

A Level Spanish

What the course covers

The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree.

The focus is on how Spanish speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the first year aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of German/Spanish speaking countries. In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on matters associated with multi-culturalism. Students also study aspects of the political landscape including the future of political life in the German/Spanish speaking world by focusing on young people and their political engagement. Films and literary texts in the foreign language will be studied and examined in both years of the course.

Authentic materials such as magazine and newspaper articles and interactive websites are used to supplement course texts. Students studying a foreign language at A Level are encouraged to spend time in a country where the language is spoken, and to participate in organised activities such as Spanish conferences.

The complete specification can be viewed at www.aqa.org.uk

What students can do with this course

Studying languages can open up a wealth of opportunities. It can mean working in the more obvious fields such as translating, interpreting, tourism or teaching, but also in sales, marketing, law, journalism, IT and public relations, where a language, often combined with another expertise, really opens up doors for you! Many careers require language skills to cope with the global market place, international trade and e-commerce. The internet has made access to other countries and markets much easier, so effective communication with potential clients is vital for online companies. Language skills give students cross-cultural competence, enhanced employability and a lifelong skill.

How this course is assessed

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What is assessed

- Aspects of Spanish speaking society
- Artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world
- Multiculturalism in Spanish speaking society
- Aspects of political life in Spanish speaking society
- Grammar

How it is assessed

Written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes; 40% of A Level

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Paper 2: Writing

What is assessed

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

Written exam, 2 hours 30% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking

What is assessed

- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes e.g. artistic culture in the German/Spanish speaking world

How it's assessed

Oral exam: 21-23 minutes; 30% of A Level

Entry requirements

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.