

Spanish A-Level:

What are the Big Ideas in Spanish A-Level?

Spanish is the primary language of 20 countries worldwide with some 500 million speakers making it the World's second most spoken language in terms of native speakers. It is a growing language and it is predicted to overtake English as the most commonly spoken language in the USA.

Learning Spanish will enable you to develop communication skills to a high degree as well as enriching your own perspective on the wider World which is vital more than ever in today's Global society. A-Level languages are much valued by universities and employers alike and lend themselves not only to be studied or used alone but they also complement a wide range of other courses and jobs and offer the opportunity to study, live and work abroad.

A-Level Spanish will enable you to achieve a high degree of fluency and to be able to converse and form opinions on a range of social, political and artistic issues as well as giving you a detailed insight into a wide range of cultural aspects of Hispanic countries. The studying of a book and a film will teach skills of analysis and evaluation and the Individual Research project will develop your research skills on a topic of your choosing.

What topics will I learn in Spanish?

Aspects of Hispanic society

- Modern and traditional values (Los valores tradicionales y modernos)
- Cyberspace (El ciberespacio)
- Equal rights (La igualdad de los sexos)

Multiculturalism in Hispanic society

- Immigration (La inmigración)
- Racism (El racismo)
- Integration (La convivencia)

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

- Modern day idols (La influencia de los ídolos)
- Spanish regional identity (La identidad regional en España)
- Cultural heritage (El patrimonio cultural)

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens (Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos del mañana)
- Monarchies and dictatorships (Monarquías y dictaduras)
- Popular movements (Movimientos populares)
- **Grammar**
- **Individual research project (topic chosen by student)**

How will we study?

Lessons in Spanish will cover skills based work in Listening, Reading, Translation (from and into Spanish) Speaking and Essay Writing. Grammar is taught both explicitly and in context of the topic areas and reinforced throughout the course. All topics are taught in the context of Spanish Speaking countries.

Teaching is highly interactive and paired and group work is a key feature. Learning in lessons is supported by text-book, authentic materials (music/film/articles) and on-line activities as well as tailor-made resources. Speaking is a key feature of lessons and pupils are given the opportunity to attend Speaking sessions in smaller groups. We seek opportunities to take students on trips to universities, the cinema and theatre where possible.

How will my work be assessed?

There are regular half-termly assessments which test the key skills. Not all skills are tested in an assessment. You will be informed of all assessments at the start of the academic year. In Year 12 these assessments make up 70% of the final UCAS grade awarded in July. These assessments do NOT go towards the actual A-level grade.

Paper	Skills	Content	Weighting	Question styles	Timing
1	-Listening -Reading -Translation Spanish to English and English to Spanish	-Aspects of Hispanic society -Artistic culture in the Hispanic world -Multiculturalism in Hispanic society -Aspects of political life in Hispanic society -Grammar	50% 100 marks	-Multiple choice -True/False -Extended answers in English and Spanish -Summary (Listening and Reading) -Synonym gap-fill	2 hours 30
2	-Writing	-Pan's Labyrinth (film) -La Casa de Bernarda Alba (text)	20% 80 marks	-1 essay in Spanish on a film -1 essay in Spanish on a book.	2 hours
3	-Speaking	One of four themes: -Aspects of Hispanic society. -Artistic culture in the Hispanic world. -Multiculturalism in Hispanic society. -Aspects of political life in Hispanic society.	30% 60 marks	-1 stimulus card based conversation -Discussion of the Individual research project	21-23 minutes (including 5 mins preparation time)