

SPANISH

Qualification: A-Level | Exam board: Edexcel



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Modern language courses are designed to provide practical and enjoyable lifelong skills, whether used in the workplace or for leisure. Speaking another language really makes you stand out from the crowd.

You will study a range of social issues and political, historical and artistic culture within Spain and Spanish-speaking countries. You will learn to speak and write in Spanish in a range of situations and to express facts and opinions.



The study of modern languages can lead to a variety of careers both in this country and abroad.

SPANISH

Qualification: A-Level | Exam board: Edexcel

YEAR ONE COURSE CONTENT

Year One aims to develop grammatical structures to a high level of accuracy and complexity. It will cover three engaging topics, giving you a wealth of useful vocabulary and idiomatic phrases, and the confidence to speak, write, read and listen to Spanish.

Theme One: Changes in Spanish society

This theme covers social issues and trends.

- The Family: changes in the family structure.
- Workplace: working life, attitudes towards work, and the Spanish economy.
- Tourism: the impact of tourism, positive and negative

Theme Two: Artistic and political culture in Spanish-speaking countries

This theme covers artistic culture (through music, festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media) helping you to broaden your knowledge of life in these societies.

- Music: changes and evolution, impact on popular culture, and dance
- Media: freedom of speech, written and online press, impact on society and politics
- Festivals and traditions: customs, traditions, celebrations.

Literary Study: You will study a film in depth and produce written critical responses that relate to aspects such as literary technique, key themes, characterisation and social context.

Independent Research Project: You will carry out a research project to investigate a subject of your choice relating to Spanish culture or society. This is assessed as part of the oral examination.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE PREPARE ME FOR?

The Spanish A-Level course is a rigorous and highly regarded option. It helps you prepare for Higher Education and/or enhance your employability profile.

It gives you the opportunity to learn and apply important transferable skills in critical thinking and analysis, communication and relationship-building, autonomy and resourcefulness. You will also develop an insight into language in general which enhances their confidence and accuracy in English.

In our global society the study of a modern language can lead to an improvement in employment prospects in a wide variety of careers, both in this country and abroad. Even when not specifically a requirement for a particular post, a good standard of fluency in the language of one of our most important international business partners and customers can offer further career opportunities that are not available to the monoglot.

COURSE SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT

You will be expected to carry out a number of independent tasks and assignments.

You may also have the opportunity to take part in national conferences or be involved with guest-speakers or in trips abroad.

ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed on the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. You will sit your Spanish exams at the end of Year Two.

Paper One: Listening, reading and translation (40% of qualification)

A two hour written examination covering all 4 themes: a listening assessment with a range of comprehension questions; a reading assessment with a range of text and comprehension questions; a passage to translate from Spanish to English.

Paper Two: Written response to works and translation (30% of qualification)

A two hour and 40 minute written assessment with essay style questions on the two works studied (one film and one book), and a translation from Spanish into English.

Paper Three: Speaking (30% of qualification)

A 23-minute assessment that includes a five minute preparation. The speaking exam based on one of the four themes, with a stimulus card as a basis for conversation; a presentation and discussion based on the student's Independent Research Project.

YEAR TWO COURSE CONTENT

You will continue themes one and two from your first year and add two more central themes, together with a further literary text or film. Year Two will enhance your linguistic skills and develop your capacity for critical thinking, in spoken and written Spanish. You will also undertake an independent research project on an issue of your choice.

Theme Three: Immigration and multicultural society in Spain

This theme covers the impact on Spain of this century's vast increase in immigration.

- Immigration: its history, the benefits of a multi-cultural society and its effect on the arts.
- Integration: problems in education, the workplace and accommodation.
- Solutions: attitudes and reactions from government and society, the problem of right-wing extremism.

Theme Four: Period of Franco's Dictatorship and Democratic Transition

This theme covers political culture in the context of Spain's civil war.

- Spanish Civil War
- The rise of Franco
- The rise of Democracy

Literary Study: You will study a literary work in depth and produce written critical responses that relate to aspects such as literary technique, key themes, characterisation and social context. Across the two years of an A-Level course you will study a literary work and a film.

Updated: October 2021