

Spanish A level

Exam Board

Edexcel

Description

An A-Level in Spanish is always highly regarded by top universities and employers particularly as it is the second most spoken language in the world of commerce and business above French and German. South American countries are developing and gaining socio-economic importance on the world stage, and in the USA, native Spanish speakers are to outnumber native English speakers in the next decade which further highlights the prominence of Spanish.

The inclusion of this A-level has given university applicants the edge over others, especially in the fields of law, international relations, history, business, management and, of course languages and linguistics.

The course emphasises developing an understanding of the Spanish social and cultural landscape whilst integrating the four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. We also include cultural elements of countries where Spanish is spoken.

We periodically offer an immersion trip to Spain either staying at a hostel or staying with host families. We believe that in order to fully appreciate the language that you are learning it is best to experience the culture and setting in which it is spoken and so we encourage all A level students to participate in one of these opportunities.

Students will be supported by experienced teachers including a past examiner as well as regular one to one speaking slots with the language assistant to practise the skills required for the speaking exam.

They will have access to an online learning platform and plenty of resources to practise independently including online flashcards, listening and reading activities which give an advantage in the exams. Students also have their own specification vocabulary and grammar books for reference.

Exam overview

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

2 hours 40%

Content overview:

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes, the examination is made up of:

Section A: Listening (30 marks) A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female Spanish speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions, including multiple choice, based on the thematic contexts studied in lessons.

Section B: Reading (30 marks) A reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English (20 marks) An unseen passage to be translated from Spanish to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation.

2 hours and 40 minutes 30%

Assessment overview:

This paper draws on the study of a film and a short play.

Section A: Translation (20 marks) Students translate a passage from English into Spanish.

Section B: Written response to the play. (50 marks)

Section C: Written response to film. (50 marks)

Paper 3: Speaking 30%

Assessment overview:

Students complete two tasks.

Task 1 Students show understanding of one of the thematic topics from the lesson based on two statements on a speaking card and then expand on to show what they understand about one other topic from the same theme.

Task 2, Part 2 (discussion on independent research) Students present a short memorised summary of two chosen articles, and then discuss their research only about the six findings they have given to the examiner in advance.

Admission Criteria:

Grade 6 or higher in the associated language at GCSE