

Spanish

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 6 or above (or equivalent) at Spanish GCSE. We think a Grade 7 would give you the edge in preparing for the A Level.

Course content:

Study of Themes including Family, Modern Technologies, Equal Rights, Immigration, Racism, Integration, Celebrities, Spanish National Identity, Cultural Heritage in the Spanish-Speaking World, Young People and Politics, Popular Movements, Monarchy and Dictatorship.

Study of literature and film (or two pieces of literature). Current students are studying:

- Volver (Film by Pedro Almodóvar)
- La casa de Bernarda Alba (Play by Federico García Lorca)

Lots of speaking and discussions, presentations, practice of listening, reading and writing skills.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (50%)

Paper 2: Written Response to Work, ie the film and the play (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

All examinations are externally marked. Speaking exams are usually conducted by one of the class teachers.

Why choose Spanish:

Spanish is an excellent A Level to study, because it's a real chance to develop your opinions and analytical skills. Although it's sold as simply 'Spanish' you actually get a good overview of Spanish - speaking society, history and literature, as well as achieving an almost fluent level of a foreign language by the end of the course. This makes it an excellent subject for preparing you for further study, and you will be the master of university quizzes and have a good knowledge of culture after the A Level. Also many leading universities, including Russell Group, consider MFL as facilitating subjects for entry to all courses.

There are lots of excellent ways to improve your Spanish and each theme fits nicely with a film to watch and music to listen to, making a change from formal reading and essay-writing which you might be doing a lot of during your A Level Studies.

Skills and progression:

Studying Spanish will lead you to a variety of options, whether you'd like to study it at degree level, or not. Spanish study can lead to jobs in the European Union: imagine interpreting or translating legal documents. You could work abroad; in any Spanish speaking country, not just Spain, and it would set you up to learn other languages. You could be posted to other countries working for the government after intensive language courses in lesser-known languages.

If you choose not to study Spanish past A Level, you will have gained skills in debate, essay writing, analysis, interpreting data and statistics and independent research, all of which set you up as a very effective student or colleague for the future.