

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, spoken by 400 million people worldwide, so speaking Spanish will be an asset to any chosen career. The integration of practical Spanish themes with other subjects will be of interest to students who wish to develop foreign language skills as well as enhance their career potential. Students taking the Spanish programme will have the opportunity to gain valuable foreign language skills and to learn about 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 text books, interactive and authentic materials.

Qualifications required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. We also prefer candidates to have Grade 5 or above in Spanish. If you are a fluent native speaker with no formal qualifications, see Mrs Champion for an assessment.

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 identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken. They must select relevant information in Spanish from a range of sources including the internet. The aim of the research project is to develop research skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings, in order to present and discuss them in 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