

# Spanish GCSE

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. 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.

GCSE Spanish will build on content and knowledge acquired in earlier Key Stages through both written and spoken means and thus enable you to understand and communicate in a variety of everyday situations. The study of Spanish at GCSE would then be an ideal building block to further your language studies beyond KS4.

## Key ideas at GCSE include:

- Giving and seeking opinions on a range of themes.
- Using language in context and communicating in authentic situations.
- Gaining an appreciation of cultural differences, embedded within the Spanish-speaking environment.
- Expressing/presenting ideas clearly and concisely in a foreign language.
- Extracting and evaluating information from authentic sources, including photos.
- Applying rules and logic to translate Spanish language texts.
- Drawing inferences from literary sources.
- Preparing students for the world of work.
- Enabling students to live and work abroad.

## The topics we study include :

- Talking about friends and family
- Talking about life when you were younger
- Discussing your free time
- Talking about technology and social media
- Discussing daily life
- Hispanic festivals
- Describing where we live
- Talking about past and future holidays
- Talking about school
- Describing work experience and your future plans
- Discussing environmental issues

## How will we study?

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

Teaching is highly interactive and paired and group work is a key feature. Learning is supported by textbooks, 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.

## How will my work be assessed?

There are regular half-termly assessments throughout the course which test the different skills. Not all skills are tested in every assessment. We always feedback on an assessment and analyse how we can improve. There are regular vocabulary tests and informal spoken assessments.

The GCSE is assessed with examinations at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.

### Assessment

There is equal weighting for the four skills, 25% each.

Listening (Paper 1) Higher: 45 minutes (including 5 minutes of reading time)

Section A - questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B - questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally

Speaking (Paper 2)

The new emphasis is on greater spontaneity. This should mean greater challenge.

Higher lasts 12 minutes. Teachers will do the tests and the board will mark it.

There will be a role play (15 marks), a photo card (15 marks) and general conversation (30 marks).

Reading (Paper 3) Higher: 1 hour.

Section A - questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B - questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally

Section C - translation from Spanish into English

Writing (Paper 4) Higher: 1 hour 15 minutes - 3 questions - two structured compositions from bullet points (with choice) and translation into Spanish.