

Spanish

Awarding Body

Students follow the AQA Spanish Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE courses.

Course Aims

The course involves an expansion and deepening of the students' knowledge of the Spanish language, its grammatical structure, idiom and vocabulary. The aims of the course are to enable the students to:

- develop understanding of the spoken and written language from a variety of registers.
- communicate confidently, clearly and effectively through both spoken and written Spanish, using increasingly accurate, complex and varied language.
- develop critical insights into, and contact with, Spanish contemporary society and cultural background and heritage.

Course Content

This course develops the students' listening and reading comprehension of authentic materials, fluency in both spoken and written work and competence in more advanced structures. Pupils are required to organise ideas, facts and opinions and to transfer meaning from one language to another. The content of the course is extremely varied and topics studied include:

AS Level

- The role and influence of the media – television, advertising, communication technology.
- Popular culture - cinema, music, fashion / trends.
- Healthy living – sport / exercise, health and well-being, holidays.
- Family / relationships – relationships with the family, friendships, marriage / partnerships.

A2 Level

- The environment – pollution, energy, protecting the planet.
- The multicultural society – immigration, integration, racism.
- Contemporary social issues – wealth and poverty, law and order, impact of scientific and technological progress.
- Cultural topics – the study of a period of 20th century history from a target language-speaking country / community and the study of an author / director / painter from a target language speaking country.

Discussion in Spanish will be an essential part of the course and students will be encouraged to express their personal response to material studied, pupils will be required to access the internet in order to retrieve up-to-date material from Spanish speaking countries. In addition to the work studied in class, students will be required to develop their listening and reading skills through independent study undertaken in their own time. Possible enrichment activities offered with this course include: a study visit to a Spanish city (usually Barcelona); cinema / theatre visits and timetabled lessons with the Foreign Language Assistant.

Comparison to G.C.S.E

The basic requirement for entry to the course is a grade B or above at G.C.S.E. By comparison with G.C.S.E. the approach is deeper and much more intensive and therefore a student should have acquired the knowledge and understanding and skills specified for the higher tier at GCSE. The course obviously requires a lively interest; advanced GCE is extremely hard work and candidates must show commitment and a willingness to work conscientiously on their own as well as in school if they are to succeed.

Examination Requirements

AS Level examinations will be taken in June of the first year of study and A2 in June of the second year. It is possible to repeat AS modules in December and January of the second year in order to improve grades.

Examination Outline

Year 12	Year 13
AS Level Units	A2 Units leading to full Advanced GCE
<u>Unit 1 Listening, Reading and Writing Test:</u> 2 hours; 70% of total AS mark and 35% of total A2 mark Candidates will answer a range of questions based on approximately 5 minutes of heard material and on a selection of written stimulus texts. They will also respond in writing to a question based on one of the AS topics.	<u>Unit 3 Listening, Reading and Writing Test:</u> 2 hours 30 mins; 35% of total A level mark Candidates will answer a range of questions based on approximately 6 minutes of heard material and on a selection of written texts. They will also respond in writing to a question based on one of the A2 cultural topic areas.
<u>Unit 2 Speaking Test:</u> 15 mins; 30% of total AS mark and 15% of total A2 mark Candidates will discuss a target-language stimulus card based on one of the AS topics and take part in a conversation covering three further AS topics.	<u>Unit 4 Speaking Test:</u> 15 mins; 15% of total A2 mark Candidates will present a point of view based on a target-language stimulus card from one of the A2 topic areas and take part in a conversation covering three further A2 topics.

Relevance to Further Studies and Careers

AS level Spanish will be accepted for entry to certain university courses where the language forms part of the course of study, but is not the main focus, while A2 is the main qualification for entry to degree courses in Spanish. Pupils are able to combine their language skills with other areas such as Accountancy, Law and Business Studies and this fact should be considered when choosing other courses at this level, and especially, when applying for an increasing range of university courses.

Career prospects are increasingly bright following Spain's entry into the Common Market, the emergence of Latin America as a market for British goods, and of course, the single European market and European Monetary Union. The ability to communicate fluently and accurately in Spanish would be an asset to anyone's curriculum vitae and would open doors both within this country and abroad.

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