

Spanish A level Student Guide

Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and developing your knowledge of how language works, then studying A level Spanish is an excellent choice for you!

Why should I study a language?

Learning languages encourages you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them.
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem-solving strategies and write coherently.
- Develop critical thinking, creativity and independence.
- Add an international dimension to your choice of A level subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want.
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links.
- Discuss interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language.
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it.
- Read books and watch films in their original language.
- Spend time abroad (e.g. at university or on a work placement).

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you already have knowledge of a variety of topics, and can express your opinions, you are ready to build on this at A level, though you can also start from scratch. You will learn about different aspects of Spanish culture, literature and/or film, and be able to use more complex grammar and more vocabulary. This enables you to really develop an understanding of the language, the countries where it is spoken and the people who speak it.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons.

Success at A level Spanish means you will:

- Add an extra international dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress people who read your CV.
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links.
- Be able to work or study in a Spanish-speaking country in later life.
- Progress to study a degree in Spanish, or Spanish and another subject, to further your knowledge of the language and culture.
- Find it easier to learn other languages later.
- Add a useful skill if the primary focus of your A level subjects is not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism.

What will I learn?

A level Spanish helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. Topics are: evolving society in Spain; political and artistic culture in Spanish-speaking countries; immigration and multiculturalism in Spain; Franco's dictatorship and the transition to democracy. The books (or book and film) you study may link to the topics, giving you further insight into Spanish culture. You will also learn new grammar and vocabulary and you will be able to translate into and out of Spanish. You will develop your critical thinking, creativity, independence and skills of analysis. You will also develop skills to be able to learn other languages.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams. Paper 1 is 40% of the total marks available; Paper 2 is 30% and Paper 3 is 30%. You will be given a certificate with a grade between E and A*, with A* being the highest.

Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation	Paper 2 Written response to works, grammar and translation	Paper 3 Speaking
<p>In the listening section of this paper, you will answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in Spanish on a variety of recordings. In the reading section, you will also answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in Spanish, based on a variety of written passages. You will also translate a passage from Spanish into English.</p>	<p>In this paper you will write about two books, or one book and one film, that you have studied throughout the year. There will also be a translation of a passage from English into Spanish.</p>	<p>Before this exam you will have 5 minutes to prepare a discussion based on a stimulus card you are given. You will then discuss the topic of the card with your examiner, who is usually your teacher. You'll also give a presentation on an independent research project you will have conducted, on a topic you will have chosen.</p>

Example questions

An example of a multiple-choice question

El 70 por ciento de los pandilleros son menores de 18 años y generalmente son chicos que sufrieron discriminación, maltratos y violencia intrafamiliar. Frecuentemente, por las exigencias económicas, ambos padres salen muy temprano de sus hogares para trabajar y vuelven a altas horas de la noche, dejando a sus hijos sin control.

Question : Escoge la terminación correcta para esta frase. Pon una equis (X) en la casilla apropiada.

Los padres...

A	tuvieron a sus hijos cuando eran muy jóvenes.	[]
B	trabajan largas horas.	[]
C	controlan a sus hijos.	[]
D	frecuentemente sufren discriminación.	[]

Answer : B

An example of a comprehension question

Al casarse, el control de una mujer pasaba del padre al marido. Una vez casada, la mujer estaba obligada a quedar en casa. El marido recibía una compensación económica y ella tenía que pedirle permiso para tener un empleo.

Question : ¿Quién tomaba todas las decisiones relacionadas con la mujer?

Answer : su padre / su marido

Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking A level Spanish.

Visit the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com/alevel2016) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.