Spanish A Level

Course Description:

The course will appeal to students who enjoy learning and using Spanish for its own sake. Spanish is a major international language and is the second most widely spoken language in the world, with approximately 400 million speakers. Thus, speaking Spanish will be an asset in any chosen career. The integration of practical Spanish themes with other subjects will interest students who wish to develop their foreign language skills while enhancing their career potential. Students enrolled in the Spanish program will have the opportunity to gain valuable language skills and learn about various aspects of life and culture in Spain and other Hispanic regions of the world. The course is taught using a wide range of resources, including textbooks and interactive, authentic materials.

Qualifications required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 in Spanish.

Aims of the course:

- Develop a detailed understanding of how the Spanish language works.
- Improve fluency and accuracy when communicating opinions and ideas in Spanish.
- Research and discuss an aspect of Hispanic culture that appeals to you.
- Foster a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

Future Prospects:

You can progress on to:

- Spanish or European language degree courses
- A wide range of careers including translating, interpreting, international business, sales, and teaching

A language is an excellent addition to a wide range of subjects, from medicine to business, and will enhance your employability.

Student Feedback:

‘It’s rewarding to understand the perspective of someone who comes from a different culture through language’.

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Features of the Course:

- Promotes grammatical understanding and awareness
- Provides a logical progression from GCSE
- Focuses on development of all language skills
- Rewards advanced research and reading skills
- Facilitates film and literary study
- Acknowledges the importance of knowledge and understanding of Spanish-language culture

A level Units

Unit 1: Social issues and trends

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- Equal rights
- Multicultural society
- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Unit 2: Political and artistic culture

- Modern day idols (Music, TV, cinema)
- Spanish regional identity (Traditions, food and language)
- Cultural heritage (Tourism, history, art and architecture)

Unit 3: Grammar

Unit 4: Text and Film

Students study a text and a film in Spanish from a set list.

Unit 5: Individual research project

Students must choose a topic or key question that interests them and is related to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken. They should gather relevant information in Spanish from a variety of sources, including the internet. The goal of this research project is to develop their research skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct independent research by analysing and summarizing their findings. They will then present and discuss these findings during the speaking assessment.

Methods of Assessment:

AS (one-year only course):
Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing – 1hr45 (45%)
Paper 2: Writing – 1hr30 (25%) one text or one film from the list
Paper 3: Speaking exam – 12-14 minutes (30%)
A level (Linear course):
Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing – 2hr30 (50%)
Paper 2: Writing – 2hr (20%) one text and one film from the list
Paper 3: Speaking exam – 21-23 minutes (30%) including discussion of research project