

Spanish GCSE 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 learning how language works, then studying GCSE Spanish is an excellent choice for you!

Why should I study a language?

Learning languages allows 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
- Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE 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 your 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.

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

If you've studied Spanish before, you're well prepared to do this GCSE course. However, you can also start it from scratch! If you have studied Spanish before, you already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you'll need for GCSE: you know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, holidays, food and drink. You'll build on this knowledge during your GCSE course, and move on to new topics. If you are starting Spanish as a new language for GCSE you can be confident in knowing that, through your previous studies in other subjects, you have already built up a lot of valuable language skills which will help you to learn this new one.

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 broader and more exciting horizons. Taking GCSE Spanish means you will:

- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile, which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links, or improve employability if you would like to work abroad
- Be able to work or study in a Spanish-speaking country in later life
- Be able to study AS and A level Spanish courses to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

What will I learn?

GCSE Spanish helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals to international campaigns and events. It will also help you learn how to get by as a tourist speaking Spanish.. Over the course as a whole, you will learn about Spanish culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

How will I be assessed?

You will take four exams worth 25% each. You can take foundation or higher level, and you will be given a grade between 1 and 9, with 9 being the highest.

Listening and understanding in Spanish 50 marks	Reading and understanding in Spanish 50 marks	Writing in Spanish 60 marks	Speaking in Spanish 70 marks
<p>This requires you to listen to recordings in Spanish and answer questions on what you hear. Some of these questions will require you to choose from multiple-choice answers, and some will need you to write short answers in English and Spanish.</p>	<p>The reading section will give you passages to read and questions to answer. Some of these questions will require you to choose from multiple-choice answers, and some will need you to write short answers in English and Spanish. Passages will be from Spanish sources such as emails, magazines and books. You will also need to translate sentences or a short passage from Spanish into English.</p>	<p>In the foundation paper you will write about a photo, write one short passage and one longer passage on a choice of two topics. In the higher paper you will write longer passages about two topics from a choice of four. At both levels there is also a translation exercise, from English into Spanish.</p>	<p>In this part of the exam you will do a short role play with the examiner and talk about a photo. You will also talk about two of the topics you have studied.</p>

Example questions

An example of a multiple-choice question

Las mujeres están preparando el chorizo por la tarde en la mesa del comedor.

Question : The women are ...

A	in the kitchen.	[]
B	in the living room.	[]
C	in the dining room.	[]
D	in the garden	[]

Answer : C

An example of a question where you need to write a few words

El Cortijo es un hotel cómodo en Chipiona, Cádiz.

Question : What is the hotel in Chipiona like?

Answer : Comfortable.

Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking GCSE Spanish.

Visit the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com/gcse2016) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.