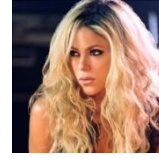




# Spanish



## Introduction

Welcome to the Spanish department. We hope that this *pack* will help you find your way successfully through your A level in Spanish.

You will find studying a foreign language at A level is very different to what you have been used to at GCSE level but we think that you will find it much more enjoyable, relevant, thought provoking, exciting and challenging. What more could you ask for!

Your Spanish teachers will support and guide you through the course but there are lots of ways in which you can help yourself.

- You can start by becoming familiar with the demands of the course.
- Keep up to date with what is going on around you in the world and in particular Spain and Latin America
- Read articles and stories in Spanish
- You should listen to as much Spanish as possible. This could be listening to the radio, watching TV, listening to music, podcasts or watching Spanish language films
- Write down new vocabulary as you meet it. Don't wait to be reminded to write it down!
- Keep to deadlines for all your work. It is better for you and your teachers and ensures constant feedback on your progress.
- You will need a larger dictionary than at GCSE.
- Weekly attendance with the Spanish Language Assistant in preparation for the Speaking examination.

## What do you need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Most students should normally have achieved at least the equivalent of a grade B at GCSE Spanish before taking the course. You will need to feel confident at this level in the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. You must also have some knowledge and understanding of the culture and way of life of Spanish speaking countries. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and in exploring in much more depth the topic areas that you will have covered at GCSE.

## What will you learn on this course?

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in Spanish. You will also learn much more about a range of aspects of the societies in which Spanish is spoken.

- **Reading**

You will be able to read, understand and extract information from written passages in Spanish taken from authentic sources.

- **Listening**

You will be able to listen to, and understand contemporary spoken language and answer questions on what you have heard. The passages that you will listen to are taken from a range of sources.

- **Speaking and writing**

You will learn how to write essays or longer pieces and hold conversations and discussions in Spanish. You will learn all the appropriate grammar, words and phrases that will help you to present information in Spanish, organise your arguments, provide opinions and analyse your ideas.

## What kind of student is this course suitable for?

If you are interested in languages and communication, and you enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life, then this course could be suitable for you. Similarly, if you are interested in the business world, in travel

and tourism, in literature or in journalism and the media, then you are also likely to find the course appropriate. There are a number of options in the course where you can choose your topic or question to suit your interests. Whether you want to use Spanish for work, for further study, training or for leisure, this course will help equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge.

### **What are the topic areas?**

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Spanish speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts

### **What is the aim of the course?**

The A level course aims to encourage students to:

- Develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning
- Develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres
- Communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes
- Develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where Spanish is spoken
- Consider their study of the language in a broader context

The A level course enables students to:

- Derive enjoyment and benefit from language learning
- Acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and/or employment
- Communicate with speakers of Spanish
- Take their place in a multicultural global society

### **What grammar will you learn?**

- Nouns
  1. Gender
  2. Singular and plural forms
- Articles
  1. Definite and indefinite articles
- Adjectives
  1. Agreement
  2. Position
  3. Comparative and superlative
  4. Demonstrative
  5. Indefinite
  6. Possessive
  7. Interrogative
  8. Relative
  9. Exclamatory
- Adverbs
  1. Comparative and superlative
  2. Interrogative
- Quantifiers and intensifiers
- Pronouns
  1. Subject
  2. Object: direct and indirect
  3. Positions and order
  4. Reflexive
  5. Relative
  6. Disjunctive/ emphatic

7. Demonstrative
  8. Indefinite
  9. Possessive
  10. Interrogative
- Verbs
    1. Regular and irregular verbs
    2. Modes of address
    3. Radical changing verbs
    4. Impersonal verbs
    5. Verbs followed by an infinitive
    6. Negative forms
    7. Interrogative forms
    8. Reflexive constructions
    9. Uses of ser and estar
    10. Tenses
    11. Passive voice
    12. Continuous tenses
    13. Imperative
    14. Gerund
    15. Past participle
    16. Subjunctive
  - Prepositions
    1. Personal a
    2. Uses of por and para
  - Conjunctions
  - Number quantity and time

### **What could you go on to do at the end of the course?**

There are a range of opportunities open to you, where you can continue to use and further develop your language skills and knowledge of contemporary society. Some students choose to do degree courses in languages: others choose to pursue a higher education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it. Having a language at A level will improve your employability, in particular with companies which have international branches. Whether you are interested in continuing your studies or working at home or abroad, a language course at A level is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.

### **Remember!**

- Your teachers are always willing to help you out, don't let problems develop. If in doubt or worried, just ask!
- Be aware of the requirements of the exam and work towards them.
- Remember, success at A level requires you to do as much outside of the classroom as in it!
- Your notes will be the main part of your revision so it is important to establish a system, early on, to keep your notes in order.
- You will encounter a lot of new vocabulary as you learn a language. It is vital to have a coherent system to note this down and learn it. Aim to learn / revise a few words each day. The most efficient way to learn vocabulary and phrases is to do a little but often.

### **You may find the following websites useful:**

<http://studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm>

<http://www.languagesresources.co.uk/SpanishALGrammar.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tutors/grammar/>

<http://oye.languageskills.co.uk/13309.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/>



## YOUR TASK

As part of the course you will be expected to know something about the culture, history and geography of Spain. By doing a little research and completing the following tasks will help you. How you present your work is completely up to you.

**Task 1:** Below are the 17 autonomous regions of Spain. Locate them on a map of Spain, discover their capital city, regional flag and 3 interesting facts about each region.

- Andalusia
- Aragon
- Asturias
- Balearic Islands
- Canary Islands
- Cantabria
- Castilla-La Mancha
- Castilla-Leon
- Catalonia
- Extremadura
- Galicia
- Madrid
- Murcia
- Navarra
- Pais Vasco
- La Rioja
- Valencia
-

**Task 2:** Match the region to the following statements:

1. famous for orange groves \_\_\_\_\_
2. important port of Vigo \_\_\_\_\_
3. rich in rias and seafood \_\_\_\_\_
4. 7 volcanic islands \_\_\_\_\_
5. setting of DON QUIJOTE \_\_\_\_\_
6. walled city \_\_\_\_\_
7. famous for sherry \_\_\_\_\_
8. celebration of Las Fallas \_\_\_\_\_
9. birthplace of the conquistadors \_\_\_\_\_
10. located on la meseta \_\_\_\_\_
11. second largest population region \_\_\_\_\_
12. produces one of finest wines in the world \_\_\_\_\_
13. site of la Alhambra \_\_\_\_\_
14. home of El Greco \_\_\_\_\_
15. Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, Formentera and Carbrera \_\_\_\_\_
16. famous Roman aqueduct \_\_\_\_\_
17. heritage of the Moors \_\_\_\_\_
18. caves of Altamira \_\_\_\_\_
19. Guadalquivir River \_\_\_\_\_
20. most industrialized eastern region \_\_\_\_\_
21. birthplace of El Cid \_\_\_\_\_
22. most important tourist area-which includes Torremolinos \_\_\_\_\_
23. Mudejar school of arquitecture \_\_\_\_\_
24. two of its cities are in Africa \_\_\_\_\_
25. city of Bilbao \_\_\_\_\_
26. Christian stronghold during the Middle Ages \_\_\_\_\_
27. site of the Prado and el Retiro \_\_\_\_\_
28. Fiesta of San Fermin and the running of the bulls \_\_\_\_\_

