



Overview:

The A-level Spanish course is a natural evolution from your GCSE. You will continue to work on the same four key skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and you will also do abundant work on translation. As for the content, the course will guide you into more interesting spheres of the language covering a variety of current topics through original sources. You will learn to respond more spontaneously to reflect on everyday life situations and immerse yourself in the culture.

The course is structured around four main pillars: social issues and trends, artistic culture, grammar, and the study of a text and a film. Among other topics, you will also study: wider aspects of Hispanic society, artistic trends, multiculturalism, and aspects of the political life within the Spanish-speaking world.

The assessment will have three components:

Paper 1: Listening, reading, and writing. In this exam you will be expected to listen/read and respond to passages from a range of different contexts. You will also tackle two translation tasks (from Spanish into English, and from English into Spanish).

Paper 2: Writing. Two essays, one on a text and one on a film – both the text and the film will be studied and analysed during the course.

Paper 3: Speaking. A short presentation on a topic of your own choice (researched during the course), followed by a discussion.

Expectations:

Prior to the beginning of the course, you will be expected to revise all GCSE topics and grammar. Throughout the course you are encouraged to keep up to date with Hispanic culture through listening /reading the news from the Hispanic countries, which is incredibly easy to do using online resources. Regular noting of new vocabulary from independent study is essential as well as weekly learning of set vocabulary. The methodology is in many ways similar to the one used to study GCSE but there will be more vocabulary and a wider range of sources.

Extra-Curricular:

There will be plenty of support classes at lunch and after school for those who need an extra bit of help.

Students will be able to act as mentors for the Year 11 students. At the moment, due to the events linked to Covid19, it is not possible to offer Sixth Form trips to the target language countries. However, there are many travel companies offering opportunities such as work experience and home stay visits which students could take part in independently during summer months; the Languages Faculty staff would be happy to help you choose such an appropriate option once the risks associated with Covid19 have passed.

Independent Learning Opportunities:

There is a huge variety of resources available for learning (and enjoying!) Spanish outside the classroom. For the most focussed, you will have access to the vocabulary flashcards on Quizlet, the audio files and transcripts in the shared area, as well as grammar practice (each student will have their own grammar booklet). If you want to know a bit more about current affairs internet papers and radio stations are easily available. To relax a bit, you'll have plenty of foreign films, books, videos and music.

Career Pathways:

An A-level language is a prestigious and highly regarded facilitating subject which develops highly valued employability skills; a university graduate of languages is the most employable after those graduating in Medicine or Law.

Taking a degree in Spanish will give you the opportunity of spending a year abroad in a Spanish speaking country. Studying a language at A-level opens many doors and the list of professions and industries where a language is useful is extensive, but includes: Interpreter, Translator, Law, Journalism, Tourism, Engineering, Central Government (the Foreign office, Ministry of Defence, MI5 and MI6), Marketing, Retail, Event Management, the Voluntary and Charitable Sector, sporting organisations, education and many more!

Good combinations of other subjects to study with Spanish are:

Other Languages, English, Sociology, History, Business Studies, Mathematics, Science.

Student Testimonials:

"By going over the basics of everything, I feel like we know Spanish so much better and I felt confident speaking it when we went to Spain."