

Spanish AS 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 AS 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 AS 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 AS level, though you can also start from scratch. You will learn about different aspects of Spanish culture, literature 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 AS 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 level Spanish, 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 AS level subjects is not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism.

What will I learn?

AS level Spanish helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. Topics include work, evolving society and tourism in Spain, and music, the media and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries. The book or 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 and independence and 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 and translation	Paper 3 Speaking
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.	In this paper you will write about a book or a film that you have studied throughout the year. There will also be a translation of a passage from English into Spanish.	Before this exam you will have 15 minutes to read two short texts on the topic of Evolving Spanish Society. You will then discuss the texts with your examiner, who is usually your teacher. You'll also discuss an aspect of political and/or artistic culture in a Spanish-speaking country.

Example questions

An example of a multiple-choice question

“Mi familia sabe que componer música es mi pasión, esté donde esté, mi habitación, un avión, un hotel... siempre estoy tratando de hacer nueva música”, asegura el jovencísimo músico español, Abraham Mateo.

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

Abraham Mateo escribe canciones...

A	de vez en cuando.	[]
B	en cualquier lugar.	[]
C	normalmente en su casa.	[]
D	con su familia.	[]

Answer : B

An example of a comprehension question

En España, se dice “El 13 y martes, ni te cases ni te embarques” mientras que para los americanos el peor día es un viernes 13. Suena ridículo pero la verdad es que habiendo tantos días en el año para elegir, yo personalmente no elegiría un día 13 ni martes ni viernes.

Question : Según la superstición española, ¿qué no se debe hacer el 13 y martes?

Answer : Casarse/embarcarse/ ir en barco

Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking AS 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.