific times with you to offer support as it is needed, but you are responsible for your own learning. If you need support, the onus is on you to seek help, which will then of course be provided.

Fellow students

Your fellow students will be an essential source of support and guidance throughout the A2 course. Discussing queries and ideas with each other will develop your understanding and extend your learning. Try speaking in Spanish to each other, share interesting resources and go up to London to enjoy Hispanic cultural events.

Email

Staff will respond to emails sent, but it may on occasion take some time – please don't think you are being ignored. Please remember that Mrs Ballaster works part-time Tuesday to Thursday.

Mrs Ballaster: eballaster@newsteadwood.bromley.sch.uk

Mr Moren: peter.moren@newsteadwood.bromley.sch.uk

Isabel Sadler: isadler@newsteadwood.bromley.sch.uk

Ms Montero: imontero-garcia@newsteadwood.bromley.sch.uk

And after Newstead?

Students who have studied modern languages in recent years have gone on to...

- Study Spanish at a variety of universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, alone or in combination with another language.
- Study a language with law/engineering/economics/business studies/history
- Start a completely new language for example Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Portuguese
- Teach English as a foreign language abroad
- Take a gap year to improve language skills.

Some previous students of languages have said:

“A language gives you confidence in dealing with other people”

“You’re a bit more open if you’ve spent time abroad. You realise that cultures are different and that you have to adapt”

“Even though I wasn’t applying to study Spanish, my university was really interested in the fact that I’d done it to A level”