

Spanish A Level

Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary (AS) | Advanced Level (AS)
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You should do this course if.....

You enjoy foreign languages and are keen to develop your competence beyond GCSE. This course will liberate you from the limitations of GCSE language courses and provide you with the skills to become more independent in the use and understanding of the Spanish language. Students who do well will be able to read a Spanish newspaper, discuss topical issues, write critical essays and understand Spanish discussion and debate. Additionally, you should have an interest in foreign culture, history, society and be prepared to research and read independently on an aspect of Spanish or Latin American culture.

Skills you will develop on this course.

Besides the usual skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, you will also extend your knowledge of grammar and your vocabulary. General skills include essay writing, listening and debate, research, text analysis and independent study skills. You will obtain a wide range of general knowledge on topical issues and gain an awareness and appreciation of Spanish and Latin American culture.

Topics studied.

In Languages, the units do not represent different topics of study. The differences between the units lie in the exams. See overleaf for more information.

UNITS 1 & 2 (AS)

You will develop the four skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening by studying written and spoken texts on:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle; health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Spanish speaking world
- Education and employment

You will study the main elements of grammar to include most tenses, sentence formation and parts of speech.

UNIT 3 & 4 (A2)

You will continue to develop the four skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening with additional work on translation and topic research. The topics at A2 are:

- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts

The study of grammar deepens and widens to include more complex tenses and sentence structures.

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How will you learn?

The emphasis is on working in Spanish. You will be taking notes, listening to recordings, reading texts, doing oral work in and producing pieces of writing. It is essential to learn vocabulary regularly and spend time on your self-study programme, where you develop your reading and listening skills. IT and networked resources are used to provide scope for whole class and individual study.

Where does the course lead?

Due to the wide range of language and study skills acquired during the course, A Level Spanish is a highly regarded qualification among university admission tutors. It combines well with business, humanities, arts and even science courses. Of course, A Level Spanish is the requirement to read Spanish itself at university. Competence in Spanish is a distinct advantage for anyone who will work in an international context or have contact with Spain or Spanish speakers across the globe.

Outstanding linguists could move on to become translators or even interpreters.

Assessment and Exams.

Unit 1

Oral exam: 8 – 10 minutes. Students discuss a topic they have researched in depth in order to demonstrate their understanding of Spanish culture. They also engage in general discussion on one of the topics studied at AS.

Unit 2

AS Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.

Three separate exams to assess listening, reading and writing. The texts and questions are based on the topics studied at AS.

Unit 3

A2 Oral exam: 10 – 12 minutes.

There are two sections. In the first, students need to defend and justify their opinion on a controversial issue that they have prepared. In the second, they will be expected to discuss at least two further topics from both AS and A2.

Unit 4

A2 Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

This exam has 3 parts: a translation into Spanish, a creative piece or discursive essay from the exam paper and a research-based essay. For this last section, students write an essay on a topic they have researched prior to the exam.

Entry Requirements.

5C's at GCSE and grade B in Spanish

Interest in Spanish language and culture and willingness to communicate orally and in writing.