

Step Up to Spanish A Level

Why Spanish?

Congratulations on selecting Spanish A Level. You have opened the door of opportunity! Studying Spanish will enrich your life, giving you opportunities to travel abroad and to learn about different cultures and different ways of life. Studying a language will also enhance your life chances, as universities and employers tend to prefer candidates who can speak more than one language.

Did you know that linguists are better communicators and writers and have a better understanding of their own language too? Students who study languages do better in tests and learning a language will improve the functionality of your brain and improve your memory skills.

Spanish is currently the 4th most spoken language worldwide. Geographically, many countries have Spanish as a dominant language from Spain to Mexico and beyond. Knowing Spanish means you could communicate with a third of a billion speakers worldwide!

Studying A Level Spanish will enable you to learn the Spanish language and you will also gain an in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political, and artistic aspects of the Spanish speaking country/countries you will study.



A Level Spanish – Introduction to the course

At A Level, we follow the AQA syllabus.

What will I learn?

During this course you will develop your linguistic skills alongside your understanding of the culture and society of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

You will study:

- technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society.
- highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations.
- aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world.
- the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities.

Throughout your studies, you learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them. You will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Course structure

The AQA A level in Spanish comprises three units.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Paper 2: Writing (Essay on a novel + a film)

Paper 3: Speaking (involving discussion on a topic of your choice)

General Topic Areas for A level Spanish

The topics you will cover are as follows:

Year 1	
Aspects of Hispanic society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern and traditional values • Cyberspace • Equal rights 	Artistic culture in the Hispanic world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern day idols • Spanish regional identity • Cultural heritage
Year 2	
Multiculturalism in Hispanic society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration • Racism • Integration 	Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens • Monarchies and dictatorships • Popular movements



Transition Activities:

Task 1 - Individual research project (Speaking)

As part of the speaking exam at A level, you talk about a topic of your choice. This has to be based on an area of interest linked to the Spanish-speaking world. It is best to do this on an area of interest to you. In previous years students have chosen the following:

- Street Art in Madrid by the artist Muelle
- Barcelona Football Club and Catalan Identity
- Political change in Cuba
- Feminism in Spain
- Muslim identity in modern Spain
- Student protests in Chile



These were all chosen by students based on their own areas of interest. The idea is that you should be an expert on your chosen topic.

Task 1 is to prepare a presentation on an area of interest to you that is linked to the Spanish-speaking world. This would be a spoken presentation, however for this task it will be written.

1. Think of something that interests you e.g. sport, music, identity politics, etc.

Example: Music

2. Narrow this down to an example of this in a Spanish-speaking country. You will need to research this online.

Example: Reguetón

3. Find out about the origins of your topic and compare with today.

Example: The origins of this music; how it has grown in popularity; the growth of the Latino community, etc.

4. Prepare bullet points in Spanish. You can use phrases from your research. Make sure you understand what they all mean.

Example:

El reguetón es un género musical bailable que se deriva del reggae y del dancehall, así como elementos principalmente del hip hop, y la música hispana.

- *Es un género musical muy popular hasta hoy día, que tuvo su apogeo máximo en los años 2000 y 2010.*
- *Se influenció del reggae en español de Panamá y se desarrolló en Puerto Rico en 1990; surgió a raíz de la popularidad del reggae jamaicano, junto con el hip hop estadounidense durante los inicios de esa época.*
- *El reguetón entró en los Estados Unidos en los años 1990 y 2000 y se ha convertido en un modo de expresión para muchos jóvenes hispanos.*



A lot of the A level course is about expressing opinions, defending your opinions, and justifying your point of view. Start to think about your opinions on your topic area. You may change your opinions as you start learning about the issue.

GET READY FOR SPANISH NEXT YEAR!

Some ideas for daily practice: click on the images for links to websites and videos

1. Complete a story on Duolingo every day



2. Listen to music in Spanish on Youtube or Spotify: start with Álvaro Soler, Shakira, DVicio, Pablo Alborán, Rosalía... Find your favourite songs and look for the lyrics! (click to go to a youtube link)



3. Read an article of your choice from one of Spain's most popular newspapers (English version)



4. Follow on Instagram:



<https://tinyurl.com/ysz6nqz>

<https://tinyurl.com/y69lwfv7>

5. Watch any of these shows on Netflix: Money Heist, Cable Girls, The House of Flowers Elite, Seas, The Ministry of Time... In Spanish with English subtitles

For further details and any questions, please email Mr Connor-Crabb - henry.connorcrabb@elawnswood.co.uk