

Spanish

Qualification: A-Level Spanish
Additional Entry Information: GCSE English Language grade B
GCSE Spanish grade B
Speak to **Señora V Fernández** for more information.

Why should students take A level Spanish?

Taking A-level Spanish offers numerous advantages for students, both academically and personally. Here are some compelling reasons why students should consider studying Spanish at this level:

1. Global Communication and Career Opportunities

- **Widely Spoken Language:** Spanish is one of the most spoken languages globally, with over 460 million native speakers. Being fluent in Spanish opens up communication with people across Europe, Latin America, and even parts of the United States.
- **Career Edge:** In an increasingly globalized job market, bilingualism is highly valued. Many employers seek employees who can speak more than one language, especially in industries like tourism, international business, healthcare, education, and translation.

2. Cultural Enrichment

- **Understanding Hispanic Cultures:** Studying Spanish allows students to delve into the rich cultures, history, literature, music, and art of Spanish-speaking countries. This not only broadens their worldviews but also enhances appreciation for diversity and cultural exchange.
- **Travel:** Spanish is the official language in more than 20 countries, making travel to Spanish-speaking destinations more immersive and enjoyable. It allows students to interact meaningfully with locals and experience authentic cultural practices.

3. Cognitive and Academic Benefits

- **Improved Cognitive Function:** Learning a second language has been shown to improve cognitive abilities, including problem-solving, multitasking, and memory. It also enhances overall academic performance, including in other subjects like English and history.
- **University Admission:** Many universities value students with language skills. Spanish, as one of the most popular languages in A-level programs, can strengthen an application, especially for courses in languages, international relations, law, and global studies.



4. Boosting Communication Skills

- **Enhanced Communication:** A-level Spanish strengthens listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This helps students become more effective communicators, a vital skill in both personal and professional life.
- **Critical Thinking and Debate:** As students explore Spanish texts, they engage with complex ideas, cultural contexts, and social issues. This promotes critical thinking and analytical skills, which are transferable to a range of other subjects.

5. Easy Transition to Other Romance Languages

- **Foundation for Learning Other Languages:** Spanish is part of the Romance language family, so mastering it makes it easier to learn other languages like French, Italian, and Portuguese. This can further expand students' language proficiency and career opportunities.

6. Personal Growth

- **Building Confidence:** Acquiring proficiency in a second language builds confidence and resilience. The process of learning and overcoming challenges in Spanish fosters a growth mindset and a sense of achievement.
- **Connecting with Spanish Speakers:** Whether it's making new friends or forming professional connections, speaking Spanish allows students to build relationships with Spanish speakers from different backgrounds.

What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

Throughout the course, students will broaden their understanding of modern day Spain as well as current global issues. They will also absorb an understanding of Spanish history, literature and the rich cultural differences of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will learn to express opinions, analyse themes and develop clear and justified arguments.

What sort of student is this course suitable for?

A-level Spanish is an academically demanding subject, so it's important for students to consider whether they possess the skills, interests, and motivations necessary for success. Here are some key characteristics of students who are well-suited for studying A-level Spanish:

1. Strong Interest in Languages and Cultures

- **Curiosity About Language:** Students who enjoy learning languages and have an interest in how languages work, including grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, will thrive in A-level Spanish. A passion for communicating in different ways and exploring linguistic nuances is a good indicator.



- **Cultural Enthusiasm:** A-level Spanish involves not just learning the language, but also immersing in the culture, history, and literature of Spanish-speaking countries. Students who enjoy exploring different cultures and traditions will find the course rewarding.

2. Previous Success in Language Learning

- **Strong Foundation in Spanish:** Students who have performed well in GCSE Spanish or other language courses are likely to have the necessary foundation for A-level Spanish. They should feel confident in their ability to understand basic Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure.
- **Comfort with Grammatical Concepts:** While A-level Spanish delves into more complex grammar and syntax, students who are comfortable with grammatical concepts and enjoy learning rules about how languages function will find it easier to succeed.

What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?

Pupils will have lessons with the Spanish Language Assistant to enhance their oral skills and to prepare for their written assessment. Pupils will be encouraged to participate in departmental activities — competitions, language days, debates, buddies....

What is the course content and how is this assessed?

You will study the following topics in class using a variety of up to date resources: text books, video, listening, articles, websites, songs, etc.

Year 1 (AS Level)

Theme 1: (AS) Being a young person in Spanish-speaking society

Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships / relationships. Youth trends, issues and personal identity. Educational and employment opportunities

Theme 2: Understanding the Spanish-speaking world

Regional culture and heritage in Spain, Spanish-speaking countries and communities. Literature, art, film and music in the Spanish-speaking world

Year 2 (A Level)

Theme 3: Diversity and difference

Migration and integration. Cultural identity and marginalisation. Cultural enrichment and celebrating differences. Discrimination and diversity.

Theme 4: The Two Spains, 1936 onwards



El franquismo – origins, development and consequences. Post-Civil War Spain – historical and political repercussions. The Spanish Civil War and the transition to democracy (represented in the arts, cinema, literature, art and photography)

Spain – coming to terms with the past? "Recuperación de la memoria histórica"

In addition, you will study one film and one text.

Method of Assessment

AS Unit 1

Speaking assessment, 15 minutes (plus additional 15 minutes preparation time), 12% of qualification

Task 1: Arguing a point of view based on a written stimulus card (5-6 minutes)

Task 2: Discussion based on a second written stimulus card (7-9 minutes)

AS Unit 2 (2h 30 minutes)

Listening, reading, translation (Spanish into English) and critical response in writing. 28% of qualification

A2 Unit 3

Speaking assessment. 11-12 minutes. 18% of qualification

Independent research project

Task 1: Presentation of independent research project (2 minutes)

Task 2: Discussion on the content of the independent research project (9-10 minutes)

A2 Unit 4 (1 h 45 minutes)

Listening, reading and translation (English into Spanish) 30% of qualification

A2 Unit 5 (1h 30 minutes)

Critical and analytical response in writing (closed-book). 12% of qualification

One essay question–based on the study of one literary work taken from the prescribed list

What could students go on to do at the end of this course?

Apart from the enjoyment of being able to understand and speak a foreign language, the Spanish A level course is both academic and culturally enriching. Spanish has tremendous kudos with both universities and employers and it can be combined with virtually any university course you can think of from Economics to Environmental Sciences. It may open up possibilities if you are planning to do a year abroad as part of your degree: for example a year in South America studying, working or travelling can be a wonderful experience.

Some examples of career paths:

- Broadcast Journalist
- Legal Sector
- Interpreter / Translator
- Publishing Sector
- Marketing Executive
- Medical Fields
- Secondary School Teacher
- Broadcast, Film, DVD and Interactive Media Sector
- Diplomatic Services Operational Officer
- Logistics and distribution manager
- Politics