



The aim of the A-level Spanish course is to help students develop confident, effective communication skills in Spanish as well as a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.

At A Level, the following **four themes** and sub-themes are studied:

- **Aspects of Hispanic Society**
 - Modern and traditional values
 - Cyberspace
 - Equal rights
- **Multiculturalism in Hispanic society**
 - Immigration
 - Racism
 - Integration
- **Artistic culture in the Hispanic world**
 - Modern day idols
 - Spanish regional identity
 - Cultural heritage
- **Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world**
 - Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
 - Monarchies and dictatorships
 - Popular movements

Alongside these core themes, you will also study **both a text and film** in the Spanish language.

You will be assessed through three papers:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (50% of A Level)

This is listening, reading and translation all in one paper. You will have to manage your own time so that all questions are answered in the given time. You will have control over your listening tracks and can listen to them as many times as you want. In both the listening and reading sections, there are questions which require you to summarise information you have heard or read in Spanish in no more than 90 words. All questions are in Spanish and require an answer in Spanish, unless otherwise stated.

In detail, this is a 2 hours 30 minutes paper that is separated into two sections:

Section A – Listening and writing (30 marks)

In this section, you will have to listen to texts of various length and respond to questions in Spanish. You will have to write a summary of a recording in no more than 90 words.

Section B – Reading and writing (70 marks)

In this section, you will have to read texts from various sources and answer questions in Spanish. You will have to write a summary of a text in no more than 90 words. There are also two translation tasks of approximately 100 words; one from English into Spanish, and one from Spanish into English.

Paper 2: Writing (20% of A Level)

Throughout the course you study a film and a text in-depth, looking at characterisation, themes, historical context and symbolism among many other things which will prepare you to write an essay on each Spanish work in the exam. You will have a choice of question to answer on both the book and the film. The exam board recommend 300 words in Spanish for each essay, however, there is no word limit.

	<p>Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A Level) The speaking exam is separated into two parts:</p> <p>Part 1 (5-6mins) Discussion of one sub-theme As part of studying the 4 broad themes with your class teacher, you will also research, discuss and debate the sub-themes and other related issues in lessons. Upon entering the exam, you are given a choice of two stimulus cards (each from a different sub-theme) and you choose one of them. The cards contain a picture, a text and three questions. You will have 5 mins to prepare to answer the three questions and any follow-up questions on the same sub-theme. You will also be expected to answer two questions arising from the material on the card.</p> <p>Part 2 (2min presentation and 9-10min discussion) You will have to choose a subject or key issue that is of particular interest to you and which relates to a country where Spanish is spoken. This will require you to research information from different sources both printed and on the internet in order to prepare a 2 min spoken presentation of your findings in Spanish followed by a 10 min discussion of the issue with the examiner.</p>
<p>Useful websites</p>	<p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/ Provides a variety of useful language resources including links to online Spanish language</p> <p>www.elpais.com El País newspaper.</p> <p>http://www.veintemundos.com/en/ Digital newspaper with exercises and sound files.</p> <p>http://rtve.es Search for '4 minutos' within the site and then listen and try to pick out the main stories.</p> <p>http://es.euronews.com/ Online news videos with transcripts.</p>
<p>Essential text books and reading list</p>	<p>Palabra por Palabra (Have this ready to use for September).</p>
<p>Summer task</p>	<p>Get <u>one very large ring binder</u> with <u>17 dividers</u>. Bring to school on the first lesson back labelled as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Los valores tradicionales y modernos 2. El ciberespacio 3. La igualdad de los derechos 4. La influencia de los idólos 5. La identidad regional en España 6. El patrimonio cultural 7. La inmigración 8. El racismo 9. La convivencia y la integración 10. Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos de mañana 11. Monarquías y dictaduras 12. Movimientos sociales <p>Grammar Vocabulary Literary Text Film Research for speaking presentation</p> <p>Get <u>one smaller ring binder</u> in which you will keep the work from the last 2 weeks' lessons and any work that you have to hand in that week. After 2 weeks, all work is filed in the large ring binder at home. This will be checked by your teacher every half term.</p>

Grammar Revision Task to complete – this is not optional.

Go to www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/ats/ (Spanish online grammar book)

Complete the sections on:

1. Prepositions
2. Pronouns
3. Present tense
4. Present subjunctive
5. Conditional
6. Future
7. Gerund
8. Imperfect
9. Preterite
10. Ser, Estar, Tener, Haber

For each section:

1. Read the introduction notes thoroughly.
2. Complete the exercises for that section.
3. Check your answers and make sure that you understand what you did wrong.
4. If it is a grammar point that you have particularly struggled with – print off the notes for reference and place in the ‘grammar’ section of your folder for easy reference.

Current affairs research task (bring to the first lesson in September)

Research one article in Spanish that interests you on each of the following two general areas:

1. **Modern and traditional values in Spain:** changing family life, religious traditions, marriage in Spain.
2. **Influence of idols:** influence of musicians, Spanish sports stars, celebrity culture in Spain.

These are broad areas, and you should find one aspect of each that interests you and find an article in Spanish related to it and be prepared to share it with the class in September.

Suggested websites:

elpais.es
elmundo.es
google.es

Why take Spanish?

You will extend and develop your knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of Spanish through reading and listening to authentic foreign language materials, ranging from magazines and video clips to films and novels, and you will study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of Spain which will enable you to develop your understanding of European and worldwide current affairs.